

1. Parish: Poslingford

Meaning: Enclosure of the Poslingas (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

Deanery: Clare

Union: Risbridge

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

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1883 (Gosnell Gren transferred from Stansfield to Poslingford)

Risbridge Petty Sessional Division
Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,439 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		6 acres meadow, woodland for 5 pigs, 10 cattle, 36 pigs, 49 sheep, 2 cobs
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.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Small compact development around centrally situated church and hall. Secondary settlement at Wenford. River follows course of road to Clare through Parish.
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 30, 1801 – 32, 1851 – 75, 1871 – 84,
1901 – 66, 1951 – 72, 1981 – 64

8. Communications:

- Road:** Roads to Denston, Stradishall and Clare
1891 Carrier to and from Clare on Friday
- Rail:** 1891 2 miles Clare station: Cambridge–Sudbury line
opened 1865, closed for goods 1966, became
unmanned halt, closed for passengers 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 32 recorded
1327 – 19 taxpayers paid £1. 17s. 4d. (Includes Chippeleye Hamlet)
1524 – 33 taxpayers paid £3. 18s. 8d. (Includes Chipley)
1603 – 120 adults
1674 – 40 households
1676 – 103 adults
1801 – 253 inhabitants
1831 – 316 inhabitants
1851 – 371 inhabitants
1871 – 398 inhabitants
1901 – 285 inhabitants
1931 – 248 inhabitants
1951 – 220 inhabitants
1971 – 150 inhabitants
1981 – 146 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage 1831, Discharged Vicarage 1844

- 1254 Valued £19 6s. 8d.
Portion of the vicar £1. 6s. 8d.
Chippeleye in Poslingford- valued £1 £10. 13s. 4d.
- 1291 Valued at £8.
Portion of Chippele £1
Portion of Prior of Stoke (by Clare) 6s. 8d.
Portion of Prior of Tonebregg (Tonbridge) 2. £9. 8s. 8d.
Appropriated to Dunmow Priory, Essex, at early date (not known)
- 1535 Valued £6. 10s. Granted to Robert, Earl of Sussex
- 1674 parsonage has 3 hearths
- 1831 1 curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.
Gross income £100 p.a.
Modus of £100 p.a. awarded, rectorial tithes commuted for £199 p.a.
9 acres glebe (1841)
Valued £95 (1873)
- 1912 Nett value £60 p.a. 9 acres glebe and residence
- Patrons:** Thomas Goldinge (1603), T. Weston (1831), Misses Weston (1873), Gen. Sir G.D. Baker

11. Church

St Mary

(Chancel, nave, S. porch, vestry, W. tower)

- 1086 Church + 40 acres free land, valued 6s.

12 th cent.	Fragments remain in nave, S & N. doorways
13 th /14 th cent.	Main structure
16 th cent.	S. porch with external stoup
1882	Restoration

Seats: 67 appropriated, 160 free (1875)

11a. Other Religious institutions:

Small Abbey/Priory at Chipley: Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

	Founded for Augustinian canons at early date by person(s) unknown
1291	Income £5
1343	Prior and 2 canons (1343)
	Buildings said to be in ruinous state. Annual value circa £10 (1455)
	Annexed to Stoke College (1468)
	At dissolution buildings converted to farmhouse. Church use as cowhouse and demolished (1818). Precincts of priory believed to cover approx.. 200 acres.
	Farmhouse on site incorporates small part of claustral building (1974)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1606	2 persons negligent in receiving holy communion at Easter
1611	2 persons not attending evening prayer during previous 3 years
1816-1824	5 houses set aside for worship
	Mission opened (late 19 th cent.) demolished (1961)

13. Manorial:

Poslingford Hall

12 th cent.	Baynard family
1275	Gilbert de Clare (disputed as it is also stated that Robert Fitz Walter held the free of Baynard)
1322	Gilbert peche died seised (linked to Lt. Bradley and Gt. Thurlow)
15 th cent.	Henry Wentworth owns
1635	Thomas Golding (linked to Clare)
Late 18 th cent.	Richard Moore owns
1823	Hart Logan owns
1847	Samuel Ware owns

Sub-Manors

Overhall

1448	Richard Martyn owns
Circa 1548	Sir John Wentworth owns (absorbed by main manor)

Late 16th cent. Sir Edward Villiers owns.
1782 Richard Moore owns (re-absorbed by main manor)

Netherhall

14th cent. Roger de Wridwell owns
1548 Sir John Wentworth (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

1231 Fair at Wentworth

15. Real property:

1844 £2,782 rental value
1891 £1,861 rateable value
1912 £1,678 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 T. Bower and Gen. Sir G. Digby Baker, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Thomas Golding
1844 Lt. Col. Thomas Weston
1891 Mrs. Severne
1912 Maj. G.R. Darley and Rev. O. Whaley M.A.

18. Occupations:

1550 – 1599 1 clerk, 1 yeoman, 3 husbandmen, 1 cook, 1 millwright
1600 – 1649 3 yeomen, 1 tailor
1650 – 1699 5 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 minister, 1 spinster
1831 61 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 3 in labouring, 13 in domestic service, 4 others
1844 Blacksmith, grocer/draper, 11 farmers, bookhouse keeper
1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmistress, 5 farmers, 3 farm bailiffs, blacksmith, publican, 2 shopkeepers

19. Education:

1818 1 Sunday school
1833 1 infant schools (37 attend)
National school rebuilt (1877) (60 attend)
1912 Public Elementary School (54 attend)

20. Poor relief:

1776 £116. 14s. 5d.
1803 £207. 15s. 5 ½ d.

1818	£455. 3s.
1830	£360. 10s.
1832	£342. 15s.
1834	£268. 15s.

21. Charities:

Church/Poor's Estates:

1840	7 Acres called Church Croft and 3R called Town Meadow, rents to church repairs and maintenance of poor Rents of £18. 11s. 6d. p.a. received from 2 cottages and gardens. 7s. of which is distributed at Christmas among poor, residue to church repairs and churchwardens accounts.
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Cadges Gift:

1668	By will of William Cadge: Farm called Lynns in Poslingford charged with 20s. p.a. payable on feast of St Andrew the Apostle for distribution among poor.
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Poor's Cottage

1840	2 cottages tenements occupied rent free by poor persons
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22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844–1891	1 beerhouse
1891-1912	The Shepherd and Dog Inn public house

24. Personal:

Sir Thomas Golding: Comissioner for certifying charity lands in Essex. Sheriff of Essex and Hertford 1561 and 1569. Golding family held considerable influence in parish.

25. Other information:

Copy of map of tenement called 'Wentworth' (1590) in parish folder (contains 79 acres 3R ¼ P). List of documents re 'Wentford' in parish folder.

The Dunmow Roll contains charters relating to Poslingford (circa 1228) kept on deposit at Exchequer Gate, Lincoln. Typed transcript in parish folder (in original Latin)

Postcards/photographs 1920-30 in RO

Map of Clopton Hall (1651) and survey (1777) in RO.

Poors cottage destroyed by fire (1870), 2 tenements rebuilt (1891)

Manor house: previously owned by Golding family, demolished by Col. T. Weston and built in its place Poslingford House (no date)

Archaeological Sites

Chipley Abbey (CRN 5982)

Ring ditch (CRN 5985)

St. Marys Church (CRN 5984)

Stay finds: B.A. artefacts (CRN 5985)
 Rom. coin, weight and key (CRN 5986)
 Sax. ring (CRN 5987)