

# 1. Parish: Tostock

**Meaning:** Look out place

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

**Deanery:** Thedwastre (–1972), Clare (1972–)

**Union:** Stow

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

## Other administrative details:

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division  
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 952 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loams, some with calcareous clay subsoils.
- b. Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging, associated with similar but wetter soils. Some calcareous/non-calcareous slowly permeable clay soils.

5. **Types of farming:**

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 as preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1978/81      Blackbourn river forms natural boundary to east, railway crosses parish south–east to north of parish.

Moderate compact development at Tostock Green near junction of Elmswell, Thurston, Drinkstone and Norton Roads.

Development has expanded along the Norton Road but is restricted by wet lands to the north.

Church situated separately to the east of main development.

Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 22, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 69, 1871 – 76, 1901 – 71, 1951 – 95, 1981 – 143

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Elmswell, Thurston, Norton and Drinkstone

**Rail:** 1891 2½ miles Elmswell station and 2 miles Thurston station. Both stations are on the Cambridge–Ipswich line and were opened 1846, became unmanned halts 1967.

**9. Population:**

1086 – 58 recorded

1327 – 20 taxpayers paid £1 5s. 8¾d.

1524 – 20 taxpayers paid £1 16s.

1603 – 60 adults

1674 – 29 households

1676 – 103 adults

1801 – 220 inhabitants

1831 – 283 inhabitants

1851 – 348 inhabitants

1871 – 362 inhabitants

1901 – 286 inhabitants

1931 – 285 inhabitants

1951 – 304 inhabitants

1971 – 379 inhabitants

1981 – 387 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory 1831, Discharged Rectory 1844**

1254 Valued £6

1291 Valued £6

1535 Valued £6 8s. 6d.

1764 Parsonage has 5 hearths

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £210 p.a.

Incumbent also holds Rectories of Rattlesden and Thurston

£307 p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes 1843

1891 Rent charge of £333 p.a. 15 acres glebe and good residence.

1912 Value £150 p.a.

**Patrons:** John Non (1603), J. Oakes (1831), Rev. William Tuck (1844)  
Rev. W.G. Tuck (1873), Mrs W.G. Tuck (1891)

**11. Church** **St. Andrew**  
(Chancel, N. vestry, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 1 church + 12 acres free land in alms

late 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower, S. porch

15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure

1597 Church is decayed

1643 Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 16  
suspicious pictures – ordered 40 more removed and  
steps to be levelled.

1849, 1856,  
1872 & 1889

Restorations

**Seats:** 60 appropriated, 180 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1830–1838 3 houses set aside for worship. Tostock Old Hall and barn  
used in 1838.  
Wesleyan chapel built 1868.

**13. Manorial:**

**Tostock**

1066/1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to the Abbot of St.  
Edmund and held by Frodo.

13<sup>th</sup> cent. John de Manston owns

1548 Possible links with Freckenham and Stowmarket  
(Thomas Woodhous)

17<sup>th</sup> cent. Henry Lambe owns

1655 Links with Boulge, Mildenhall and Gt. Finborough (Lord  
North)

1682 William Cooke owns passing to Richard Moseley c.1700

19<sup>th</sup> cent. George Brown owns (Manor now known as New Hall)

c.1905 Sir James W. Malcolm owns

**Sub-Manors:**

**Tostock Hall/Berdwells/Little Hall**

1234 Robert de Norton owns

15<sup>th</sup> cent. Robert Berdewell owns

16<sup>th</sup> cent. Bassingbourne Gawdy family owns

1855 Peter Huddleston owns

Descent of this manor contained in Rawlinsons MSS in Bodleian

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,390 rental value
1891	£1,737 rateable value
1912	£ 1,491 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1674 Lord North  
1844 Rev. J. Oakes MA  
1912 Sir J.W. Malcolm JP, Rev. J.G. Tuck MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 labourer, 1 thatcher  
1550–1599 6 husbandmen, 1 parson, 1 weaver  
1600–1649 2 husbandmen, 3 yeomen, 2 carpenters, 1 clothier  
1650–1699 9 yeomen, 1 cordwainer, 1 bailiff  
1831 47 in agriculture, 16 in retail trade, 4 professionals, 12 in domestic service, 3 others  
1844 2 victuallers, wheelwright, blacksmith, bricklayer/carrier, 4 boot/shoemakers, 7 farmers  
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, publican, grocer/draper, 3 farmers, builder, bootmaker/rate collector, grocer

**19. Education:**

Public elementary school built 1874 by voluntary subscription on site given by the late rector (no name given) to hold 62 children. Average attendance 1912 – 50.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£84 7s. 2d.
1803	£94 8s. 9d.
1818	£464 19s.
1830	£411 18s.
1832	£393 17s.
1834	£282 6s.

**21. Charities:**

**Poor's Estate:**

1840            5 acres 1R. 8P. let at £10 p.a.

**22. Other institutions:**

Guilds of St. John 1487, St. Peter and St. Andrew 1507

**23. Recreation:**

1844/1891    The Royal William and The Gardeners Arms public  
                  houses

1912            The Gardeners Arms public house

**24. Personal:**

Roger North: born at Tostock 1653. Appointed to Kings Council 1682, called to Bench of Middle Temple soon after. Solicitor General to Duke of York 1684, Attorney-General to the Queen c.1686 and MP for Dunwich. Author of 'North's Lives' (in 3 volumes) printed 1826. Autobiography of the Hon. Roger North edited by Augustus Jessopp 1887.

Richard Sibbes: believed to have been born Tostock 1579. Master of St. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge 1626 and author of religious works. Brief outline of his life in 'The Lives of Eminent and Remarkable Characters' 1820.

Thomas Chapman: died 1756 aged 111 years, his wife Elizabeth died 1753 aged 93 years. Their gravestones are in the churchyard.

**25. Other information:**

Old Hall: built c.1600 (Ticehurst dates 1599) – two carved bressumers and carved bargeboards. Possibly built by Berdewell family.

Extracts from Title Deeds referring to manorial rights c.mid 18<sup>th</sup> cent. in parish folder in RO.

Tostock House: built late 16<sup>th</sup>, early 17<sup>th</sup> cent. refaced with flint and brick 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

Winners of Mid Suffolk Council Best Kept Village award 1977.

Won Suffolk Best Kept Village competition 1964.

Fireplace dated c.1640 uncovered at Gardeners Arms public house 1974.

Won Suffolk Council's Parish Project competition 1983. Project incorporated clearing the Leys pond on the village green.

Fire damaged Tostock Old Hall 1979.

Armstrong's Wood, donated to Woodland Trust 1976. Open to public 1978.

'Tostock Town Book 1771' records of poor relief was in existence 1961.

Collection of information sheets called 'Tostock Chronicle' dated from 1955.