

## 1. Parish : Thorpe Morieux

**Meaning:** Village held by Morieux family (EKWALL) (held by Roger de Murious (1201)

2. **Hundred:** Cosford

**Deanery:** Sudbury (-1864), Sudbury (Eastern) (1864-1884), Lavenham (1884 - )

**Union:** Cosford

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Cosford RD (-1974), Babergh DC (1974 - )

### Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1885, 1934), parts transferred to Brettenham and Cockfield (1935)  
Hadleigh Petty Sessional Division  
Sudbury County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,497 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:** a) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion  
b) Fine loam over clay soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		12 acres meadow, wood for 4 pigs, 2 horses, 3 cattle, 23 pigs, 153 sheep, 2 oxen
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, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 River Brett flows from NE - S  
Dispersed settlement. Church situated separately  
beside the Hall. Small development at Thorpe Green  
around disused chapel. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 28, 1801 – 47, 1851 – 93, 1871 – 96,  
1901 – 58, 1951 – 79, 1981 – 85

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** Roads to Felsham, Brettenham, Preston St. Mary,  
Lavenham, Cockfield and Bradfield St. Clare  
1891: Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on  
Wednesday

**Rail:** 1891: 4 miles Lavenham station:  
Bury St. Edmunds - Long Melford line, opened  
(1865), closed for passengers (1961), closed for  
goods (1965)

**Water:** River Brett

**9. Population:**

1086 — 30 recorded  
1327 — 21 taxpayers paid £1. 17s. 2d.  
1524 — 25 taxpayers paid £2. 12s.  
1603 — 120 adults  
1674 — 37 households  
1676 — not recorded  
1801 — 271 inhabitants  
1831 — 412 inhabitants  
1851 — 414 inhabitants  
1871 — 449 inhabitants  
1901 — 370 inhabitants  
1931 — 332 inhabitants  
1951 — 269 inhabitants  
1971 — 236 inhabitants  
1981 — 227 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Portion of the rector £16. 13s. 4d.  
Portion of the Prior of Hatfield (in Sudbury) £1 £17. 13s. 4d  
1291 Valued £18. 13s. 4d.  
Portion of St. Barthi? £1 £19. 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £18. 14s. 6½d.  
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £523 p.a.  
1843 Modus of £620 p.a. in lieu of tithes  
1844 Good residence and 25 acres glebe  
1891 Good residence plus 11 acres glebe

1912            Nett income £350 p.a. 23 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:**     J.H. Harrison (1831), T.H. Harrison (1873), Sir T.C.T.  
Warner (1912)

**11.    Church        St. Mary**  
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086            Church plus 50 acres, 2 acres meadow  
13<sup>th</sup> cent.       Main structure, chancel arch

circa 1300      Tower

circa 1320-30

Nave

1869            Restoration

**Seats:** 300 free (1873)

**12.    Nonconformity etc:**

1891            Independent/Congregational chapel

**13.    Manorial:**

1086            Manor of 4 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou.  
Coping records a second manor of 1½ carucates for  
this parish but this has been unfound by this study

**Thorpe Morieux Manor**

1200            Roger de Muryeus owns

1418            Sir John L'Estrange died seised (linked to Felsham, Gedding,  
Pakenham and Shelley)

1550            William Rysby owns

Circa 1799     James Goodeve Sparrow owns (linked to Great Cornard,  
Great Waldingfield, Little Cornard)

**Sub-Manors:**

**Gorget's Gorges**

1609            John Brond owns (linked to Semer, Polstead, Edwardstone,  
Great Cornard, Bures and Boxford)

1828            Manor and Manor Farm of Gorgets contains 212 acres

**Thropton al Thruton al Castell's**

1289            Bartholomew de Castello owns

Circa 14th cent.

Ralph Chamberlain owns (linked to Naughton)

1597            John Brond owns (absorbed by Gorgets manor)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£2,176 rental value
1891	£2,597 rateable value
1912	£1,859 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844-1912	Land subdivided
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**17. Resident gentry:**

1844	Rev. T. Harrison
1912	Right Rev. W.T. Harrison DD

**18. Occupations:**

1550-1599	2 yeomen, 3 husbandmen
1600-1649	1 rector, 9 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 butcher
1650-1699	1 rector, 7 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 spinster, 1 blacksmith
1831	93 in agriculture, 6 in retail trade, 1 professional, 23 in domestic service
1844	2 shoemakers, wheelwright, blacksmith, 11 farmers,
1912	Sub-postmistress, schoolmaster, 11 farmers, shopkeeper, wheelwright, publican/grocer, land agent, farm bailiff, blacksmith/shopkeeper, wood/coal merchant/hurdle maker, shoemaker

**19. Education:**

1818	1 Sunday school (22 attend)
1833	1 Sunday school (40 attend)
1844	National school built, average attendance (1912) 64

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£140. 2s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£92. 6s. 3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£553. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£483. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£505. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£351. 10s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Poors Money:**

1840            by William Bowl. Interest on £10, distributed annually among poor

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1891/1912    The Bull public house

**24. Personal:**

Sir Thomas Morieux: High Sheriff of Suffolk (1355)

**25. Other information:**

Boundary stone: stands at northern extremity of parish at which point the parishes of Cockfield, Felsham and Thorpe Morieux and the Hundreds of Babergh, Thedwastre and Cosford converge (1891)

Thorpe Morieux Hall: half timbered, believed to date from (circa 1525) extended (circa 1690). Seat of Risby family (1550-1780)

Thorpe Hall Barns: rebuilt on site of former agricultural buildings of (1650) utilising original material (early 20<sup>th</sup> cent.). Converted to dwellings (1983)