

## 1. Parish : Stowlangtoft

**Meaning:** Inhabited or holy place held by Languetot (Richard de Langetot held in 1206)

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

**Deanery:** Blackburne (–1884), Thedwastre (1884–1972), Lavenham (1972–)

**Union:** Stow

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

### Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division  
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,478 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk of water erosion
- b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
- c. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Slight risk water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086 1 mill, wood for 20 pigs, 30 sheep, 10 acres meadow

1283 170 quarters to crops (1,360 bushels), 31 head horse, 168 cattle 59 pigs, 251 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.

Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop

1818 Marshall: Wide variation 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, oats, turnips, sainfoin
1969	Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

\* '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:

1978 Small compact development on line of Pakenham to Hunston road, limited by area covered by Stowlangtoft Park. Church situated on western fringe of settlement. Secondary settlement at Stowlangtoft Spinney (on main Ixworth road. Blackbourn river flows N–S forming natural parish boundary to west. Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 22, 1801 – 18, 1851 – 34, 1871 – 38, 1901 – 40, 1951 – 52, 1981 – 74

## 8. Communications:

**Roads:** A1088 Ixworth Road (line of Roman Road continuing from Norton). Roads to Stanton, Hunston and Pakenham

**Rail:** 1891 4 miles Thurston Station:  
Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line opened 1846, closed for goods 1964, became unmanned halt 1967

**Water:** River Blackbourn  
Ancient ford at Bulls Bridge

## 9. Population:

1086 – 25 recorded  
1327 – 17 taxpayers paid £1 9s. 7d.  
1524 – Membrane either missing or illegible  
1603 – 80 adults  
1662 – 20 householders paid £3 10s.\*  
1674 – 29 households  
1676 – 100 adults  
1801 – 162 inhabitants  
1831 – 204 inhabitants  
1851 – 186 inhabitants  
1871 – 196 inhabitants  
1901 – 158 inhabitants  
1931 – 142 inhabitants  
1951 – 240 inhabitants

1971 – 202 inhabitants  
1981 – 242 inhabitants

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

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254	Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1291	Valued £8
1341	Valued £8 1s. 8d.
1535	Valued £8 7s. 8d.
1674	Parsonage has 6 hearths
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £321 p.a.
1843	65 acres 2R 9P glebe. Modus of £243 17s. 6d. in lieu of tithes
1887	64 acres 3R 7P glebe. Rent charge of £360 4s. 7d. in lieu of tithes
1891	Rent charge of £350 in lieu of tithes
1912	Nett income £225 p.a. 65 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Robert Asshilde (1603), J. Wilson (1831), H. Wilson (1844),  
Lt. Col. F.M. Wilson (1873), A. Maitland Wilson (1891)

**11. Church St. George**

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

Note: stands within double entrenchment of ancient origin, possible site of Roman camp

1086	Church plus 40 acres land
14/15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure. Tower and porch rather later. Said to have been built by Robert Davey/Dacy of Ashfield (d.1401)
c.1375	Mural painting of St. Christopher

Note: Fragments of window tracery from earlier building incorporated into boundary wall next to road. Speculated that the tower, its door being completely iron clad, was used to store valuables. Had contained a series of 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Flemish wood carvings – stolen 1970's

1851 Marquetry organ case and pipes bought for the church at the Great Exhibition

1979 Roman Catholic Mass held in St. George's for the first time since 16<sup>th</sup> cent.

**Seats:** 200 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597	Rector accused of not wearing the surplice
1676	1 nonconformist

**13. Manorial:**

12 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Robert de Langetot/Langtoft held 3 fees of the Abbot of St. Edmunds
13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir Nicholas Peche owns
1371	Robert Davy sometimes called Robert de Ashfield owns (built the church)
1614	Paul D'Ewes owns (linked to Milden, Long Melford, Lavenham, Brent Eleigh and Pakenham)
1716	Valued £416 p.a. plus 40 acres wood
c.1720	Thomas Norton owns
1760	Sir Thomas Rawlinson owns
1805	Sir George Wombwell owns
1825	Joseph Wilson owns (linked to Langham)
1875	Arthur Maitland Wilson owns (linked to Langham and Bardwell)

**Sub-Manors:**

**Colvyles:**

1483	Henry le Strange died seised ((suggested not confirmed) Details to be found in Harleian Rolls in British Museum
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**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,034 rental value
1891	£1,855 rateable value
1912	£1,414 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1884	H. Wilson, sole owner
1819/1912	A. Maitland Wilson, sole owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1662	Mr Stutville and Lady Doulton both owned property with 20 hearths
1679	Sir Willoughby D'Ewes, High Sheriff of Suffolk 1678
1844	Henry Wilson
1891	A. Maitland Wilson JP, and Rev. C.F. Wilson MA
1912	A.M. Wilson DL, JP

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549	1 yeoman
1550–1599	2 wheelwrights, 3 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 1 thatcher, 1 woollen draper, 1 parson

1600–1649	2 labouring men, 1 husbandman 3 yeomen, 1 clothier, 1 butcher, 1 joiner, 1 blacksmith
1650–1699	1 wheelwright, 2 husbandmen, 10 yeomen, 1 brick maker. 3 spinsters, 1 linen weaver
1638	Digging of clay for making bricks and tiles on 'Stow digging'
1831	34 in agriculture, 1 in retail trade, 1 professional, 18 in domestic service, 4 others
1844	Farm bailiff, 2 farmers, shopkeeper, lime burner
1891	Lime burner
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, 3 farmers, agent to A. Maitland Wilson, shoemaker, grocer/stationer, gamekeeper, head gardener

#### **19. Education:**

1818	1 Sunday school run on Dr. Bells system (28 attend)
1833	1 daily school (established 1826) supported by the Squire (50 attend), 1 Sunday school (60 attend)
1844	Small free school supported by Mr. Wilson
1894	Public Elementary school built, average attendance 1912 35
1968	Sale of former school

#### **20. Poor relief:**

1776	£57 3s. 3d.
1803	£44 17s. 7d.
1818	£290 17s.
1830	£161 15s.
1832	£236 3s.
1834	£171 10s.

#### **21. Charities:**

##### **Almshouse**

1840	4 tenements occupied by poor widows, 1 acre garden let at £1 1s. p.a. to repair of almshouse. Founder unknown
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#### **22. Other institutions:**

1530	Guild of St. John
1844	Almshouse occupied by 4 poor widows (built c.18 <sup>th</sup> cent.)

#### **23. Recreation:**

#### **24. Personal:**

D'Ewes Family: 'Autobiography and Correspondence of Sir Simonds D'Ewes', edited by J.O. Halliwell 1845 (2 volumes).

'College Life in the times of St. James I' (diary of Sir Symonds D'Ewes).  
'The Library of Sir Simonds D'Ewes', by A.G. Watson 1966.  
Sir Simonds D'Ewes 1602–1650.  
Willoughby D'Ewes, High Sheriff of Suffolk 1677–1678 (d.1685).  
Sir Thomas Rawlinson, Mayor London 1754.

## **25. Other information:**

Stowlangtoft Hall: original hall built by D'Ewes family 1625, burned down prior to 1859, partly rebuilt 1792, entirely pulled down and replaced by mansion in Italian style on new site close by the previous, designed by Henry Hopewell 1859. Converted to nursing home 20<sup>th</sup> cent.

20s. for Cross to stand at 'Fitzjohn's 1530.

Scrapbook compiled by H. Wilson of Stowlangtoft Hall.

Sketches exist of Old Stowlangtoft Hall 1835.

14/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Flemish wooden relief carvings were stolen from the church 1977. They were discovered to be in Amsterdam and have since been the subject of court cases as the church and parish have tried to have them reinstated in the church

Bu shelter built from funds raised by school children 1977.

King Edward VII stayed at Stowlangtoft Hall for shooting parties 1886.

'The Stowlangtoft Woodcarvings', by H.B. Nowham. East Anglian Magazine (April, 1955), p.302.

Bulls Bridge – site of ancient ford.