

# 1. Parish : Little Livermere

**Meaning:** Lake where rushes or iris grow

**2. Hundred:** Blackbourn

**Deanery:** Blackbourn (–1930), Thingoe (1930–)

**Union:** Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Ampton and Little Livermere 1946  
Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division  
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,409 acres of land, 28 acres water (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, in places very acid. Risk wind erosion.
- b. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath and woodland. Risk wind erosion.
- c. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by groundwater. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion near river.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		Livermere: 1 acre meadow
1283		123 quarters to crops (984 bushels), 14 head horse, 54 cattle, 17 pigs, 649 sheep*
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, peas, turnips
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots.

Livermere Charolais Ltd.: pedigree herd of prize winning cattle founded c.1971, sold c.1981.

\*'A Suffolk Hundred in 1283', by E. Powell (1910). Concentrates on Blackbourn Hundred. Gives land usage, livestock and the taxes paid.

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 No obvious centre of development. Dispersed settlement. Church situated within Livermere Park which occupies all of southern sector. Few scattered farms.

Note: 9 parish boundaries converge at site of shrunken mere at Rymer Point (N. point of Little Livermere parish boundary), creating radial effect.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 11, 1801 – 7, 1851 – 29, 1871 – 36,  
1901 – 31, 1951 – 32, 1981 – 16

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Ampton

**Rail:** 1891 1½ miles Ingham station: Bury St Edmunds–  
Thetford line, opened 1876 closed for  
passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.

**9. Population:**

1086 – 11 recorded  
1327 – 25 taxpayers paid £1 16s. 7d.  
1524 – 12 taxpayers paid 18s. 9d.  
1603 – 56 adults  
1662 – 15 households \*  
1674 – 15 households  
1676 – not recorded  
1801 – 89 inhabitants  
1831 – 185 inhabitants  
1851 – 174 inhabitants  
1871 – 179 inhabitants  
1901 – 140 inhabitants  
1931 – 131 inhabitants  
1951 – 103 inhabitants  
1971 – 61 inhabitants  
1981 – 40 inhabitants

\* 'The Hearth Tax Return for the Hundred of Blackbourn 1662',  
transcribed by S. Colman. PSIA Vol. XXXII part 2, p.168

**10. Benefice: Rectory (Consolidated with Gt. Livermere) (1831)**

1254	Valued £5
1291	Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1341	Valued £6 15s. 7d.
1535	Valued £6 12s. 9d.
1603	Incumbent also serves Great Livermere
1831	Glebe house. Joint gross income £463 p.a.
1844	Joint value £440 p.a.
1887	76 acres 2R 3P glebe. Rent charge of £237 2s. in lieu of tithes
1912	Joint nett value £392 p.a. 78 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** William Cooke and Thomas Chapman (1603), N.L. Acton (1831), Dowager Lady Middleton (1844), Mrs J.A. Brooke (1873), Lady de Saumarez (1912)

**11. Church Saints Peter and Paul**  
(Chancel, nave, S. chapel, W. tower)

1086	Church plus 12 acres free land
Norman	Lintel to N. doorway, NE corner of church has some Saxon work
18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure (tower said to have been heightened in that period to make it visible from the Hall)
1903	Last used for indoor service
20 <sup>th</sup> cent.	In ruins. Believed to have ceased to be used c.1915
1947	Roof removed and furnishings dispersed (had contained 18 <sup>th</sup> cent. horse box type pews, squires pew being recessed with private entrance). W. tower remains

**Seats:** 66 appropriated, 96 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

**Livermere Parva al Morieles/Muryelle**

1200	W. de Windevill owns
c.1241	Henry de Livermere owns
1428	Gilbert Moriel owns
c.1516	John Cockett owns (linked to Hopton and Knettishall)
Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir John Croftes owns (linked to Wangford, Ampton, Bardwell, Barnham and West Stow)
1593	Anthony Penning owns
c.1681	Richard Coke owns
1722	Baptist Lee owns (linked to Great Livermere)
1768	Nathaniel Lee Acton owns (linked to Great Livermere, Lawshall and East Bergholt)

1905 James St. Vincent Saumarez owns (linked to Bucklesham, Nacton and Great Livermere)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £1,368 rental value  
1891 £1,449 rateable value  
1912 £1,036 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Sir William F.F. Middleton, sole owner  
1891/1912 Hon. James St. Vincent Saumarez, sole owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1674 William Cook owns property with 10 hearths  
1680 2 gents  
1789 Nathaniel Lee Acton, High Sheriff of Suffolk

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1549 1 husbandman  
1500–1599 2 labourers, 1 rector, 1 yeoman, 2 thatchers  
1600–1649 2 shepherds, 1 husbandman, 1 yeoman  
1650–1699 1 shepherd, 2 husbandmen  
1831 40 in agriculture, 1 professional, 19 in domestic service, 2 others  
1844 Farmer, park keeper  
1912 Farm bailiff, farmer, refreshment rooms owner

**19. Education:**

1818 Girls from 5–14 years attend Great Livermere school of Industry  
1912 Children attend school at Great Livermere

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £11 14s.  
1803 £157 3s.  
1818 £291 7s.  
1830 £199 1s.  
1832 £225 10s.  
1834 £167 15s.

**21. Charities:**

**Firmage's Charity**

1599 By will of William Firmage: 1 acre 2R 36P let at £1 p.a.  
applied to purchase of blankets and clothing for poor

**22. Other institutions:**

1524 Stok of the Guild 7s.  
1912 Livermere and District Conservative Association

**23. Recreation:**

1912 Refreshment Rooms

**24. Personal:**

Photographs/portraits of Nathaniel Lee Acton and family in Record Office

**25. Other information:**

Livermere Park: comprises large portion of parish.

House originally built by Mr. Coke who bequeathed it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Grafton. Improved in 18<sup>th</sup> cent. By Baptist Lee and Nathaniel Lee Acton.

'A missing hatchment found', by L. Dow. PSIA Vol.30, p.272.

Register of cases dealt with by District Nurse for Ampton and Little Livermere 1902–1919 in existence.

Photocopy map 1805.

'Living' parish magazine for Ampton, Ingham and Livermere (Gt. and Lt.) 1981–

Possible DMV adjacent to parish church.