Suffolk is a mainly rural county in East Anglia, bordered to the north by Norfolk, to the west by Cambridgeshire, to the south by Essex, and to the east by the sea. Historically the county was divided into four ‘Grand Divisions’ which acted independently in most respects. Three of these divisions, Beccles, Ipswich, and the Liberty of St Ethelred (Woodbridge), eventually became the administrative county of East Suffolk, while the fourth, the Liberty of Bury St Edmunds, became the administrative county of West Suffolk [1], with its own inspectors. The county also contained the large boroughs of Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds, and several small boroughs (Aldeburgh, Eye, Orford, Southwold, and Sudbury) which had jurisdiction over weights and measures in the nineteenth century.

The first evidence of specialist scale makers in Suffolk dates from the 1850s. Before 1860 the London scale maker Samuel Warmisham had set up a branch in Ipswich. The firm was bought by Cocksedge & Co., a large engineering firm, around 1890, and eventually taken over by Avery’s in 1936. In 1968 the old-established London firm of Herberts moved their base to a new purpose-built factory at Haverhill [3].
### A1: Inspection by the county of SUFFOLK (East)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Standards issued for the three grand divisions that comprised East Suffolk: Beccles [344], Ipswich [334] and Woodbridge [333].</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Standards [368] issued to John Jay inspector for Blything hundred.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Many inspectors appointed. Their districts seem to have been based on the hundreds, but some inspectors did not reside in the hundred for which they acted. Their number appears to have diminished gradually.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834/5</td>
<td>Seven more sets of standards issued [565-6, 683, 752-5]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>East Suffolk County police formed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Standards [1044] issued to John Stannanought for Woodbridge.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>The police took over as WM inspectors. New standards [1227-8, 1273] issued to police superintendents.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inspectors 1834-1858**

**Beccles Division**
- Blything (Peasenhall)
  - John Jay (1834-)
- Mutford (Lowestoft)
  - George Smith (1834-)
  - Wangford (Bungay/Beccles)
  - William Dybale (1834-)
  - Richard Earl (1834-53-)
  - Edward Morgan (1834-50-)
  - Charles White (-1855-)

**Ipswich Division**
- Bosmere (Needham Market)
  - John Hewitt (1834-)
- Samford (Ipswich)
  - William Denham (1834-)
  - Robert Raffe (1834-)
- Stow (Stowmarket)
  - Charles Williams (1834-)
  - John Frewer (1834-)
- Hartismere (Yaxley)
  - William Mole (1834-)
- Hoxne (Wilby)
  - Thomas Blomfield (1834-)

**Woodbridge Division**
- (Liberty of St Ethelred)
  - Plomesgate (Little Glemham)
    - Abraham Garrett (1834-)
  - Loes (W'bridge/Framlingham)
    - John Stannanought (1834-50-)
    - John Mickleburgh (1834-)
    - John Barker (-1855-)
  - Thredling (Ashfield)
    - Thomas Cage (1834-)
  - Wilford (Alderton)
    - Joseph Buck (1834-)

Inspectors for Carlford and Colneys are not known.
A bronze weight with the early mark of the Suffolk inspectors 1834-58. There is no indication of the district.

Police officers as inspectors 1858-1889

Originally there were five police districts in East Suffolk and the superintendents were the inspectors. In 1861 five additional inspectors were appointed ‘to act only in case of illness of the inspectors’. There were still only five districts in 1867, but a sixth district, Framlingham, was added later. Superintendent Gobbett moved from Beccles to Halesworth in 1874, but seems to have continued to act as IWM for both districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beccles and Lowestoft (267)</th>
<th>Woodbridge district (270)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heber Hardinge (1858-60-)</td>
<td>Edward. Fitzgerald (1858-69-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah Gobbett (-1865-74&amp;)</td>
<td>Jonathan Cattermull (-1874)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Jeffries (&amp;1874-75-)</td>
<td>George Freeman (1874-81-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Cook (&amp;1883-85)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Halesworth (Yoxford) (268)</th>
<th>Ipswich district (HQ) (271)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James B. Creasey (1858-)</td>
<td>Charles Nagle (1858-69-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Cook (-1865-)</td>
<td>Francis Fisher (-1875-89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Jeffries (-1869-74&amp;)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah Gobbett (&amp;1874-89)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eye or 'Suffolk' district (269)</th>
<th>Framlingham district (469)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G.W. Jukes (-1860-)</td>
<td>John Creasey (-1875-81-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Cook (-1869-83&amp;)</td>
<td>William Balls (-1883-88-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Barnard (1883-89)</td>
<td>Charles Fisher (-1889)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A brass 8oz weight with the mark for Suffolk district 2, stamped by the police 1858-1879. The VR 268 mark was stamped in the period 1880-1901.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Five districts; superintendents of police acting as inspectors.</td>
<td>VR 271</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Five numbers issued: 267-271.</td>
<td>VR 271</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Number 469 issued, probably for the new Framlingham district.</td>
<td>VR 268</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>East Suffolk CC formed.</td>
<td>VR 268</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1891  | Nos.269-271 withdrawn; two divisions:  
North (Lowestoft) 268  
South (Ipswich) 267 | VR 268 |          |
| 1915? | The divisions were united under one inspector, but with offices in both Ipswich and Lowestoft.  
The office in Ipswich was closed c1925. | VR 268 |          |
| 1950  | No.269 also in use. | VR 268 |          |
| 1974  | Authority transferred to new unified Suffolk CC. | VR 268 |          |

**Qualified inspectors:**

**North Division**

- W.E. Giraud (q1891/2 –1903d)
- H.J. Cooke (1903- ) later sole inspector for the county and then chief inspector  
  [MR 03:179]

**South Division**

- J. Burkitt (q1890/1-1907)  
  [MR 08:4]
- J.E. Cawley (1908-12- )  
  [MR 08:4]

**Chief inspectors:**

- H. J. Cooke (c1915-34)  
  [MR 35:270]
- J. Proudlove (1934-49)  
  [MR 49:39; 64:88]
- F. Chamberlain (1949-55)  
  [MR 55:27]
- P. Hosking (1957-74)  
  [MR 74:110]
## A2: Inspection by the county of Suffolk (West)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Standards [328] issued for Bury division. Also weights [220] for Blackbourn hundred.</td>
<td></td>
<td>West Suffolk evolved from the <strong>Liberty of Bury St Edmunds</strong>, which was one of the four grand divisions of Suffolk. It comprised the hundreds of Babergh, Blackbourn, Cosford, Lackford, Risbridge, Thingoe, and Thedwestry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Two of the sets of standards issued for Suffolk were for the Bury Division. Four (?) inspectors appointed to cover the seven hundreds.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Inspectors 1834-53:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1843  | Standards [908] issued to Thomas Coates for Babergh hundred. |       | 1. **Babergh hd (Lawshall)**  
Samuel Steggall (1834-)  
Thomas Coates (1843-48-)  
Samuel Ruffell (-1853-) |
| 1845  | West Suffolk County Police formed. |       | 2. **Thingoe Thedwestry and Blackbourn hds (Ixworth)**  
John Nixon (1834-50-)  
John Shickle* |
| 1848  | Standards [987] issued to Thomas Coates for Babergh hundred. |       | 3. **Cosford hd (Hadleigh)**  
John Gurdon (1834-36-)  
Thomas. Ellisdon (-1853-) |
| 1853  | Another set of standards [1112] issued to J.A. Ellisdon for Cosford hundred. |       | 4. **Risbridge and Lackford hds (Mildenhall)**  
Samuel Playford (1834-44-)  
James Jarvis (-1853-) |
| 1854  | Old inspectors petitioned against dismissal.  
Police took over WM duties. The WM districts were exactly the same as the police districts and the superintendents acted as inspectors. |       | *Shickle was a long-serving inspector in Norfolk. |
| 1879  | Numbers issued for five districts: 272-276. |       |       |
### Police officers as inspectors 1854-89

The five districts remained the same throughout this period, but the numbering was different from that used previously.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Inspectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Bury St Edmunds (HQ)</strong></td>
<td>Alfred Edwards (1854-58-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arthur Roberts (-1865-&amp;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Ginn (-1869-&amp;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph Southgate (&amp;-1874-75-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Clarke (-1879-89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Boxford</strong></td>
<td>Walter Gsy (1854-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles Schofield (-1865-69-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher Chapman (-1874-89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Mildenhall</strong></td>
<td>James Smith (1854-58-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Glaser (-1865-83-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samuel Reeve (-1885-89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Clare</strong></td>
<td>Oliver Death (1854-65-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph Southgate (-1869-&amp;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arthur Roberts (&amp; -1874-85-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Bardwell (-1888-89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Ixworth</strong></td>
<td>Richard Clark (1854-58-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Durrant (-1865-79-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Cole (-1881-89)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¶ 2oz brass weight stamped with the two varieties of numbered ‘LBS’ marks.
Copy of the Model Regulations adopted by West Suffolk County Council in 1890.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>West Suffolk CC formed; one district and one qualified inspector; No.272 used; other numbers cancelled.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>No.195 (originally used in the Borough of Bury St Edmunds) re-issued.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>No.194 issued, 195 and 271 also in use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Authority transferred to new united Suffolk CC.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualified inspectors:**

- H.C. Walters (q1890/1-1915) Dismissed during WW1 due to his German links [2].
- A.E. Bass (1915-35)
- L. Hobson (1936-46)
- D. Thompson (1946-74) [MR 46:103, 74:51]
In 1834 Robert Ralph was appointed IWM, although there is no record of standards until 1844, when they were issued to Robert Cook, inspector. In 1855 [W] the keeper of the courts, Christopher Jackson, was acting as IWM, and Samuel Cook had taken over by 1858 [K].

John Henry Teager, whitesmith, was listed as IWM in 1865 and 1873 [Ha]. From 1874 to 1885 [W] Henry John Read was the IWM. Before 1888 [K] he was replaced by Edwin C. Sayer, who continued as chief inspector until 1927, although he never qualified.


¶ A 2oz brass weight verified in the Borough of Ipswich before 1880. The letter T is probably a date code.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Dates &amp; Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldeburgh</td>
<td>AncBo Unref MB:1883</td>
<td>BURG ALDEBURGH 206</td>
<td>s:1826 n:1879-1889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standards were issued in 1826. The borough was 'unreformed' in 1835. In that year the alefounder, Robert Lee, was appointed as IWM and the borough continued to act as a WM authority. The pre-uniform mark appears in two forms, with the abbreviation BORO or BURG.

Horatio Salton was listed as IWM from 1844 to 1874 [W]. Robert Podd, tailor, was listed in 1875 [K] and 1885 [W], and by 1888 [K] Henry Allerton was the IWM. The number 206 was issued in 1879. The borough received a new charter in 1883 but WM authority passed to the county in 1889 because the population was less than 10,000.

| Eye | AncBo MB:1835 ncp | --- | s:1826 r:1836 |

Standards were issued in 1826 and reverified in 1836. According to the borough archives, an inspector (who may have been the county inspector) was appointed in 1858, and by 1866 it was clearly stated that inspection had been transferred to the county.

**Halesworth.** Standards were verified for this Market Town in 1826, but it is likely that authority was handed over to the county soon afterwards.

¶ A 1oz brass weight showing both the pre-uniform Aldeburgh mark and the uniform number 206 issued in 1879.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Dates &amp; Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-uniform</td>
<td>Number pre-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orford</td>
<td>AncBo Unref dis:1886</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>s:1825 n:1879-1886</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Before 1834 the Mayor was responsible for inspection but under the Act of that year George Syred was appointed inspector.

According to the borough archives the standards were reverified in 1871 Thomas Barnard, a blacksmith, was listed as IWM in 1874 [W], and a uniform number was issued in 1879.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southwold</th>
<th>Manor&amp; Bo MB:1835 ncp</th>
<th>![mark]</th>
<th>s:1826 r:1853</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>?</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1835 Southwold appointed three inspectors, John King, Obadiah Palmer and Robert Barber. It was reported that weights and measures had previously been superintended by the Court Leet. The mark shown is doubtful.

A borough police force existed from 1840 until 1889, but there was only one officer throughout that time. From 1859 to 1874 this was Charles Spurgeon, who was listed as IWM in 1858 and 1869 [K]. In 1867 it was reported [4Rep: 61] that ‘great care is taken of the standards, and they do not require re-verification, the inspection being vigilantly exercised and no information being brought during the last 15 years’. In 1875 [K] the IWM was William Blowers, also inspector of nuisances, manager of the fire engine, and a blacksmith. In 1879 [K] the IWM was once again the police officer, William Porter. Porter was still listed in 1888 [K] and probably continued until 1889 when the 'police force' was absorbed by the county.

**Stowmarket**: acquired standards in 1827, which were reverified for the use of the county in 1855.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Dates &amp; Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bury St Edmunds</td>
<td>AncBo</td>
<td>MB:1835 qsb</td>
<td>s:1826,1860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1835 Edmund Ward and Richard Caney were appointed as inspectors. A borough police force was set up in 1836, and Caney was its chief officer from 1839 to 1845. John Hockett was the chief officer until the end of 1856, when the borough force became part of West Suffolk.

New standards were issued in 1860. The inspector of WM was the police superintendent for the Bury district of the county until 1889. In 1893 it was recorded that the borough had made a formal arrangement with the county, and the county inspector, H.C. Walters would have acted as inspector for the borough until 1915. No.195 was probably not used until it was reissued to the county in 1946. The borough did not cease to be a WMA until 1965.

¶ 4oz brass weight with the mark of the Borough of Bury St Edmunds. Also stamped with the mark of Birmingham, where it was presumably made.
Standards were obtained in 1835 and William Oliver May was appointed as inspector. In 1844 [W] and 1850 [S], William Warner was the IWM. James Purr was listed as the IWM in 1858 [K].

Inspection was later transferred to the borough police force, and William Sach (CC 1859-89) was listed as IWM in 1865 [K]. In 1869 his attempts to enforce the new Petroleum Act led to several explosions [East Suffolk Gazette March 2 1869, p.5]. He remained as IWM until the police force was wound up and inspection transferred to the county in 1889.

¶  A bronze weight with the Sudbury verification mark. The other marks show that it was made in London by a member of the Founders Company in the period 1826-30.
### Warmisham

Samuel Warmisham, scale maker in *London*, set up a branch in Ipswich c1856.
- 36 St Nicholas St [1858 K]
- 15 St Nicholas St <1865-1879>
- 19 Queen Street <1885-1896>

Samuel Warmisham died c1890 and in 1892 [K] the business was listed under the name of his widow, Alice. It was acquired c1899 by **Cocksedge**, who continued to use the name **Warmisham & Cocksedge** for some purposes.

### Freeman

Henry Freeman, scale maker [1875 K]
- 19 Queen St.
  Premises occupied by **Warmisham** by 1885.

### Powis

Thomas Powis, scale maker [1879 K]
- Falcon Street

### Curtis

William Curtis, scale maker [1900 K]
- 5 Friar Street <1900-1908>

### Cocksedge

James S. Cocksedge (1819-87) moved from Stowmarket to Ipswich in 1879, and set up a general engineering firm in Grey Friars Road. The firm of **Warmisham** was acquired c1899, and traded as Cocksedge & Co. scale makers [1900 K advt], [1922 K advt]. The firm was sometimes known as **Warmisham & Cocksedge**.
- 19 Queen Street <1900-1922>.

The firm also had branches in Lowestoft, and Kings Lynn and Great Yarmouth. The scalemaking side was acquired in 1936 by **Eastern Counties**; and shortly afterwards sold on to **Avery**.

### Eastern Counties

R.W. Darby, proprietor of the Eastern Counties Scale Company in Ipswich, Norwich, Yarmouth and Colchester [1925 K advt]. Darby was formerly manager of the Avery branch in Liverpool.
- 15 Crown Street <1925-29>
- 25 Berners Street <1933>.

Took over **Warmisham & Cocksedge** 1936, then sold out to **Avery** 1936.

### Avery

First noted in 1904 [K].
- 6 Falcon Street <1904-1908>

Took over **Eastern Counties** including **Cocksedge** in 1936, and retained their premises
- 25 Berners Street <1936-65>
A 2oz brass weight stamped with the name of Warmisham and the VR 223 mark for Ipswich.

Advertisement for Cocksedge & Co. from Kelly’s Suffolk directory for 1900.

An 8oz iron weight with the name of Cocksedge Ipswich, probably c1900-30.
### BURY ST EDMUNDS

**Lee**  
Arthur F. Lee, scale maker and repairer [1922 K advt, 1933 K advt]  
- 33a Brentgovel Street <1922-39>  
- 61 St Andrews Street South <1940>

**Avery**  
First noted?  
- Angel Lane <1965>

### LOWESTOFT

**Armon**  
Geo. S. Armon, weighing machine maker [1900 K]  
- 34 St Johns Road

**Cocksedge**  
Branch of the *Ipswich* firm  
- 7 Dukes Head St, Lowestoft <1900-1912>.

**Trail and Fletcher**  
Probably connected with Henry Trail of *Kings Lynn*, Norfolk. G.H. Trail and Sons, scale and weight makers [1932 KMT], succeeded by Trail and Fletcher at same address.  
- 69 Raglan Street <1932-1971>

### SUDBURY

**William**  
A. William, scale maker [1858 PO].  
- Church St <1858>

### EYE

**Garood**  
This name has been seen on a 56lb iron bar weight.

### HAVERHILL

**Herbert**  
Herbert & Sons, an old-established London firm, moved to Haverhill in 1968.  
- Rookwood Way 1968-
A 1oz brass weight with the name and address of the Eastern Counties Scale Company. It is stamped on the reverse with the date code A 31, indicating January 1931.

The original registration of the ‘Lion’ trademark for Herberths in 1888 and, on the right, the form used around 1968 when the firm moved to Haverhill [3].
References for Suffolk

Published works


2. E. Brauer. The Construction of the Balance. London: Society of Inspectors of Weights and Measures, 1909. This technical work was translated from the German by H.C. Walters, the inspector for West Suffolk. The preface mentions his German connections, which led to his dismissal in 1915. (See also below.)


Directories


H. Hunt & Co.’s Directory of … parts of Suffolk. {ST1041} 1850.


Newspapers

East Suffolk Gazette and Beccles and Bungay Weekly News 2 March 1869. Account of the misadventures of the IWM for Sudbury, William Sach, following the introduction of petroleum testing.

Bury and Norwich Post 21 May 1915. Full account of the West Suffolk C.C. meeting, at which Inspector Walters was dismissed.

Original Documents

Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch

B/100/1 : Quarter Sessions Records. Occasional references to inspectors are at 23/61, 24/32. 24/49-51, 26/4.

HC/457 : Records of the firm of Cocksedge, including (HC457/5/25) a photograph of items made by Cocksedge and Warmisham.

EE2/P8/1: Eye Borough, document relating to appointment of inspector, 1858.
EE5/16/20-24: Orford Borough, documents relating to weights and measures 1870-1890.

Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds Branch

Q/APw1  Several relevant documents, including: list of inspectors in 1836, indenture for Thomas Coates 1843, Shickle’s list of persons convicted 1852, petition by inspectors against proposed dismissal 1853, papers of a committee appointed in 1854, which recommended that the inspection be transferred to police.