

# 1. Parish : Great Livermere

**Meaning:** Lake where rush or iris grow

**2. Hundred:** Thedwastre

**Deanery:** Thedwastre (–1937), Blackbourn (1937–1972)  
Ixworth (1972–)

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

**RDC/UDC:** Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Blackbourne Petty Sessional Division  
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,522 acres land, 33 acres water (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid. Risk of wind erosion.
- b. Deep well drained fine loam over chalk, coarse loam over clay and fine loams some with calcareous subsoils.
- c. Deep permeable sand/peat soils affected by ground water. Risk of winter flooding.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		4 acres meadow, 1 fishery, 1 horse, 3 cattle, 3 pigs, 100 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where main crop is barley. Sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening
1818	Marshall:	Management uniform. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, sugar beet, barley, oats, turnips
1969	Trist:	Deficiencies in minerals are overcome and these lands are now more suited to arable farming with wide range of produce grown

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1978 Small development on edge of Livermere Park. Well spread out. Church stand to N.W. of main settlement. Livermere Heath stretches as a long spit of land to N. (appears uninhabited). Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 23, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 62, 1871 – 75,  
1901 – 61, 1951 – 53, 1981 – 87

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** Line of Roman road. Roads to Troston, Timworth and Great Barton.  
1891 Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

**Rail:** 1891 2½ miles to Ingham station:  
Bury St Edmunds–Thetford line opened 1876, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.  
Station converted to contractors yard and offices

**9. Population:**

1086 – 53 recorded  
1327 – 31 taxpayers paid £3 8s. 9d.  
1524 – 16 taxpayers paid £0 17s. 6d.  
1603 – 89 adults  
1674 – 40 households  
1676 – 116 adults  
1801 – 259 inhabitants  
1831 – 336 inhabitants  
1851 – 301 inhabitants  
1871 – 295 inhabitants  
1901 – 211 inhabitants  
1931 – 195 inhabitants  
1951 – 160 inhabitants  
1971 – 284 inhabitants  
1981 – 232 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (annexed to Little Livermere)**

1254 Valued £12.  
1291 Valued £14 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £15 8s. 11½d.  
1674 Parsonage has 4 hearths  
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £463 p.a.  
1844 Combined value £440 p.a.  
1887 78 acres glebe, gross rent £77 10s. p.a.  
1891 Value £550 p.a. with residence  
1912 Combined value £392

**Patrons:** Edward Francis (1603), N.L. Acton (1831), Dowager Lady Middleton (1844), Hon. Mrs. Saumarez (1891), Miss J.A. Brooke (1874)

- 11. Church      St. Peter (thatched)**  
 (Chancel, nave, S. porch, vestry, W. tower)
- 1086            Church plus 12 acres land  
 13<sup>th</sup> cent.      Chancel  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent.      Chancel arch, nave, tower  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent.      Rood screen, S. porch  
                   Remnants of wall paintings suggest the church at one time held several  
                   Records show shrine of 'Our Lady of Pity' situated in church
- 1960's        Restoration  
 1979           Rescued from redundancy by restoration in part financed by Department of Environment and Friend of Great Livermere Church
- Seats:**      92 appropriated, 149 free (1874)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

**Livermere Magna al Uphall al Brome Hall**

- 1066            Manor of 2 carucates held by Guthmund under St. Ethelreda  
 1086            Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Hugh de Montfort held by Hugh de Bevard  
 13<sup>th</sup> cent.      Matthew de Thelnetham owns  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent.      Links with Stoke Ash, Thornham, Thornham Parva, Great Cornard and Gedding (Bokenham family)  
 16<sup>th</sup> cent.      Hamon Claxton owns  
 18<sup>th</sup> cent.      Baptist Lee (d. 1768) owns  
 1768           Links with Lawshall (Nathaniel Lee Acton)  
 1910           Links with Bucklesham and Nacton (Lord de Saumarez)

**Sub-Manor**

**Livermere Magna/Grange**

- 1198            Held by Abbot and convent of Warden, Beds.  
 1546            Richard Taverner owns  
 1557            John Dowvys owns  
 1597            Links with Santon Downham and Wangford (Thomas Wright)

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

- 1844            £1,312 rental value

1891 £1,443 rateable value  
1912 £1,081 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Sir William Fowle Fowle Middleton  
1891 Hon. James St. Vincent Saumarez, sole owner  
1912 Lord de Saumarez, sole owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679 Hamond Claxton  
1680 2 gents  
1844 Sir William F. Fowle Middleton  
1891 Hon. James St. Vincent Saumarez  
1912 C.S.W. Reeve, Rev. E.J. Woodhouse, M.A.

**18. Occupations:**

1479 Rector  
1500–1549 1 carpenter, 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen  
1550–1599 1 carpenter, 1 labourer, 2 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 2 tailors, 2 parsons  
1600–1649 1 carpenter, 2 labourers, 2 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 shepherd, 1 bricklayer  
1650–1699 2 grocers, 12 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 knacker, 1 tailor, 1 shepherd, 1 cordwainer, 1 cook, 1 blacksmith  
1844 Shopkeeper, thatcher, blacksmith, carpenter, 2 bricklayers, shoemaker, woodman, schoolmistress, gamekeeper, gardener, 4 farmers, butcher, park keeper  
1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmaster, police officer, land agent, 2 butchers, blacksmith, grocer, estate carpenter, estate bricklayer, gamekeeper, gardener, farmer

**19. Education:**

1818 Day school of industry for girls (30 attend)  
1 Sunday school (50–60 attend)  
1833 1 daily school supported by N.L. Acton (17 girls)  
1 infants, part assisted (23 attend)  
1 boarding school (13 attend)  
1 Sunday school (18 attend)  
1836 National school built (60 attend). Benefits from charity school at Ampton  
1865 National school built, average attendance 1912 56

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £51 10s. 10d.  
1803 £126 1s. 1d.  
1818 £170

1830	£91 6s.
1832	£117 1s.
1834	£75 6s.

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate:**

1821	Estate donated by Nathaniel Lee Acton (4 tenements plus croft of 3 acres – occupied by poor widows rent free) 3 tenements plus gardens let at £9 p.a. 28 acres 1R let at £30 p.a. Rents laid out in coals, blankets, clothing for poor
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**Calthorpe's Charity:**

1692	Charity school endowed by James Calthorpe – 6 boys from Ampton, Great and Little Livermere, Ingham and Timworth (blue caps and coats with 'J.C'. fixed to breast of coats) Boys to be aged 7–14 years.
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**22. Other institutions:**

1891	Police officer listed
1912	Village Club and reading room

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

William Sakings d. 1689 – headstone states he was forkner (falconer) to Charles I, Charles II and James II.

**25. Other information:**

Livermere Park – modern mansion, well wooded park of over 400 acres, well stocked with deer 1912.  
House – c.1700, wings added c.1720, probably by Baptist Lee.  
Demolished 1923. Some chimneypieces transferred to Shrublands Park, Barham (photographs in 'Guide to Country Houses' by Burke and Saville).

First World War memorial 1920.

Copy of glebe lands for Great and Little Livermere in parish folder.