1. **Parish: Rickinghall Inferior**

**Meaning:** The hall/land of Rica’s people

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

**Deanery:** Blackburne (−1837), Hartismere (1837–1897), Hartismere (North) (1897–1931), N. Hartismere (1931–1972), Hartismere (1972–)

**Union:** Stow

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

**Other administrative details:**

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Rickinghall Inferior and Rickinghall Superior 1938
Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,981 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

   **Mixed:**
   a. Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some fine/coarse loams over clay. Some deep well drained coarse loam over clay, fine loam and sandy soils
   b. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by groundwater. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

   1086 Winter mill, 16 acres meadow, wood for 68 pigs, 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 16 pigs, 24 sheep, 30 goats
   1283 477 quarters to crops (3,816 bushels), 52 head horse, 191 cattle 49 pigs, 446 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.
   1818 **Marshall:** Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow in preparation for corn products
   1937 **Main crops:** Grown on 4 course system


6. **Enclosure:**

1819 247 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1815

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Main Bury St. Edmunds–Norwich road forms main street, parish and Hundred boundary with Rickinghall Superior and Hartismere Hundred. Settlement is however split into three small areas by the deviations of this boundary, the church being in the southern most portion. Development is concentrated along the line of the main road. Few scattered farms


8. **Communications:**

**Roads:** Main Bury St. Edmunds–Norwich road, formerly turnpike road Scole Bridge–Bury St. Edmunds. Roads to Wattisfield and Hinderclay

1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
  to Ipswich on Tuesday and Friday
  to Hopton on Monday and Thursday

1891 Carrier to Finningham daily

1912 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday
  to Diss on Friday
  to Finningham station daily
  to Mellis station daily

1912 Carrier to Diss on Friday

**Rail:** 1891 5 miles Finningham station: Ipswich–Norwich line opened 1848, closed 1966
  5 miles Mellis station: Mellis–Eye line opened 1867, closed for passengers 1931, closed for goods 1964

9. **Population:**

1086 – 37 recorded
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £1 9s. 6d.
1524 – Membrane either missing or illegible
1603 – 130 adults
1662 – 24 householders paid £3 7s.*
1674 – 36 households
1676 – 184 adults
1801 – 427 inhabitants
1831 – 465 inhabitants
1851 – 460 inhabitants
1871 – 388 inhabitants
1901 – 381 inhabitants
1911 – 290 inhabitants
1951 – 290 inhabitants
1981 – 262 inhabitants


10. **Benefice:** Rectory (consolidated with Rickinghall Superior 1831)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Valuation</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1254</td>
<td>£8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1291</td>
<td>£16 13s. 4d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1341</td>
<td>£17 4s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1535</td>
<td>£16 5s. 2½d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1662</td>
<td>Parsonage has 6 hearths</td>
<td>1 curate, stipend £154 p.a.  Glebe house.  Joint gross income £900 p.a. Incumbent also holds Perpetual curacy of Old Buckenham and Rectory of Bracon Ash, Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>£850</td>
<td>Modus of £1,052 in lieu of joint tithes, Parsonage house in each parish plus 47 acres glebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>30 acres glebe and handsome residence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Joint nett value £450 p.a. 30 acres glebe and residence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Patrons:** Abbot of St. Edmunds (1305–1516), Nicholas Bacon and family (1548–1673), Rowland Holt (1712–1778), George Holt Wilson (1889)

11. **Church** St. Mary
(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, NW. tower (round at base))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1086</td>
<td>Church plus 24 acres free land in alms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman</td>
<td>Lower portion of tower, upper stages (14th cent.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th cent.</td>
<td>Piers on S. side of nave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th cent.</td>
<td>Chancel, S. aisle and S. porch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th cent.</td>
<td>Nave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858/59</td>
<td>Refitted and cleaned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Saved from closure by local support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seats:** 45 (1831)
12. **Nonconformity etc:**
   - 1606: 3 persons negligent in attending church
   - 1676: 11 nonconformists
   - 1707–1828: 3 houses set aside for worship

13. **Manorial:**

   **Rickinghall Inferior al Westhall**
   - 1066/1086: Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds
   - 1544: Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
   - c.1685: Sir John Holt owns and thence through the Holt–Wilson family (Linked to Wangford, Brandon, Hinderclay and Redgrave)

14. **Markets/Fairs**

15. **Real property:**
   - 1844: £2,107 rental value
   - 1891: £2,402 rateable value
   - 1912: £1,711 rateable value

16. **Land ownership:**
   - 1844: G. St. Vincent Wilson, principal owner
   - 1891: Sub-divided
   - 1912: G.H. Wilson and G.R.H. Wilson, principal owners

17. **Resident gentry:**

18. **Occupations:**
   - 1500–1549: 1 yeoman
   - 1550–1599: 5 yeoman, 5 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 linen weaver, 1 draper, 1 mercer
   - 1600–1649: 9 yeomen, 2 spinsters, 1 linenweaver, 1 wheelwright, 1 gardener
   - 1650–1699: 10 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 1 fishmonger (citizen of London), 1 husbandman, 1 clerk, 3 linen weavers, 1 wheelwright, 1 bricklayer, 1 butcher, 1 pail maker, 1 petty chapman, 1 wool comber, 1 clothier, 1 tanner
   - 1831: 75 in agriculture, 27 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 20 in domestic service, 12 others
1844 Tailor, plumber/glazier, grocer/draper, confectioner, vet, shoe maker, grocer/blacksmith, victualler, bricklayer, blacksmith, relieving officer, corn miller, 8 farmers
1891 Roller mills and merchant
1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmaster, pork butcher, basket maker, gamekeeper, beer retailer, grocer, baker, 4 farmers, farm bailiff, Rickinghall Manufacturing Co. (leather goods), librarian, blacksmith, hurdle maker

19. Education:
1818 1 dames school (16 attend)
1 school held on Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon on the Madras system (53 attend), shared with Rickinghall Superior
1833 2 daily schools shared with Rickinghall Superior
1853 National school built, enlarged 1873/1904, average attendance 1912 160
Reasons for low attendance 1869–1873 in ‘A West Suffolk Childhood in mid–19th century’, by P. Willmot

20. Poor relief:
1776 £152 11s.
1803 £360 12s. 4¼d.
1818 £678 19s.
1830 £804 9s.
1832 £889 8s.
1834 £676 2s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate/Barnes Charity:
1840 Allotment of 9 acres awarded at enclosure plus 1R 12P devised by Joseph Barnes in 1731 let at £25 8s. p.a. 10s. distributed in bread to poor, residue applied to church repairs/similar expenses

Rookwood Charity:
1840 2 acres 3R 2P let at £7 17s. 6d. p.a. applied to distribution of bread and money to poor

Brown’s Gift:
1731 by will of John Brown: interest of £10, i.e.10s. p.a. distributed in bread to poor
22. **Other institutions:**

1912 Village library

23. **Recreation:**

1844 The Bell public house (dates from 1600’s, disputed as to whether this is in Rickinghall or Botesdale)
1891 1 beerhouse, The Bell commercial and posting hotel
1912 Botesdale and Rickinghall Rifle Club
       1 beer retailer, The Bell hotel, bowling green and club at The Bell

24. **Personal:**

25. **Other information:**

Broom Hills: former Dower house of Holt-Wilson family, late 17/early 18\textsuperscript{th} cent. Construction.

‘Rickinghall’ booklet based on notes of Col. Tuck.

‘A West Suffolk Childhood in the mid 19\textsuperscript{th} century’, by P. Willmot.

‘Rickinghall and Hinderclay Magazine 1898–1902.

Roman kilns excavated at Calke Wood.

Tudor House from Stowmarket re-erected in Rickinghall 1958. No knowledge as to whether this was to Superior or Inferior.