

1. Parish: Thornham Parva

Meaning: Meadow where thorn bushes grew (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (-1897), Hartismere (South)(1897-1931), S. Hartismere (1931-1972), Hartismere (1972-)

Union: Hartismere

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hartismere R.D. (-1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 685 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a) Deep well drained fine loam over clay, some with clay subsoil
b) Fine loam over clay soil, subject to seasonal water-logging, some brickearth

5. **Types of farming:**

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, oats, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Very diverse settlement with no real central settlement. Section of Roman road forms boundary at SE corner
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 18, 1801 – 17, 1851 – 24, 1871 – 31,
1901 – 21, 1951 – 25, 1981 – 21

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Mellis, Thornham MAgna

Rail: 1891 1 ½ miles Mellis station: Mellis-Eye line, opened (1867),
closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)
Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849), station closed (1966)

9. Population:

1086 — 13 recorded
1327 — 10 taxpayers paid 16s. 4d
1524 — 7 taxpayers paid 5s.
1603 — 24 adults
1674 — 18 households
1676 — 42 adults
1801 — 123 inhabitants
1831 — 206 inhabitants
1851 — 155 inhabitants
1871 — 144 inhabitants
1901 — 116 inhabitants
1931 — 116 inhabitants
1951 — 78 inhabitants
1971 — 64 inhabitants
1981 — 48 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Discharged Rectory (with Thornham Magna)

1254 Valued £4.
Of which Prior of Eye has 4s.
1291 Valued £4. 13s. 4d.
Portion to Prior of eye 4s. £4. 17s. 4d.
1535 Valued £4. 14s. 4 ½ d.
No Date Consolidated with Thornham Magna
1831 Join gross income £497 p.a.
Tithes commuted for £137. 2s. 6d. (1845)
1912 Joint net value £275. 59 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Mr. Burhnam (1603), Lord Henniker (1912)

11. Church St Mary (thatched)
(Chancel, nave, W. tower)

1086 3 parts of church + 10 acres land, ½ plough
Norman. Doorways, N. & S. of nave
Circa 1300 Retable (well preserved with contemporary framing –
discovered (1927))
14th cent. Chancel. Wall painting in nave

18th cent. Bow fronted west gallery
1883 Restored
1975 Fabric of church giving cause for concern

Seats: 100

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 3 nonconformist

13. Manorial:

Woodhouse

14th cent. Richard de Chirche owns
16th cent. Bokenham family owns (annexed to Thornham Hall,
Thornham Magna)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £875 rental value
1891 £772 rateable value
1912 £509 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Land sub-divided
1891 Lord Henniker. Principal owner

17. Resident Gentry:

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 husbandman
1550- 1599 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 glover
1600-1649 1 linen weaver, 1 woollen weaver
1650-1699 2 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 spinster
1831 35 in agriculture, 4 in retail trade, 4 domestic service, 2
others
1844 Blacksmith carpenter, 4 farmers
1912 3 farmers, head gardener, shopkeeper, sanitary inspector

19. Education:

1 schoolmaster/tutor recorded (1650/54)
1912 Children attend school in Thornham Magna

20. Poor relief:

1776	£38. 9s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£57. 9s. 6 ½ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£201. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£199	spent on poor relief
1832	£226. 11s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£203. 1s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'The Retable at Thornham Parva' by Rev. W.W. Lillie. PSIA Vol. XXI p.253

Possible ancient earthwork (Field name Grimsditch)

Archaeological Sites:

Med. moated site (CRN828)

Med. place name (documentary evidence) (CRN 398)