

1. Parish : Great Thurlow

Meaning: Famous tumulus or assembly hill

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

Deanery: Clare (-1884), Thurlow (1884-1916), Newmarket (1916-1972), Clare (1972-)

Union: Risbridge

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Clare RD (-1974), St. Edmundsbury DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Risbridge Petty Sessional Division
Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,055 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Thurlow: 26 acres meadow, wood for 86 pigs, 10 cattle, 36 pigs, 46 sheep, 33 goats,
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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, peas, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

1825 312 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1806

7. Settlement:

1960 Small compact development around cross roads, Church centrally situated. Secondary settlement at Sowley Green. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 24, 1801 – 41, 1851 – 88, 1871 – 85, 1901 – 72, 1951 – 78, 1981 – 75

8. Communications:

Roads: To Withersfield, Stradishall, Little Thurlow and Great Wrattling
1891: Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday
Carriers to and from Haverhill on Tuesday and Friday
1912: Carrier to Haverhill daily
(no date) Iron bridge built to cross ford at expense of Lady Harland

Rail: 1891: 4 miles Haverhill station:
Haverhill South: Haverhill–Halstead line opened 1863, closed 1962
Haverhill North: Haverhill–Sudbury line opened 1865, closed for goods and made unmanned halt 1966, closed for passengers 1967

Water: River Stour: made navigable by Act of Parliament of 1705
Last barge travelled as far as Dedham 1928

9. Population:

1086 – Thurlow: 62 recorded
1327 – 20 taxpayers paid £2 0s. 4¼d.
1524 – 7 listed, membrane incomplete. Total paid unknown
1603 – 138 adults
1674 – 38 households
1676 – 147 adults
1801 – 299 inhabitants
1831 – 425 inhabitants
1851 – 431 inhabitants
1871 – 412 inhabitants
1901 – 346 inhabitants

1931 – 291 inhabitants
1951 – 262 inhabitants
1971 – 205 inhabitants
1981 – 193 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £10
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £10 11s. 5½d., endowed with great tithes
1603 Incumbent also holds Rectory of Little Thurlow
1831 1 curate, stipend £60 p.a. No glebe house. Gross income £300 p.a. Incumbent also holds Prebend in Cathedral of Lincoln.

1837 Proposal to rebuild parsonage house
1838 Residence built
1840 Modus of £518 p.a. awarded
1873 Value £438
1891 72 acres glebe
1912 Net value £320 p.a. and residence

Patrons: The King (1603), Lady Harland (1831), Rev. H. Fleming (1912)

11. Church All Saints

(Chancel, nave with aisles, N. porch, W. tower)

1086 Thurlow: Church plus 32 acres free land, ½ plough
Church plus 29 acres
Norman Parts of chancel
15th cent. Main structure including tower
1741 Extensively modernised
1879 & 1950's Restorations

Seats: 60 appropriated, 240 free (1873)

11a. Other religious institutions:

Free Chapel/Hospital: St James

–1291 Founded (subordinate to foreign hospital of Hautpays) for the poor, aged and infirm
1312 Grant of custody of hospital made to John Menhyr, the King's clerk
15th cent. Granted to Kings College, Cambridge, valued £3
c.1414 Dissolved

'The Hospital of Great Thurlow', Victoria County History Vol.2, p.155.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1611	1 person negligent in receiving communion at Easter
1676	6 nonconformists
1834/35	2 houses set aside for worship
1835	Independent chapel built, enlarged (1849 and 1853), seats 230

13. Manorial:

Thurlow Magna

1066	Manor of 7 carucates (Thurlow) held by Edith a free woman
1071	Granted to Ralph de Gael/Guader who joined rebellion against William I. Lands forfeited to the Crown in whose hands it was held at the time of the survey
1086	Manor of 7 carucates (Thurlow) belonging to Earl Ralph, kept in the Kings hand by Goodrich the Steward
1272	Sir Gilbert Peche owns (linked to Little Bradley and Poslingford)
1515	Jaspar Lucas held the manor by courtesy of England
1567	Jaspar Warren owns
1715	John King owns
18 th cent.	John Vernon owns
1909	Hon. W.F.D. Smith owns

Sub-manors:

Wadgells Hall

c.16 th cent.	Sir William Clopton owns (linked to Great Waldingfield, Long Melford, Groton, Boxford and Cowlinge)
1804	Thomas Summonds owns

Temple End

13 th cent.	Roger le Bretun and William de Bretun aliened 80 acres of land and 4 acres meadow t the Templars
1542	Granted to Thomas Barnardiston (linked to Great Wrattling)
1805	Stephen Hensted owns

14. Markets/Fairs

1272	Grant for market and fair to Sir Gilbert Peche
1844	Fair for sheep and toys held on 10 th October
1891	Fair for toys on 11 th October , still in existence

15. Real property:

1844	£2,098 rental value
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1891 £2,053 rateable value
1912 £2,074 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Land subdivided
1891 Rt. Hon. W.H. Smith, principal owner
1912 C.F. Ryder, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 1 gent
1844 Rev. W. Wayman MA and J.A. Hardcastle
1912 Rev. B. leF. Fleming BA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 4 yeomen, 1 labourer, 5 husbandmen, 1 ploughwright, 1 clerk
1600–1649 5 yeomen, 1 labourer, 6 husbandmen, 3 tailors, 1 mason, 1 mercer, 1 carpenter
1650–1699 1 wickerworker, 6 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 spinster, 1 maltster
1831 78 in agriculture, 24 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 21 in domestic service, 6 others
1844 Poulterer, blacksmith, wheelwright, grocer/draper, beerhouse keeper, miller/maltster, tailor, bricklayer, saddler, victualler, joiner/builder, baker, joiner, shoemaker, 10 farmers, maltster
1912 School mistress, gamekeeper, under bailiff, 6 farmers, miller, blacksmith, 4 surgeons, harness maker/beer retailer, 2 butchers, grocer/draper, gardener, district nurse, wheelwright, estate agent, bricklayer, publican

19. Education:

1710 Probate inventory of schoolmaster
1818 1 Sunday school on Dr. Bells system (41 attend)
1871 School built by trustees of Lady Harland (80 attend)
1878 Public Elementary school built, average attendance 1912 59
1967 Proposal to build new school

20. Poor relief:

1776 £89 17s. 10d.
1803 £235 17s. 10d.
1818 £771 6s.
1830 £719 8s.
1832 £638 16s.
1834 £477 4s.

21. Charities:

18th cent. 2 benefactions amounting to £30 to benefit the poor.
Appears to have ceased c.1781

Vernons Charity:

1747 by indenture of Hon. James Vernon: Annuity from lands to provide messuage for habitation for poor persons of Barnardiston, Great Wratting and Great Thurlow
1840 Workhouse disused and the parish therefore does not benefit from the charity

22. Other institutions:

1904 Reading and recreation room built by Hon. W.F.D. Smith

23. Recreation:

1844 The Crown public house, 1 beerhouse
1891/1912 The Rose and Crown public house, 2 beerhouse/retailer
Second public house called The Bull said to have existed opposite Rose and Crown (no dates, most probably name of beerhouse)
1984/85 Sports Pavilion built

24. Personal:

'Notes on some families and brasses at Great Thurlow and Little Bradley', by H.C. Andrews, PSIA Vol. 20, p.43-7.

25. Other information:

Fisons Trophy for Suffolk's Best Kept Village – won in 1979 and 1981.

'The Forgotten Corner, Great and Little Thurlow', by M. O'Neill 1984.
Small smock mill: situated at Dowsetts Hill, first recorded 1841, restored 1962 and 1974.

Cast iron balustraded bridge built c.1830.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.