

## 1. Parish : Stansfield

**Meaning:** Stan's fold, hop or valley or Stone field

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 Green transferred to Poslingford)

Risbridge Petty Sessional Division

Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,021 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		13½ acres meadow, 3 cobs, 20 cattle, 55 pigs, 160 sheep, 1 mill
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, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Small development with clusters of habitation at four main points: a. Lower street and the former school, b. Upper street and the public house and congregational chapel, c. the church and Rectory (situated on high ground), d. Assington Green. Hall isolated to east of settlements.  
River/stream crosses parish from W-E. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 38, 1801 – 45, 1851 – 112, 1871 – 110,  
1901 – 77, 1951 – 81, 1981 – 77

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Denston, Hawkedon, Poslingford and Clare  
1844: Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday  
1891: Carrier to and from Clare on Friday  
1912: Carrier from Clare on Friday  
to Bury St Edmunds on  
Wednesday and Saturday

**Rail:** 1891 5 miles Clare station: Cambridge–  
Sudbury line opened 1865, closed for  
goods 1966 became unmanned halt,  
closed for passengers 1967

**9. Population:**

1086 – 20 recorded  
1327 – 17 taxpayers paid £1 9s. 6d.  
1524 – 38 taxpayers paid £2 15s.  
1603 – 105 adults  
1674 – 45 households  
1676 – 145 adults  
1801 – 376 inhabitants  
1831 – 470 inhabitants  
1851 – 506 inhabitants  
1871 – 543 inhabitants  
1901 – 335 inhabitants  
1931 – 255 inhabitants  
1951 – 267 inhabitants  
1971 – 182 inhabitants  
1981 – 174 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.  
Portion of Prior of Stoke (by Clare) (separate tithe) £1

Portion of Master R. of Somerton (separate tithe) £1  
 Portion of Prior of Haveringland, Norfolk 10s.  
£9 3s. 4d.

1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d.  
 Portion of Prior of Stoke £1  
 Portion of Prior of Haveringland, Norfolk 13s. 4d. £14.  
 Late 15<sup>th</sup> cent. 'Quaint' residence (part built)  
 1535 Valued £10 9s. 4½d.  
 1831 1 curate, stipend £80 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income  
 £414 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Hartest with  
 Boxted and Rectory of Somerton  
 1838 Tithes commuted for £500 p.a.  
 1844 76 acres glebe  
 1891 Valued £500 plus 86 acres glebe  
 1912 Nett value £240 p.a. plus 83 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Crown (1603), Lord Chancellor (1873)

**11. Church** **All Saints**  
 (Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church plus 15 acres free land  
 Norman Fragments visible in church walls  
 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Nave  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel and tower  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent. S. porch  
 1886, 1896 Restorations

**Seats:** 150 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1676 4 nonconformists  
 1706–1833 7 houses set aside for worship  
 1833 Independent/Congregational chapel built, rebuilt 1859, school  
 and burial ground attached. Seats 500  
 1834–1976 Congregational church records exist, closed (dates unknown)

**13. Manorial:**

–1302 de Clare family owns (linked to numerous manors throughout  
 Suffolk)  
 1302 Sir Thomas de Grey owns (linked to Gt. and Lt. Cornard,  
 Cavendish, Milden and Denston)  
 1506 Sir Robert Broughton died seised (linked to Stradishall)  
 c.1558 Westhoppes/Westthorp family owns  
 19/20<sup>th</sup> cent. Suggestion manor was vested in J.G. Weller Poley (no dates)

### **Sub-manors:**

#### **Gatesburies/Catesbye's**

1235	Richard de Muntfichet owns
1319	Richard de Gatesbury owns
1506	Sir Robert Broughton owns (annexed to main manor)
1706	Sir Edward Atkins owns
1770	John Mavor owns
1795	Bateman Bigg owns
1909	Marquis of Bristol owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

#### **Priditon Hall**

1275	Walter de Priditon owns
1317	Gatesbury family owns (annexed to Gatesburies)
1506	Sir Robert Broughton (absorbed by main manor)
c.mid 19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Richard Plate owns

#### **14. Markets/Fairs:**

#### **15. Real property:**

1844	£2,311 rental value
1891	£1,898 rateable value
1912	£1,499 rateable value

#### **16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

#### **17. Resident gentry:**

1912 Rev. J.R. Little MA

#### **18. Occupations:**

1500–1549	1 parson/priest, 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen
1550–1599	1 parson/priest, 10 yeomen, 2 blacksmiths, 3 husbandmen, 2 tailors
1600–1649	7 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 spinster, 3 tailors, 1 labourer
1650–1699	7 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 4 husbandmen, 1 butcher
1831	92 in agriculture, 19 in retail trade, 1 professional, 8 in domestic service, 6 others
1844	Watchmaker, shopkeeper, wheelwright/beerhouse keeper, beer seller, shoemaker, shopkeeper/carrier, 2 schoolmistresses, grocer/draper, 2 blacksmiths, wheelwright, victualler/shoemaker, 13 farmers, miller

1912	Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmistress, bricklayer, 2 publicans, asst. overseer, 10 farmers, shopkeeper, watchmaker, beer retailer, butcher, miller, grocers, blacksmith
c.1971	Game processing business formed

## **19. Education:**

1818	Some children attend school in Denston
1833	3 daily schools (36 attend), 1 boarding school (5 attend) 1 Sunday school (established church) (32 attend), 1 dissenters (Independent) Sunday school (established 1831) (60 attend)
1844	Day and Sunday schools attached to church and Independent chapel 2 schoolmistresses listed
1875	School board established
1877	School built, average attendance 1912 52, closed (no dates)

## **20. Poor relief:**

1776	£81 6s. 8d.
1803	£266 19s. 7d.
1818	£759 2s.
1830	£685 5s.
1832	£656
1834	£430 13s.

## **21. Charities:**

### **Town Lands:**

1840	2 acres known as Town Meadow and Church Croft let at £8 p.a. applied with church rate
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### **Doles:**

1840	Donation of Robert Kedington and others: £1 paid from Cardell Hall estate Anthony Sparrow Charity: 13s. 4d. from Stansfield Mill Rent charge on Cook's Farm: 6s. 8d. (origins unknown) Distributed among poor at Christmas
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### **Town House:**

1840	2 tenements (gift of Rev. R. Shaw) let at £1 6s. pa. each. (1 unoccupied in 1840). Rents applied to benefit of poor
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## **22. Other institutions:**

1472	Guild of St. Mary
1887	Village Club founded
1912	Police officer listed

## **23. Recreation:**

1844	Beerhouse, beer seller, 1 public house
1891/1912	The Plough Inn and The Compasses public houses, 1 beer retailer

## **24. Personal:**

## **25. Other information:**

Slater Art Gallery: housed in former Congregational chapel (no dates).

Purton Green Farm: timber aisled house (13/14<sup>th</sup> cent. construction). Notes and sketches in parish folder.

'13<sup>th</sup> cent. aisled house, Purton Green', by C. & S. Colman. PSIA Vol.30, p.149.

Photocopy of drawing of windmill by A. Warren 1949.

Survey of parish with fields, farms and valuations 1678–1712.

Field book compiled by Mr. Davies, curate c.1780.

Dispute over village water supply 1893.

Parish notes by Rev. J.R. Little. PSIA Vol.X, p.345.

Elm Hall: 15/16<sup>th</sup> cent. building. Some 16<sup>th</sup> cent. wall paintings on upper floor.