

1. Parish : Troston otherwise Troston St. Mary

Meaning: Homestead/village of Trosta's people
(Trost = English for 'trust')

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

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

Union: Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

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

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,779 acres of land (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or woodland. Risk wind erosion
- b. Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some fine/coarse loams over clay. Some well drained coarse loams over clay fine loam and sandy soils.
- c. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loams over clay.

5. **Types of farming:**

1283		230 quarters to crops (1,840 bushels), 32 head horse, 109 cattle, 19 pigs, 612 sheep*
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture regions with pasture meadow, dairying and some pig keeping
1813	Young:	945 acres 2R of arable land and pasture, 83 acres of common
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crops and management technique including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, turnips
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:

1807 1,349 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1806.

7. Settlement:

1958/1980 Small compact development in SE sector clustered around staggered cross-roads (where Gt. Livermere/Ixworth Thorpe roads meet Honington/Ixworth roads). Church situated on NE fringe (on road to Ixworth Thorpe). Scattered farms.

Note: 9 parish boundaries converge at site of shrunken mere at Rymer Point (NW sector of Troston boundary), creating a radial effect.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 23, 1801 – 30, 1851 – 92, 1871 – 72, 1901 – 54, 1951 – 68, 1981 – 277

8. Communications:

Roads: To Honington, Ixworth Thorpe and Gt. Livermere
1844 Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday, to Thetford on Friday
1912 2 carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday, 1 on Saturday

Rail: 1891 4 miles Ingham station: Bury St Edmunds–Thetford line, opened 1876, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.

9. Population:

1086 – 24 free men recorded
1327 – 27 taxpayers paid £2 14s. 2d.
1524 – membrane missing or illegible
1603 – 81 adults
1662 – 17 households paid £2 19s. 8d. 8 poor persons paid 11s.*
1674 – 26 households
1676 – 86 adults
1801 – 247 inhabitants
1831 – 399 inhabitants
1851 – 427 inhabitants
1871 – 354 inhabitants
1901 – 235 inhabitants
1931 – 197 inhabitants

1951 – 223 inhabitants
1971 – 970 inhabitants
1981 – 802 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 (1831), Discharged Rectory (1844), Rectory (1912)

1254 Valued £8
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.
1341 Valued £11 7s.
1535 Valued £10 4s. 7½d.
1831 Glebe house, gross income £333 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Saltfleetby St. Clements, Lincs.
1842 Modus of £332 p.a. in lieu of tithes
1887 25 acres 2R glebe. Rent charge of £340. 9s. 7d. in lieu of tithes
1912 Nett value £230 p.a. 31 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: The King (1603), The Crown (1844), Lord Chancellor (1873)

11. Church St. Mary
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

13th cent. Chancel
14th cent. Nave and tower c.1300
15th cent. Porch
1869 Restoration

Note: Church contains 3 ancient mural paintings (one dates 1250 and the other two are c.15th cent., restored 1987)

Seats: 50 appropriated, 150 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1801 1 house set aside for worship
1811 Wesleyan chapel built

13. Manorial:

–1526 Abbey of St. Edmunds owns
c.1536 Thomas Bacon owns (linked to Burgate)
1666 FitzNun Lambe owns
1680 Robert Maddocks owns
1763 Edward Capel owns
late 18th cent. Descended to the Lofft family in which it remained

Sub-Manors:

Rougtownes

1495 Inquis p.m. William Felton

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £1,323 rental value
1891 £1,682 rateable value
1912 £1,506 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 R.E. Lofft and Mr. C. Wayman and small owners
1891 R.E. Lofft, principal owner
1912 Trustees of R.E. Lofft, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Fitznonue Lambe
1844 Evelyn Lofft
1891 Rev. D.H. Craton MA and Robert E. Lofft JP
1912 Rev. N.N.G. Hall MA and Max Pemberton JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 labourer, 1 herdsman
1600–1649 8 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 2 tailors, 1 shepherd
1650–1699 5 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 rector, 1 clothier, 1 shepherd
1831 70 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 1 labourer, 16 in domestic service, 3 others
1844 Tailor, blacksmith, corn miller, flour dealer, shopkeeper, victualler, gamekeeper, painter/glazier, carpenter, 5 farmers, 2 shoemakers
1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmaster, hotel owner, builder/wheelwright/carpenter/undertaker/saw mills/publican, 4 farmers, blacksmith, baker, grocer, 2 carriers, general dealer

19. Education:

1873 Parochial school built
1877 Public Elementary school built, average attendance 1912
39

20. Poor relief:

1776	£36 4s. 2d.
1803	£138 15s. 10½d.
1818	£317 13s.
1830	£320 18s.
1832	£289 15s.
1834	£308 14s.

21. Charities:

Benefactions

1666/67	by Indenture of Thomas Lamb: rent from lands of £1 14s. 1840 p.a. applied to purchase of blankets for poor
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Church Lands:

1840	Allotment of acre 0R 22P awarded at enclosure let at £1. 1s. p.a. to church repairs
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Poors Estate:

1806	Allotment of 14 acres 1R 31P let at £22 p.a. applied to purchase of coals for poor
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22. Other institutions:

1475	Guilds of St. John Baptist and St. Peter
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23. Recreation:

1844/1891	The Bull public house
1912	The Bull family and commercial hotel

24. Personal:

Edward Capell, 1713–1781, born at Troston Hall. Distinguished commentary on Shakespeare. Held office of Deputy Inspector of Plays.

Capel Lofft, 1751–1824, – ‘Capel Lofft, Some genealogical Notes’ by H. Hawes. Suffolk Review Vol. 3 (No. 3), p.86.

‘The Man who knew everyone – Capel Lofft’ by R.W. Healey. Suffolk Fair (Nov. 1984), p.22.

‘The Life of Capel Lofft, communicated by himself’. The Monthly Mirror (1802) contained in Bury Pamphlets Vol. VI.

25. Other information:

Troston Hall: Elizabethan house refaced 1875.

Parish contains sandy moor of 277 acres covered with ling and furze 1891.

Said to have contained hospital for sick monks from Abbey of St. Edmunds
(site unknown, unsubstantiated).

Air Depot attached to RAF Honington 1939–45.

Village sign erected 1975.