

1. Parish : Rickinghall Inferior

Meaning: The hall/land of Rica's people

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackburne (-1837), Hartismere (1837-1897), Hartismere (North) (1897-1931), N. Hartismere (1931-1972), Hartismere (1972-)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Thedwastre RD (-1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Rickinghall Inferior and Rickinghall Superior 1938
Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,981 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some fine/coarse loams over clay. Some deep well drained coarse loam over clay, fine loam and sandy soils
- b. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by groundwater. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Winter mill, 16 acres meadow, wood for 68 pigs, 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 16 pigs, 24 sheep, 30 goats
1283		477 quarters to crops (3,816 bushels), 52 head horse, 191 cattle 49 pigs, 446 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 in preparation for corn products
1937		Main crops: Grown on 4 course system

1603 – 130 adults
 1662 – 24 householders paid £3 7s.*
 1674 – 36 households
 1676 – 184 adults
 1801 – 427 inhabitants
 1831 – 465 inhabitants
 1851 – 460 inhabitants
 1871 – 388 inhabitants
 1901 – 381 inhabitants
 1931 – 290 inhabitants
 1951 – 314 inhabitants
 1971 – 299 inhabitants
 1981 – 262 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 Rickingham Superior 1831)

1254 Valued £8.
 1291 Valued £16 13s. 4d.
 1341 Valued £17 4s.
 1535 Valued £16 5s. 2½d.
 1662 Parsonage has 6 hearths
 1831 1 curate, stipend £154 p.a. Glebe house. Joint gross
 income £900 p.a. Incumbent also holds Perpetual curacy
 of Old Buckenham and Rectory of Bracon Ash, Norfolk
 1835 Valued £850
 1844 Modus of £1,052 in lieu of joint tithes, Parsonage house in
 each parish plus 47 acres glebe
 1891 30 acres glebe and handsome residence
 1912 Joint nett value £450 p.a. 30 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Abbot of St. Edmunds (1305–1516), Nicholas Bacon and
 family (1548–1673), Rowland Holt (1712–1778), George Holt
 Wilson (1889)

11. Church St. Mary
 (Chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, NW. tower (round at
 base))

1086 Church plus 24 acres free land in alms
 Norman Lower portion of tower, upper stages (14th cent.)
 12th cent. Piers on S. side of nave
 14th cent. Chancel, S. aisle and S. porch
 15th cent. Nave
 1858/59 Refitted and cleaned
 1972 Saved from closure by local support

Seats: 45 (1831)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1606 3 persons negligent in attending church
1676 11 nonconformists
1707–1828 3 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

Rickinghall Inferior al Westhall

1066/1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds
1544 Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
c.1685 Sir John Holt owns and thence through the Holt–Wilson family (Linked to Wangford, Brandon, Hinderclay and Redgrave)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £2,107 rental value
1891 £2,402 rateable value
1912 £1,711 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 G. St. Vincent Wilson, principal owner
1891 Sub-divided
1912 G.H. Wilson and G.R.H. Wilson, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1912 Rev. C.F. Blyth MA, Col. J.O. Hasted JP, G.R.H. Wilson BA JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman
1550–1599 5 yeoman, 5 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 linen weaver, 1 draper, 1 mercer
1600–1649 9 yeomen, 2 spinsters, 1 linenweaver, 1 wheelwright, 1 gardener
1650–1699 10 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 1 fishmonger (citizen of London), 1 husbandman, 1 clerk, 3 linen weavers, 1 wheelwright, 1 bricklayer, 1 butcher, 1 pail maker, 1 petty chapman, 1 wool comber, 1 clothier, 1 tanner
1831 75 in agriculture, 27 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 20 in domestic service, 12 others

1844	Tailor, plumber/glazier, grocer/draper, confectioner, vet, shoe maker, grocer/blacksmith, victualler, bricklayer, blacksmith, relieving officer, corn miller, 8 farmers
1891	Roller mills and merchant
1912	Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmaster, pork butcher, basket maker, gamekeeper, beer retailer, grocer, baker, 4 farmers, farm bailiff, Rickinghall Manufacturing Co. (leather goods), librarian, blacksmith, hurdle maker

19. Education:

1818	1 dames school (16 attend) 1 school held on Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon on the Madras system (53 attend), shared with Rickinghall Superior
1833	2 daily schools shared with Rickinghall Superior
1853	National school built, enlarged 1873/1904, average attendance 1912 160 Reasons for low attendance 1869–1873 in ‘A West Suffolk Childhood in mid–19 th century’, by P. Willmot

20. Poor relief:

1776	£152 11s.
1803	£360 12s. 4¼d.
1818	£678 19s.
1830	£804 9s.
1832	£889 8s.
1834	£676 2s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate/Barnes Charity:

1840	Allotment of 9 acres awarded at enclosure plus 1R 12P devised by Joseph Barnes in 1731 let at £25 8s. p.a. 10s. distributed in bread to poor, residue applied to church repairs/similar expenses
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Rookwood Charity:

1840	2 acres 3R 2P let at £7 17s. 6d. p.a. applied to distribution of bread and money to poor
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Brown's Gift:

1731	by will of John Brown: interest of £10, i.e. 10s. p.a. distributed in bread to poor
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22. Other institutions:

1912 Village library

23. Recreation:

1844 The Bell public house (dates from 1600's, disputed as to whether this is in Rickinghall or Botesdale)
1891 1 beerhouse, The Bell commercial and posting hotel
1912 Botesdale and Rickinghall Rifle Club
1 beer retailer, The Bell hotel, bowling green and club at The Bell

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Broom Hills: former Dower house of Holt-Wilson family, late 17/early 18th cent. Construction.

'Rickinghall' booklet based on notes of Col. Tuck.

'A West Suffolk Childhood in the mid 19th century', by P. Willmot.

'Rickinghall and Hinderclay Magazine 1898–1902.

Roman kilns excavated at Calke Wood.

Tudor House from Stowmarket re-erected in Rickinghall 1958. No knowledge as to whether this was to Superior or Inferior.

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