

1. Parish: Little 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:** 1,413 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 sand 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 fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.

1804 Young:

1818 Marshall: Wide variations of crops and management techniques including summer fallow and preparation for corn products and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, beans, roots

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar
beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1960 Small well spaced development mainly along road to
Great Thurlow (includes Pound Green, the school and the
site of the Hall).
Church situated slightly to east of settlement on Cowlinge
Road.
Secondary settlement at Lt. Thurlow Green. Scattered
farms.
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 23, 1801 – 48, 1851 – 99,
 1871 – 94, 1901 – 80, 1951 – 83,
 1981 – 84

8. Communications:

Road: To Great Bradley, Little Bradley, Great Thurlow and Cowlinge
1844 Carrier to London on Wednesday
 to Cambridge on Saturday
 to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday
1891 Carriers pass through to Haverhill on Tuesday and
 Friday
 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday
1912 Carriers from Haverhill daily

Rail: 1891 4½ 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 – 18 taxpayers paid £1 12s. 3d.
1524 – 33 taxpayers paid £2 3s. 10d.
1603 – 112 adults
1674 – 39 households
1676 – 137 adults
1801 – 348 inhabitants
1831 – 464 inhabitants
1851 – 449 inhabitants
1871 – 375 inhabitants
1901 – 289 inhabitants

1931 – 254 inhabitants
1951 – 230 inhabitants
1971 – 255 inhabitants
1981 – 200 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £8
1291 Valued £10
1535 Valued £7 10s. 5d.
1603 Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Gt Thurlow
1831 1 curate, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house. Gross Income £402 p.a.
1844 Estimated yearly rental of parish £1,859 18s. 6d.
Valued £380 1873
1912 Net value £290 p.a. + 16 acres glebe.
Rectory sold 1980

Patrons: Sir Stephen Soham (1603), R.C. Barnard (1831), Mrs Soame (1844), Miss Soame (1873), R.B. Jenyrs (1891), C.F. Ryder (1912)

11. Church St. Peters

(Chancel, N. Chapel, nave, aisles, N. & S. porches, W. tower)

1086 Thurlow: Church + 32 acres free land, ½ plough
Church + 29 acres
1st recorded priest (1279)
14th cent. Main structure
15th cent. Tower
17th cent. Clerestory windows
1894 Restoration

Note: 'Record of Church Furnishes: St Peters Church, Little Thurlow', published by National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society.

Seats: 206 appropriated, 74 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1611 1 person refuses to attend church or receive communion

13. Manorial:

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

Thurlow Parva

1536 Abbot of St Edmunds owns
1536 Henry Turner owns (linked to Little Wrattling)
Late 16th cent. c.1586 Sir Stephen Soame (linked to Cavendish, Bures, Freckenham, Herringswell, Stowmarket, Cowlinge and Little Wrattling) owns
1901 Charles Foster Ryder owns (linked to Withersfield)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,643 rental value
1891 £1,470 rateable value
1912 £1,360 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 C.F. Ryder, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 3 gents
1679 William Soame
c.1642 George Le Hunt, Knight, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1844 Capt Dench
1891 Capt J.G. Miller JP
1912 Rev. R. Jackson and Col. F.J. Ryder

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman
1550–1599 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen, 1 parson/vicar
1600–1649 7 yeoman, 1 clerk, 1 mason, 1 upholsterer, 1 wheelwright, 3 husbandmen, 1 borer
1650–1699 4 yeomen, 1 miller, 1 tailor, 1 parson/vicar, 1 gardener, 1 spinster
1831 51 in agriculture, 29 in retail trade, 8 professionals, 2 in labouring, 19 in domestic service, 13 others
1844 Surgeon, wheelwright, 2 grocer/drapers, corn miller, farrier, schoolmaster, turner/shovel maker, collar/harness maker, beerhouse keeper, tailor, victualler, 2 butchers, blacksmith, vet, 5 farmers, 3 shoemakers
1912 Sub-postmaster, school mistress, saddler, 3 farmers, wheelwright, 2 carpenters, shopkeeper, baker,

blacksmith, grocer/drapery, boot/shoemaker, 2 publicans, gardener

19. Education:

- 1618 Free school founded by Sir Stephen Soame for 8/12 boys/free scholars, disused 1891 charity in hands of commissioner 'Lt Thurlow School'. Victoria County History Vol. 2, p. 348.
- 1818 1 free grammar school endowed by Sir S. Soame 1614 (36 attend), 1 Dames school (45 attend)
- 1833 1 endowed day school (70 attend, 20 free), 23 day pupils, 7 boarders 1867
1 day school (24 attend)
1 Sunday school established 1823 (67 attend)
- 1844 Schoolmaster listed
National school built 1872/3, for 80 pupils, average attendance 1912 63.

20. Poor relief:

- 1776 £71 1s. 9d.
1803 £203 6s. 9d.
1818 £590 13s.
1830 £484 8s.
1832 £305 16s.
1834 £184 18s.

21. Charities:

Soame's Almhouse and School:

1617/18 by will of Sir Stephen Soame: Almshouse built for 8 poor unmarried persons over 64 years of age. Schoolhouse built to be employed as free school for Great and Little Thurlow, Great and Little Bradley, Wrating, Kedington and Hundon. Provisions and endowments for maintenance of above.

Poor's Estate:

1693 by deed of Josiah Houghton: House and land let at £2 5s. p.a. 1786. House (called Town House) part let at £4 p.a. 1840 occupied by pauper.
The land is let at £5 p.a. 1840 applied to bread distributed among the poor.

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St Peter 1524
Almhouse built 1618 by Sir Stephen Soame for 8 poor single persons.

Town House established 1693 by Josiah Houghton for use of the poor.
Kennels of Newmarket and Thurlow foxhounds 1929.

23. Recreation:

1844	The Cock public house, 1 beerhouse
1891	The Cock Inn and The Lion Inn public houses
1912	The Cock Inn and The Red Lion public houses

24. Personal:

Sir Stephen Soame: Sheriff of London 1589 and Lord Mayor of London 1598,
Died 1619

25. Other information:

Base of smock mill remains 1984

'Recent discoveries at Temple End, Lt. Thurlow'. Suffolk Review Vol. 1, p.54,
Land believed to be formerly owned by Knights Templars.

Thurlow Hall: built 16th cent. by Sir Stephen Soame. Farmhouse by 1844.
New Hall built c.1847 near site of old Hall above. Demolished
by 1929.