

1. Parish : Sapiston

Meaning: The soap makers homestead/village

2. Hundred: Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackbourn (–1972), Ixworth (1972–)

Union: Thetford

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

Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Honington with Sapiston 1972
Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Thetford County Court District

3. Area: 1,282 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained sand and coarse loam, some with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Risk wind erosion
- b. Deep well drained sandy soils, in places very acid. Risk wind erosion
- c. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine and coarse loam over clay. Some deep sand affected by groundwater.
- d. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by groundwater. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion.

5. Types of farming:

1086		3 mills, 12 acres meadow, 2 cattle, 5 pigs, 33 sheep
1283		205 quarters to crops (1,640 bushels), 27 head horse, 110 cattle, 74 pigs, 650 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, beans, peas, roots

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

*‘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:

1980 Very small development, section of which is separated to south and clustered round the church. River Blackbourn forms natural boundary to west and south. Associated wet lands in those areas restrict development. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 16, 1801 – 29, 1851 – 51, 1871 – 51, 1901 – 46, 1951 – 46, 1981 – 65

8. Communications:

Roads: To Fakenham Magna, Coney Weston, Barningham, Bardwell and Honington
1844–1912: Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 5 miles Barnham station: Thetford–Bury St Edmunds line opened 1876, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.

Water: River Blackbourn

9. Population:

1086 – 28 recorded
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £1 14s.
1524 – 19 taxpayers paid £0 14s. 4d.
1603 – 67 adults
1662 – 23 households listed*
1674 – 26 households
1676 – 78 adults
1801 – 207 inhabitants
1831 – 234 inhabitants
1851 – 255 inhabitants
1871 – 222 inhabitants
1901 – 211 inhabitants
1931 – 143 inhabitants
1951 – 161 inhabitants
1971 – 136 inhabitants

1981 – 165 inhabitants

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

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831), Vicarage (1891)

1254	Valued £5 6s. 8d.
1272	Advowson appropriated to Ixworth Abbey
1291	Valued £10 13s. 4d.
1341	Valued £10 3s. 5d.
1535	In hands of Prior of Ixworth valued £6 4s. 2d.
1831	No glebe house. Gross income £78 p.a.
1887	17 acres glebe
1891	Valued £120
1912	Net value £112 p.a. 17 acres glebe

Patrons: Duke of Grafton (1831–)

11. Church St. Andrew

(Chancel, nave, S. porch, vestry, W. tower)

1086	2 parts of church plus 6 acres free land in alms
Norman	S. doorway
14 th cent.	Main structure, including tower
1972	Declared redundant
1975	Restoration in progress by Redundant Churches Fund
1982	First service held in 10 years occurred

Seats: 100 appropriated, 50 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1790–1835 5 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

1326	Inquis pm of John de Brydwelle
1375	John Holbrook owns
1432	Henry Drury owns (linked to Wordwell)
16 th cent.	Sir William Carewe owns
1562	John Aldham owns
1667	Thomas Rushbrooke owns
1764	Augustus Henry, Duke of Grafton owns in whose possession it remains (linked to Barnham, Euston and Honington)

Sub-Manors:

Sapiston Grange

11/12th cent Gilbert le Blund owns (linked to Ixworth, Langham,
Ixworth Thorpe and Walsham le Willows)
–1538 Priory of Ixworth owns
1538 Richard Codington owns (linked to Santon Downham,
Badwell Ash, Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe)
1565 Thomas Aldham owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £1,053 rental value
1891 £1,178 rateable value
1912 £921 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Duke of Grafton sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 1 gent
1912 Rev. T. Singleton MA, LL.D.

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 brick layer, 1 labourer,
1600–1649 7 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 labourer, 1 comber, 1 linen
weaver, 1 maltster
1650–1699 7 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 butcher, 1 carpenter, 1 clerk
1831 51 in agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 2 in labouring, 6 in
domestic service
1844 Carrier, victualler, corn miller, blacksmith, gamekeeper,
school mistress, cattle dealer, 4 farmers
1912 Water mill
Schoolmistress, 2 hurdle makers, poultry dealer, carrier,
shopkeeper, miller, 2 farmers, grocer/beer retailer,
shoemaker/insurance agent/asst. overseer

19. Education:

1833 1 daily school supported by Lady Laura Fitzroy (10
attend)
1841 National school built by Duke of Grafton, 40 attend
1891/1912
1841 Rebuilding of schoolroom recorded

20. Poor relief:

1776	£37 8s.
1803	£212 19s. 0½d.
1818	£577 19s.
1830	£262 18s.
1832	£136 17s.
1834	£261 14s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1840	Town house in existence
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23. Recreation:

1884	The George public house
1891/1912	Beer retailer
1932	Liquid refreshment gained from village stores

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Early manuscript map 1667.

Sapiston appears enclosed by Duke of Grafton's estate 1758.

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