

## 1. Parish : Market Weston

**Meaning:** Possibly market homestead/village west of another or homestead west of village market

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

**Deanery:** Blackburne (–1932), Ixworth (1972- )

**Union:** Thetford

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Brandon RD (1894–1935), Thingoe RD (1935–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

### Other administrative details:

Area known as Weston Hindle transferred to Thelningham (1886)  
Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division  
Thetford County Court District

3. **Area:** 979 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
- b. Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some fine/coarse loam over clay. Some deep well drained coarse loam over clay, fine loam and sandy soils

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		10 acres meadow, wood for 14 pigs, 3 cobs 18 pigs, 130 sheep, 1 mill, 2 cattle
1283		222 quarters to crops (1,776) bushels), 41 head horse, 158 cattle, 121 pig, 215 sheep*
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig-keeping, horse-breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beat

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

**6. Enclosure:**

1818            106 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands, 1815

**7. Settlement:**

1958            Moderately sized development spaced along Barningham – Hopton road to east of B.1111 (also Barningham-Hopton). Church situated at northern extremity of settlement. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 35, 1801 – 41, 1851 – 69, 1871 – 71, 1901 – 53, 1951 – 59, 1981 – 81

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:**            Road to Hopton, Barningham, Coney Weston, Thelnetham and Hepworth  
1912 Carriers pass through from Hopton to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

**Water:**            Little Ouse River, made navigable by Acts designed to improve navigation 1670 although there is some evidence to suggest the river was used for trade purposes earlier than this. Declined due to rail transport and general silting of the river c.1850's

**9. Population:**

1086 – 38 recorded  
1327 – 29 taxpayers paid £2. 3s.  
1524 – 27 taxpayers paid £3. 13s. 2d.  
1603 – 100 adults  
1662 – 27 householders paid £4. 13s. \*4 poor persons\*  
1674 – 40 households  
1676 – 133 adults  
1801 – 273 inhabitants  
1831 – 312 inhabitants  
1851 – 317 inhabitants  
1871 – 285 inhabitants  
1901 – 235 inhabitants  
1931 – 196 inhabitants  
1951 – 197 inhabitants  
1971 – 223 inhabitants  
1981 – 223 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 (1831) Discharged Rectory (1844)**

1254 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.  
 1291 Valued £9. 6s. 8d.  
 1341 Valued £9. 17s. 10d.  
 1535 Valued £8. 19s. 7d.  
 1603 Incumbent also holds vicarage of Gaseley  
 1831 1 curate, stipend £52 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £242 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectories of Lower Graveshurst, Beds and Whitney, Hereford  
 1840 Modus of £330 p.a. in lieu of tithes  
 Former rectory site opposite Post Office yard (1816)  
 New rectory built (circa 1820/1840)  
 1891 Good rectory house. 16 acres glebe  
 1912 Nett value £190 p.a. 14 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Henry Buckenham (1603), Rev. M. Wilkinson (1831), Incumbent (1873)

**11. Church St Mary**  
 (Chancel, nave, S. Porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 4 acres. Church + 12 acres, ½ plough  
 Norman S. Doorway  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower.  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent. S. porch  
 Possibility of church damaged by fire 1638  
 1844/1889 Restoration, chancel rebuilt (1844)  
 20<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower severely damaged by lightning.

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1676 7 nonconformists  
 Primitive Methodist chapel built (1862)

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 1 carucate 8 acres held by Aelfric, a free man  
 1086 Manor of 1 carucate 8 acres belonging to William of Ecouis held by Huard of Vernon  
 1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Alsi, a free man  
 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert of Verly  
 1225 Robert Hovel owns  
 Mid 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Monchensey owns  
 Early 15th cent. Sir Roger Drury owns (linked to Shelley, Rougham, Hawstead and Onehouse)  
 circa 1570 George Nunn owns

1609	Sir Henry Bokenham owns
1764	John Thurston owns (linked to Thelnetham)
circa 1849	T.E. Amyott owns
1905	Donald Charles Warnes owns

Custom of the manor is Borough English

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

1263/64	Grant of market and fair to Robert Hovel
1844	No market, Pleasure fair of 28 <sup>th</sup> September
1891	Fair on 26 <sup>th</sup> September for pleasure, abolished by (1912)
1759	Small peddling fair held on August 15 <sup>th</sup>

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,363 rental value
1891	£1,445 rateable value
1912	£1,073 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844	John Thurston, principle owner
1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Samuel Death, principle owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1844	J. Thurston and J. Josselyn
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**18. Occupations:**

1600–1649	1 yeoman
1650–1699	1 bleacher, 2 linen weaver, 2 carpenters, 1 fellmonger, 6 yeomen, 1 thatcher, 1 tailor, 1 blacksmith
1831	65 in agriculture, 8 in retail trade, 1 professional, 3 in labouring, 19 in domestic service, 5 others
1844	Victualler, gardener, 2 shoemakers, blacksmith/shopkeeper, corn miller, wheelwright, 2 farmers, land agent, 2 blacksmiths
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, machinist, 2 shopkeepers, 7 farmers, carpenter/wheelwright, publican

**19. Education:**

1818	1 Sunday school (20 girls attend) School mistress held classes in rooms in building subsequently used as post office (1865) Small National school built (1873) average attendance (1912) 30, wooden annexe added (1940)
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**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£56. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1803	£235. 14s. 3 ½ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£423. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£463. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£427. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£407. 11s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate:**

Town House, garden and 27P occupied by poor  
7 acres 11R 5P + 27 poles let at approx.. £8. 1s.  
6d. applied to churchwardens wages and church  
expenses.

**Poors Land:**

1840 ½ acre land let at 10s. p.a. applied once every 2  
years in bread for distribution among poor at  
Christmas

**Asty's Dole:**

1840 Rent charge of 6s. 8d. payable for the poor

**Poors Allotment:**

1816 Allotment of fen ground containing 26 acres 0R  
20P for use of poor to cut turf for fuel + 16 acres  
furze ground

**Lost Benefaction:**

1840 £8 formerly applied to the poor

**22. Other institutions:**

1891 Police officer listed

**23. Recreation:**

1844-1912 The Hill Inn public house

**24. Personal:**

## **25. Other information:**

'Market Weston' by H.B. Newham (1952)

Maps exist (1576, 1610 and 1777)

Market Weston Hall: in existence (1743), demolished (circa 1854) Photograph of watercolour depicting hall (1847) in parish folder

Village stocks: believed situated near churchyard

Map of lands belonging to Edmund Tyrrell (1743) is said to show field names.

Mill erected (1807) described as 'Flatmans Mill', pulled down (1910/12)

Photograph contained in 'Market Weston' by H.B. Newham

Approx. 20 persons from parish emigrated to America (1837)

Market Weston Fen acquired by Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation (1981)

### **Archaeological Sites:**

Med. moated site of Weston Hall (hall house) (CRN 7440)

Med. moated site (CRN 7441)

Stray finds:            Neo. flint axe (CRN 7444, 7445)  
                              B.A. stone implement (CRN 2510)

Scatter finds:        Rom. pottery kiln, pottery, coin (CRN 7442)  
                              Sax. pottery (CRN 7443)