

# 1. Parish: Risby

**Meaning:** a. homestead in brushwood or b. homestead at clearing.

2. **Hundred:** Thingoe

**Deanery:** Thingoe

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

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Thingoe Rd (1894–1974), St Edmundsbury (1974–)

**Other administrative details:**

Bury St. Edmunds County Court District  
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division

3. **Area:** 2818 Acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion
- b. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clay subsoils.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		3½ acres meadow, 3 cobs, 12 cattle, 30 pigs, 90 sheep, 32 goats, ½ mill
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying with some pig keeping
1818	Marshall:	Wide variation of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnips, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, sugar beet, vegetables, fruit
1969	Trist:More	Intensive cereal growing and sugar beet Highwaymans Vineyard established

6. **Enclosure:**

1804 2205R enclosed under Act of 1801

**7. Settlement:**

1983 Two tier green system containing compact mixture of cottage and farm development. Church stands outside main village area.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 16, 1801 – 48, 1851 – 79, 1871 – 90, 1901 – 88, 1951 – 129, 1981 – 239

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Bury St.Edmunds/Newmarket turnpike road pre-1763  
5 stage coaches weekly passed through Risby 1834  
Carrier to Bury St.Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday 1839  
A45 road to Newmarket and Cambridge from Bury St. Edmunds 20<sup>th</sup> cent.

**Rail:** 1891 1 mile Saxham station: Newmarket–Bury St. Edmunds line opened 1854, station closed for goods 1964, closed for passengers 1967

**9. Population:**

1086 — 26 recorded  
1327 — 21 taxpayers paid £3 2s.  
1524 — 16 taxpayers paid £0 16s. 2d.  
1603 — 80 adults  
1674 — 22 households  
1676 — 74 adults  
1801 — 266 inhabitants  
1831 — 332 inhabitants  
1851 — 431 inhabitants  
1871 — 423 inhabitants  
1901 — 351 inhabitants  
1931 — 354 inhabitants  
1951 — 443 inhabitants  
1971 — 504 inhabitants  
1981 — 676 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (consolidated with Fornham St. Genevieve)**

1254 Valued £20  
1291 Valued £22  
1535 Valued £19 10s. 5d.  
1674 Rectory has 8 hearths  
1831 Curate, stipend £62 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £750 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectory of Hardley and vicarage of Kinnerley, Salop. Tithes commuted for £575 6s. 8d. p.a. + £140 from Fornham St. Genevieve 1839



**15. Real property:**

1454	£3 13s. 3d. rateable value
1844	£2500 rental value
1891	£2796 rateable value
1912	£2150 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844	Land sub-divided
1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Hengrave Estate and R. J. Burrell, principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1680 1 gent recorded

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1600	Smith
1600–1700	shepherd, blacksmith, smith, yeoman
1831	57 in agriculture, 11 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1 in labouring, 16 in domestic service, 5 others
1844	Shopkeepers, blacksmiths, beerseller, bricklayer, farmers
1912	Farmers, wheelwright/blacksmith, beerseller/grocer, coal dealer/sub-postmaster

**19. Education:**

1818	Some attend Sunday school at Debenham
1833	Daily school (22 attend, 16 at the expense of Sir E. Kaymaster and 6 at expense of Rev. J.D. Hastell) Public Elementary school built 1865, average attendance 1912 75. Cherry Trees Nursery School opened 1982 for children aged 2½–5 years

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£39 5s. 0d.
1803	£111 18s. 3d.
1818	£349 1s.
1830	£312 12s.
1832	£333 2s.
1834	£305 11s.

**21. Charities:**

**Danby/Spink Charities:**

1812 by wills of Lancelot Danby and John Spink: sums for distribution in fuel.

**Sutton's Charity:**

1867 by will of Mrs. Amy Sutton: sums for distribution in fuel.

**Westell's Charity:**

1840 5s. p.a. for church purposes.

**Heaths, Poor's Allotments:**

1840 heath to be sown with furze seed for poor to cut for fuel 3 times a year

**Poor Estate:**

Pre-dates Henry VIII, sold 1882 for £1000 invested by Charity Commissioners.

**22. Other institutions:**

4 guilds one of which was Holy Trinity village Club and Reading Room with library attached established 1884

**23. Recreation:**

1844	1 beerhouse
1912	Beer retailer
1933	The Crown and Castle public house
20 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Drama Club, Football Club, Parish Church Choir

**24. Personal:**

'Occasional poems' by the Thatcher of Risby (James Deer)

**25. Other information:**

Mysterious murder of Mr. William Murfitt of Quays Farm 1938: died after drinking mineral salts laced with cyanide of potassium (unsolved).

Deep well discovered at Crown and Castle public house 1978.

'Risby', by A. F. Webling 1945.

'Further excavations on Tumuli at Risby', by A. R. Edwardson. PSIA Vol. 28, p.153.

'Wall paintings in Risby Church', by E. C. Rouse. PSIA Vol. 26, p.27.