

1. Parish: Somerleyton

Meaning: Sumarlioi's homestead Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Lothingland (- 1764), Mutford & Lothingland (1764 -)

Deanery: Lothingland

Union: Mutford & Lothingland

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Mutford & Lothingland RD (1894-1934),
Lothingland RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Mutford & Lothingland Petty Sessional Division
Lowestoft County Court District

3. Area: 1,365 acres land, 7 acres inland water, 15 acres
tidal water, 27 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 ground water.
- b. Deep well drained coarse loam often stoneless soils, risk water erosion
- c. Deep stoneless mainly calcareous clay soils, flat land adjacent to river, risk of flooding.

5. Types of farming:

1086		Wood for 29 pigs, 1 acre meadow, 3 cobs, 6 pigs, 113 sheep, 4 cattle
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing 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, barley, roots, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1805 192 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands, 1803

7. Settlement:

1980 Somerleyton Park occupies large portion of central sector of parish. River Waveney forms natural county and parish boundary to S and W.
Railway crosses parish to S. from NW-SE.
Small compact ribbon type development close to northern boundary.
Church situated within park.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 24, 1801 – 45, 1851 – 117,
1871 – 180, 1901 – 127, 1951 – 132,
1981 – 131

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Herringfleet, Lound, Blundeston and Flixton

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Lowestoft-Norwich line, opened (1844), still operational

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

9. Population:

1086 — 20 recorded
1327 — 24 taxpayers paid £1. 17s. 2¼d.
1524 — 20 taxpayers paid £2. 19s.
1603 — 86 adults
1674 — 28 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 240 inhabitants
1831 — 419 inhabitants
1851 — 627 inhabitants
1871 — 599 inhabitants
1901 — 541 inhabitants
1931 — 461 inhabitants
1951 — 416 inhabitants
1971 — 319 inhabitants
1981 — 328 inhabitants

- 10. Benefice:** Rectory
- 1254 Valued £9. 6s. 8d.
 1291 £12
 1535 £12
 Incumbent also holds Ashby (1603)
 Rectory house built (1773)
- 1831 Glebe house, gross income £393 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectories of Blundeston and Flixton
 Value £386 (1835)
 Consolidated with Ashby (1873)
- 1912 Joint nett value £375. 46 acres glebe and residence
- Patrons: Lady Katherine Fitz Osbert (1318-30), Jernigan/Jermingham family (1354-1553), John Wentworth (1603-44), Allin family (1690-1732), Mary Love (1770), George Anguish (1817), Lord S.G. Osborne (1844), Sir Seville B. Crossley (1891)
- 11. Church** St. Mary
 (Chancel, nave, S.porch, W.tower)
- 1086 Church + 20 acres, value 3s.
 14th/15th cent. Possible original structure
 1854 Rebuilt in Early English style by John Thomas under instruction of Sir Morton Peto
 1870 Chancel restored
 1888 Chancel extended
- Seats:** 200 (1912)
- 12. Nonconformity etc:**
- 1844 Baptist chapel built by Sir S.M. Peto (circa 1848) in Italian style
 Transferred to Congregationalists by (1891). Removed by Sir Savile B. Crossley to Somerleyton village (no date), seats 150.
- 1912 United Methodist chapel and Union chapel listed
- 13. Manorial:**
- 1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Ulf, a free man under patronage of Gyrth
 1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the King
 1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Wihtried the priest, a free man
 1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to the King

13. Manorial (cont'd)

Somerleyton Manor

1239	Peter Fits Osbert owns
14 th cent.	Jernegan family owns
Circa 1618	Sir John Wentworth owns (linked to Asby, Belton, Bradwell, Corton, Flirton and Lound)
1672	Admiral Sir Thomas Allin owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blunderston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Mutford, Lound, Gorleston, Fritton and Flixton)
Circa 1843	Lord S.G. Osborne owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blunderston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Mutford, Lound, Flixton and Gorleston)
1844	Samuel Morton Peto owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Rushmere, Mutford, Lound, Flixton and Gorleston)

14. Markets/Fairs

1792	Fair for toys on July 31st
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15. Real property:

1844	£2,398 rental value
1891	£3,471 rateable value
1912	£3,251 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

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

17. Resident gentry:

1674	Sir Thomas Medowes/Meadows
1679	Richard Garneys
	Sir Richard Allin, Sheriff of Suffolk (1703)
1844	S.M. Peto M.P., Rev. E.M. Love
1891	Sir S.B. Crossley M.P., J.P.
1912	Rev. C.W. Bean M.A., Rt. Hon. Sir Savile Brinton
	Crossley P.C., K.C.V.O., D.L., J.P.

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 husbandman
1550–1599	1 joiner, 3 husbandmen, 1 cook, 1 ploughwright, 2 yeomen
1600–1649	1 labourer, 3 husbandmen, 2 yeomen, 1 tailor
1650–1699	2 gardeners, 1 husbandman, 3 yeomen

18. Occupations (cont'd)

1831	4 in agriculture, 18 in retail trade, 1 professional, 18 in domestic service
1844	Victualler, 2 wheelwright, gardener, shopkeeper/shoemaker, corn miller, shopkeeper, brick/tile maker, 2 blacksmiths, bricklayer, beer seller, shoemaker, 8 farmers Bricks from Somerleyton Brick yard used in building modern Lowestoft
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, station master, 5 farmers, grocer, butcher, shopkeeper, publican, tailor, 2 market gardeners, asst. overseer, beer retailer, land agent, brick manufacturer, blacksmith

19. Education:

1818	Some children attend Herringfleet school National school established (1835) by Sir S.M. Peto. British school, average attendance (1891) 90 + National Schools
1912	Former Church of England school called 'the Rectors room' used as Sunday school and parish room, supported by Anguish Church Educational Trust Public Elementary school built (1848), average attendance (1912) 134

20. Poor relief:

1776	£37. 14s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£46. 17s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£113. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£128. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£145. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£216. 5s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Poors Allotment

1840	11 acres 1R 27P marsh land let at £35. 15s. p.a. applied to purchase of coals for poor in winter.
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Anguish Trust Charity:

1912	For relief of widows and provision of beef and blankets for the poor
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Anguish Church Educational Trust:

1912	Supports Sunday school and parish room
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22. Other institutions:

1776 Workhouse, 3 inmates
Reading Room built by Sir S.B. Crossley (circa 1891)
Police officer listed (1891)
Mutford & Lothingland and North Suffolk Agricultural Association

23. Recreation:

1844-1912 The Dukes Head public house, beerseller/retailer

24. Personal:

Pedigree of the Jernegan family contained in 'History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk' by Rev. A. Suckling
Sir Morton Peto: (19th cent.), entrepreneur who began life as bricklayer/builder's apprentice. He built Hungerford Market, Nelsons Column, Clubs and Theatres before turning his attention to railways. M.P. and guarantor for 1851 Exhibition. Knighted (1855). Bankrupt (1866)
Sir Thomas Allin (1613-1686): Admiral of the Fleet, Controller of Navy, Capt. of Sandgate Castle and Master of Trinity House. First to engage the Dutch (1665) by attacking their Smyrna fleet.

25. Other information:

Somerleyton Hall: built by Sir John Jernegan (circa 1579), occupied repeatedly by Parliamentarian troops from 1612. Sir John Wentworth kept a record of the soldiers' activities in the house during this period (part reproduced in 'History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk' by Rev. A. Suckling Vol II p.48) Rebuilt by Sir Samuel Morton Peto (19th cent.)

Park extends to 300 acres stocked with deer and well wooded.

The parish is reputed to have been staunchly Royalist and suffered under the Parliamentarian occupation (billeting of soldiers and forced loans) (17th cent.). Gave quarters to 8 foot soldiers at 5s. per week per man.

'John Thomas and the Winter Garden, Somerleyton Hall (1851-1915)'. Suffolk Review New Series Issue 7. P.9

Somerleyton Hall rebuilt for Sir Morton Peto by John Thomas (architect who worked on Houses of Parliament) around 17th cent. core. Interior panelling is from (circa 1730)

Village also rebuilt west of church in style of Nash's Blaise Hamlet,
Bristol

Published parish registers (1558-1837). Suffolk Parish Registers Vol.
IV p. 63