

1. Parish: Oulton

Meaning: Ali's homestead/village

2. **Hundred:** Lothingland (–1764), Mutford & Lothingland (1764–)

Deanery: Lothingland

Union: Mutford & Lothingland

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Mutford & Lothingland R.D. (1894–1934),
Lothingland R.D. (1934–1974), Waveney D.C. (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil parish boundary change 1904, loses Oulton Broad
which becomes separate parish and 1934
Ecclesiastical boundary changes 1932 and 1965
Mutford & Lothingland Petty Sessional Division
Lowestoft County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,860 acres land, 93 acres tidal water, 50 acres foreshore
(1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a. Stoneless slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged
coarse loam soils and silt over clay. Some deep coarse
loam affected by groundwater
b. Deep well drained coarse loam often stoneless soils,
risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood–pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig-keeping
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, turnips, barley, beans, peas, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1984 Small dispersed development. Church situated on southern boundary.
Suburbs of Lowestoft intrude into parish at southern and eastern boundaries.
Rail line crosses western sector N–SE. Marsh land and associated wet lands near Oulton Dyke in western sector restrict development in this area.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 37, 1801 – 60, 1851 – 119,
1871 – 161, 1901 – 357, 1951 – 72,
1981 – 579

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Lowestoft, Flixton and Carlton Colville

Rail: Rail station: Lowestoft–Norwich line opened 1844, still operational
After boundary changes became situated within Oulton Broad parish

Waters: River Waveney: Act passed to make Waveney navigable 1670
Decline marked by beginning of rail travel 1852

9. Population:

1086 – Not recorded
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £1 15s. 11d.
(includes Flixton)
1524 – 38 taxpayers paid £2 19s. 10d.
1603 – 132 adults
1674 – 47 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 522 inhabitants
1831 – 809 inhabitants
1851 – 742 inhabitants
1871 – 864 inhabitants
1901 – 1,860 inhabitants
1931 – 702 inhabitants
1951 – 235 inhabitants
1971 – 388 inhabitants
1981 – 1,712 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (1831), Rectory (1844)

1254 Valued £6
1291 Valued £14 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £14 3s. 4d.
Parsonage has 9 hearths 1674

1831 Curate, stipend £52 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation, gross income £157 p.a.
Value £378 1835
Large rectory house built 1836/7

1844 49 acres glebe. Tithes commuted for £462 p.a.

1912 Nett value £315 p.a. 49 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Bacon family (1301–1361), William de Molyns (1379), Miles de Stapleton (1395), Fastolf family (1414–1453), Hobart family (1503–82), Robert Redmayn (1613), Reeve family (1647–1702), Gerard Van Heythuson (1720), John Marston (1758), George Anguish (1829–36), Lord S.G. Osborne (1845), J.W. Argyle (1912)

11. Church

St. Michael

(Chancel, nave, S. porch, low central tower)

Norman Nave and lower portion of tower, upper portion (possibly 18th cent.), S. doorway
Note: originally cruciform, traces of S. transept remain

13th cent. Main structure

14th cent. Chancel

1862 Restoration

Note: This church is referred to as a Domesday church (Suffolk Churches by H. Munro Cautley). There is no entry for Oulton in Domesday Book therefore this claim has been unsubstantiated by this study

Seats: Not recorded

12. Nonconformity etc:

Baptist chapel built 1851
United Free Methodists chapel at Mutford Bridge built 1865
Primitive Methodist chapel built 1903

13. Manorial:

Oulton/Oulton High House

1280 Edmund Bacum owns (linked to Flixton)

1360 Manor believed partitioned

1382 Sir Simon de Burley owns (linked to Stratford St. Mary and Wattisfield)

1503 Sir James Hobart owns (linked to Flixton, Trimley St. Martin and Trimley St. Mary, Walton, Creting St. Peter and Whatfield)

1631 Sir Edmund Reeve owns

1716 Gerard Van Heythuson owns

c.1772 Thomas Anguish owns

1789 Susanna Blackwell owns
1909 Mrs. Copeland Tracy owns

Sub-manors:

**Fastolfs, Fastolf hall, Oulton Hall/Tenement,
Rolfe's, Houghton Hall**

c.1445 John Fastolf suggested as first lord (linked to Gorleston,
Nacton, Levington, Bentley, Holbrook, Holton St. Mary,
Capel St. Mary and Cowlinge)
c.1447 James Hobart owns (absorbed by main manor)
1509 John Sampson owns
1511 William Wade owns
1604 Sir Nicholas Cooke owns
1606 Benedict Campe owns
1615 Thomas Love owns
1679 Sir Andrew Leake owns
1745 Thomas Hunt owns

14. Markets/Fairs

Grant of market and fair 1307

15. Real property:

1844 £2,020 rental value
1891 £4,775 rateable value
1912 £2,795 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 Sir S.B. Crossley, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Richard Jenkinson
1844 Rev. H.F. Fell M.A.
1891 W.R. Seago J.P.
1912 Capt. W.G. Lucas

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 4 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 1 clerk, 2 labourers, 1 knacker
1600–1649 7 husbandmen, 4 yeomen, 1 fisherman, 1 carpenter
1650–1699 3 husbandmen, 3 yeomen
1831 92 in agriculture, 32 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 5 in
labouring, 24 in domestic service, 16 others
1844 Officers of House of Industry, victualler,
shoemaker/victualler, butcher, beerhouse keeper, corn

miller, schoolmaster, beerhouse keeper/shopkeeper, iron founder, corn miller/cement manufacturer, lime burner, shoemaker, brick/tile maker, wheelwright, maltster, corn merchant, 9 farmers.

1912 Sub-postmaster, station master, public officers, school master and mistress, 6 farmers, 2 market gardeners, carter, publican, assistant, overseer, shopkeeper, medical staff of hospital, beer retailer, nurseryman

19. Education:

1818 1 day school (50 attend)

1833 2 day and Sunday schools (60 and 90/100 attend respectively)

Parochial school (situated close to rectory grounds) built 1843, supported by rector for education of 70 children, 20 of whom were also clothed.

School Board established 1875

New schools built 1878, enlarged 1880 and 1891, 1900 and 1905 average attendance 1912 527

20. Poor relief:

1776 £63 18s. 1d.

1803 £84 16s. 9d.

1818 £143 16s.

1830 £175 15s.

1832 £191 14s.

1834 £212 5s.

21. Charities:

Poors Allotment

1891 46 acres marsh land, proceeds applied to distribution of coals at Christmas

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St. John Baptist and St. Mary (no dates)

Mutford & Lothingland House of Industry: built 1765, enlarged 1836, 141 paupers housed within 1841

Parish Rooms built 1903

Oulton Joint Isolation Hospital 1912

23. Recreation:

1844 The Wherry and The Boar public houses, 2 beerhouses

1891 The Wherry Hotel, The Boar public house, 2 beerhouses

1912 The Blue Board public house, beer retailer

24. Personal:

George Borrow (1840–1881): resident of parish, author of 'The Bible in Spain', 'Lavengro' and 'The Romany Rye'

25. Other information:

Frost's Alley Score: once footpath traceable from Oulton to Lowestoft. Only small section in Lowestoft now remains 1982.

Oulton frolic took place in July and appears to have consisted of music and water events 1862.

Suggested (although not substantiated) that this corresponds with the Domesday vill of Duneston.

Oulton High House: situated near N.E. boundary late 16th cent.

Drawing of Oulton church by Miss J. Worship reproduced in 'History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk', by Rev. A. Suckling.

Two brasses stolen from church 1857.