

A

Foxton

Heritage

Project.

At the end of 2012 a research project was undertaken to date when the existing residential dwellings in the village of Foxton were built.

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Some notes on housing types and population density of Foxton

The village of Foxton has existed for well over a 1000 years with the oldest building being St Andrews's church that was originally built around 1200. The settlement developed and in the 11th C the earliest part of the Manor house was built. The building of a second manor house, whose foundations are Orchard House, followed this in the 13thC.

Whereas Foxton was for many centuries a truly agricultural village this did start to change towards the end of the 18th C. During the latter part of the 1700's and until the middle of the 19th C there were many dwellings that housed Stocking Frames where whole families, parents and children, toiled to produce worsted stockings.

In 1801 whereas 30 people were listed as agricultural workers some 49 were recorded as being in "trade or manufacture". This period also saw the development of the Foxton orchards growing the local variety "Foxton Pride". There was also a mushroom ketchup factory in the village at this time, and whilst apple growing and mushroom collection still required agricultural workers, these would have been more seasonal and possibly part time occupations.

Thus between 1750 and 1850 the requirement for traditional agricultural workers reduced and the primitive hovels in which they lived were replaced with more substantial brick cottages. Also during this period the large "Hunting Box" dwellings that had been built fuelled the demand for domestic workers or servants and by 1881 the number of domestic workers at 30 far outweighed those in agriculture at 12.

In 1800 the population was around 420 inhabitants reducing to 348 in 1880. At this time there were 94 dwellings in the village of which 89 were occupied. However 10 years later in 1890 the population had further reduced to 284 and of the 90 dwellings only 67 were occupied with 23 remaining vacant. 30 years later in 1920 the population had started to increase again with 348 inhabitants, however the number of dwellings had reduced further to around 75.

This brief statistical overview indicates how at the end of the 19thC there was a migration away from village and agricultural life as new employment opportunities stemming from the Industrial revolution lured people away from rural life. During the first two decades of the 20thC the statistics suggest that despite an increasing population the house numbers continued to fall.

There are perhaps a number of reasons for these seemingly contradictory elements. Families were larger as infant mortality began to reduce, the traditional small and insubstantial agricultural workers dwellings were being replaced with larger cottages, and the financial insecurity caused by the 1stWW caused overcrowding in some existing dwellings. There appears no definitive answer to this contradiction and it is likely that all of these factors played their part to a greater or lesser degree.

In Foxton today we have around 460 inhabitants living in 190 houses, a ratio of 2.4 people per house. In 1920 there were approx. 350 inhabitants living in 75 houses, a ratio of 4.7 per house. Whilst in 1880, 350 inhabitants lived in 89 houses a ratio of 3.9 people per house, and this ratio seems fairly constant throughout the 19thC. It would appear therefore that the first 20 years of the 20thC gave rise to the maximum occupancy rate for at least the last 200 years.

From an historical perspective 2% of the houses in Foxton today originate from the 1600's, 9% from the 1700's, 18% from the 1800's, 64% from the 1900's, and 7% from the present century. The largest increase having come about in the middle of the 20thC before and after WW 2.

	Swingbridge Street		<i>orig. Flagon Street</i>	pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1	1743	Schofield Farm	Originally an inn. The King William ?		x			
5	1931						x	
7	1931						x	
9	1931		Old road under front of house, Roman?				x	
11	1931						x	
13	1931						x	
15	1931						x	
15a	1995		) Re-built in 1995 when 2 of the original				x	
15b	1995		) "Swedish" houses were demolished.				x	
17	1951	The Stone House	Shows aspects of Papillion Hall.				x	
19	mid 19thC					x		
21	mid 19thC		Originally 2 dwellings			x		
25	1850		Originally farm labourers cottage			x		
29	1880	The Chestnuts	Used as a Hunting Lodge			x		
33	18c	Dale Cottage	A Catsup producer around 1800 onwards		x			
37	18c	The Manse	From 1750 dwelling house of the Minister		x			
			of the non-conformist church.					
39	2005		Garden of No. 37					x
41	mid 18thC	Foxton Lodge			x			
51	1730	Langton Farmhouse			x			
51a	2006	The Barn						x
53	2005		) Built on land of Langton farm.					x
55	2005		)					x
57	1968		A "Colt" house built on site of a				x	
			Victorian building. Garden of No. 59					
59	1770		) Both dwellings were joined at one time,		x			
61	1770		) used variously as a beer house, shop		x			
			and swingbridge toll keepers house.					
2	1949						x	
4	1949						x	
6	1949						x	
8	1949						x	

10	1949						x	
12	1949						x	
14	1949						x	
16	1949						x	
18	1949						x	
18a	1994						x	
20	1992						x	
22	early 19thC		) Originally "The Grange", a hunting box			x		
24	early 19thC		) redeveloped into 4 dwellings in 2003.			x		
26	2004							x
32	1978		) 4 houses built on the paddock				x	
34	1979		) of "The Grange" - the Holland's house.				x	
36	1979		) The paddock was known as "Play Close"				x	
38	1980		) and used by local children.				x	
40	2006		The Haven					x
42	late17thC	The Hermitage		x				
50	1745	Bents Close			x			
54	2003	Little Orchard						x
60	early19thC		Used as a laundry in 1900 for Cunard family			x		
62	1825	Swingbridge Farm	site of first Vicarage until 1876			x		
64	2013		late 20th C. being completely rebuilt					x
	early19thC	The canal swingbridge.	Originally called the swivel bridge.			x		
	11/14/18C	The Manor House	Substantially modified in 14th/18thC.	11/14C	x			
	mid 20thC	The Byre	Developed from the stables of the Manor				x	
	1750	The Old Mill House	The millers cottage		x			
	1850	Old Mill Cottage	Farm buildings			x		

	Vicarage Drive			pre 1700	1700's	1800's	1900's
			Notes				
1	1950		Originally a pond in this area				x
3	1950						x
5	1949						x
7	1949						x
9	1949						x
11	1949						x
13	1949						x
20	mid 18thC	Orchard House	Previously known as a manor house, the foundations of which date to the 13thC	13thC	x		
	mid 18thC	The Old Vicarage	Originally a hunting box, became the residence of the Vicar in 1876		x		
	mid 20th C	The Vicarage	The present day vicarage				x

	Hog Lane			pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
			Notes					
2	1999	Grange House					x	
4	mid 19thC	The Hunting Box	)Originally part of the Grange,			x		
6	mid 19thC		) modified in 2003			x		

	Swedish Close		pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
		Notes					
1a	1995					x	
1b	1995					x	
2	2005						x
3	1995					x	
5	1946	) Original "Swedish"				x	
7	1946	) design wooden houses				x	
9	1975					x	
11	1975					x	
13	1975					x	
15	1975					x	
17	1975					x	
19	1975					x	
21	1975					x	
23	1975					x	
25	1975					x	
27	1975					x	

Middle Street		orig. Woodgate Street	pre 1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
		Notes					
8	1968	)				x	
10	1968	) Orchard where pigs were kept,				x	
12	1968	) originally part of the Old Leet Court land				x	
14	1968	)				x	
26	1968					x	
28	mid 20thC					x	
30	1966					x	
32	1930					x	
34	2005						x
34a	2005						x
36	1994					x	
38	1840	Farm buildings			x		
	1970	The Lindens				x	
17	1780	Has been a farmhouse, an off licence, shop and post office.		x			
19	early19thC	Christmas Cottage			x		
21	early19thC				x		
	1931	Robert Monk Hall				x	
27	1840				x		
29	mid 19thC	Originally a coal yard			x		
31	1921					x	
33	1921					x	
35	1921					x	
37	1921					x	
39	1921					x	
41	1921					x	
43	1976	Land purchased from LCC, housed pigs				x	
49	1830	)			x		
49a	1830	) Cottages used to house stocking frames			x		
51	1830	Corner Cottage			x		

53	1979						x	
55	1820	Bridge House				x		

	Main Street		<i>orig. Crossgate St., Bridge St., Silver St.</i>	pre 1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1/3	early19thC		Originally 2, perhaps 3 cottages			x		
9	1950						x	
11	1950						x	
13	1950						x	
25	1968	"Little Me Nursery", Bramley House, previously a shop and post office.					x	
27	early20thC		Previously a shop.				x	
29	1670	The Old Court House	A Leet Court.	x				
33	1968		) Early 1900's a milking parlour in garden,				x	
35	1968		)				x	
37	1968		) Site was an orchard, and pigs were				x	
39	1968		) also kept.				x	
41	1968		)				x	
43	early19thC	Roselands	Dalbys bakers/shop/Old peoples home			x		
45	1965		Previously site of a garage				x	
49	1988		)				x	
51	1988		) Site was previously Pickerings orchard				x	
53	1988		)				x	
55	1988		)				x	
57	2009							x
57a	2009							x
59	mid 20thC						x	
61	mid 20thC						x	
	11/13/18C	St. Andrew's Church		11/13c		x		
	1994	Summer House	Previously part of Old Mill house garden				x	
6	1979						x	
10	1994						x	
12	mid 19thC		Previously a shop that moved to no.25			x		
16	mid 19thC					x		
28	early20thC						x	
32	mid 20thC		At one time a post office				x	

34/36	1760/1860	Admiral Rodney	A beer house from 1783 until 1820		x	x		
40	1890					x		
42	early 18thC	Fishers Farm house			x			
42a	mid 20thC						x	
44	early 18thC	Spring Cottage			x			
	1865	The Chapel				x		
52/54	1860		A post office for many years			x		
56	1860		Originally 2 cottages for a groom and the cook at the Grange.			x		
	1995	Lavender House					x	
	1995	Rose Cottage					x	
	1995	The Lilacs					x	
	1994	Lily House					x	
	1750	Shoulder of Mutton	Originally a farmhouse, opened as an inn in 1770, Foxtons first post office		x			
72	1995						x	
76	1990		Garden of Magnolia House				x	
	1950	Magnolia House					x	
	1989	Orchard Grange					x	
	1989	Meadow View					x	
	1989	Jasmine Cottage	Built to look like previous old tea room				x	
78	early 19thC	Moorhatch	Previously a shop			x		
80	early 19thC	Hillside	Used for mushroom sorting, and also for a period it was a sweetshop and a post office			X		
	1809	The canal opened and the hump back bridge built, this bridge was often					x	
			referred to as "Loafers Lump"					
86/88	17c.	The Forge House	Forge, wharf, coal merchant, weighbridge, of Crook frame construction	x				
	1901	The Black Horse	Built on site of earlier public house (1821)				x	
96	1960		Built on land released from the Black Horse				x	
98	1850					x		
100	1892	Mount Farm	The Poor House was in the present driveway			x		

	Gumley Road			pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
	mid 20thC	Pen-Y Bryn	Site of Pottery Kiln then Brickworks				x	
	mid 20thC	Cemetery					x	

	Gallow Field Road	pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1967	Foxton Primary School				x	

	Park Close	pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1	1965/7				x	
2	1965/7				x	
3	1965/7				x	
4	1965/7				x	
5	1965/7				x	
6	1965/7				x	
7	1965/7				x	
8	1965/7				x	

	Dalby's Lane			pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1	1968						x	
3	1968						x	
4	early19thC		Part of old bakehouse			x		

	North Lane	<i>orig. Westgate Street</i>	pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1	1985					x	
2	1990					x	
	1969	Carter Design Group, incorporates buildings from the early 19thC			x	x	
7		part of the buildings above			x		
	1995	The Kiln House				x	
	early18thC	Westleigh Farm		x			
	1960	Fishers Farm buildings				x	

Foxton Locks, opened in 1814		pre1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1810	Hall Brook Cottage (Bottom Lock cottage and stables)			x		
1814/1840	Top Lock cottage and stable			x		
pre 1800	) Foxton Locks Inn was originally a toll keepers cottage		x			
in 1900	) it became GJCCo.'s office, then				x	
in 1966	) it became a tea room and shop, and				x	
in 1980	) it finally became a public house				x	
1900	Inclined Plane opened, closed in 1910				x	
1900	) Steam engine/Boiler House for Inclined plane opened				x	
1989	) rebuilt as Museum				x	

	Woodgate			pre 1700	1700's	1800's	1900's	2000's
1	1991	)	)				x	
2	1991	) Grand Union Cottages	) Originally an allotment				x	
3	1991	)	)				x	
4	1991	)	)				x	
	1876	The Old School House	A Field centre from 1965, private from 2012			x		