

1. Parish : Thurston

Meaning: Thori's enclosure/homestead)

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (–1972), Clare (1972–)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: Thedwastre RD (–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

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

3. **Area:** 2,223 acres of land (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Well drained calcareous coarse/fine loam over chalk rubble. Deep non-calcareous loam in places. Slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained sandy soils, in places very acid with subsurface pan. Risk wind erosion.
- c. Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging, associated with similar but wetter soils, some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		11 acres meadow, woodland for 11 pigs, 1 cob, 5 cattle. 32 pigs, 52 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig keeping.
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, barley, oats, beans, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.
1981		Described as being mixed stock and arable. Crops ranging from silage, sprouts, corn, potatoes and beet

6. Enclosure:

1810 330 acres in Ixworth and Thurston enclosed in under Private Acts of Lands 1803

7. Settlement:

1978 Moderate sized well spaced development mainly situated to north of railway line, which crosses parish W–E. Two distinct areas of settlement, a. near to church and b. on western boundary near to modern school. Secondary development at a. Great Green, b. Stockhold Green and Thurston Planche. Line of Roman Road crosses SW–NE. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 40, 1801 – 71, 1851 – 153, 1871 – 157, 1901 – 149, 1951 – 218, 1981 – 689

8. Communications:

Roads: 1891:Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
1981:Bus service to Bury St Edmunds (one bus per day)

Rail: 1891 Station:
Cambridge–Ipswich line opened 1846, became unmanned halt 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 75 recorded
1327 – 31 taxpayers paid £2 6s. 3d.
1524 – 28 taxpayers paid £1 9s.
1603 – 170 adults
1674 – 64 households
1676 – 190 adults
1801 – 354 inhabitants
1831 – 462 inhabitants
1851 – 759 inhabitants
1871 – 671 inhabitants
1901 – 600 inhabitants
1931 – 584 inhabitants
1951 – 720 inhabitants
1971 – 1,419 inhabitants
1981 – 2,036 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage 1831, Discharged Vicarage 1912

1254 Valued £16 13s. 4d.

1291	Valued £20
1535	Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1607	Advowson granted to W. Blake and G. Tyte. Church appropriated to Bury Abbey
1674	Parsonage has 4 hearths
1831	1 curate, stipend £82. p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation. Incumbent also holds Rectories of Rattlesden and Tostock. Gross income £250 p.a.
1835	Valued £250
1861/2	Parsonage house built
1891	Valued £309. 80 acres glebe
1912	Value £165 p.a. 21 acres glebe and residence
Patrons:	Robert Bright (1603), C. Tyrell (1831), N. Clode/R. Stedman (1873), Mrs. P.M. Stedman (1891)

11. Church **St. Peter**
(Chancel, nave, aisles, S. porch, embattled tower)

1086	1 church plus 30 acres free land in alms
14/15 th cent.	Chancel and nave
1860	Tower fell down, destroyed nave arches, rebuilt c.1861 by E.C. Hakewill

Seats: 400 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597	Parson omits to wear the surplice
1606	1 person fails to attend his parish church
1611	1 person fails to receive communion
1676	2 nonconformists
1706–1826	2 houses set aside for worship
1872	Methodist church built. Leaflet printed to celebrate its centenary in 1972

13. Manorial:

Thurston

1066/1086	Manor of 1½ carucates belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmund
1539	Crown property

Sub-manor

Netherhall /Netherplace

13 th cent.	Manor forms part of the Manor of Netherhall, Pakenham Vested in John de Pakenham, steward to Bishop of Ely
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- 1544 Linked to numerous other manors in Suffolk (Thomas Bacon)
- 1601 3 messuages, 3 tofts, 1 dovecote, 100 acres land, 20 acres meadow, 100 acres pasture, 20 acres wood, 20 acres marsh, 100 acres firs and heath (Robert Bright)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

- 1844 £2,149 rental value
 1891 £4,075 rateable value
 1912 £4,061 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

- 1884–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

- 1844 J.B. Blake
 1891 Lt. Col. Blake, Mrs. Meade, Misses Waddington
 1912 W.E. Chance, JP, Col. C.R. Hervey, Rev. J.R. Orpen, MA

18. Occupations:

- 1500–1549 1 husbandman
 1550–1599 3 yeomen, 2 carpenters, 7 husbandmen, 1 labourer, 3 clergy, 1 miller, 2 blacksmiths, 1 wheelwright
 1600–1649 25 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 2 husbandmen
 1650–1699 15 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 priest, 2 spinsters, 1 servant, 1 tailor, 1 wheelwright, 1 wool chapman
 1831 95 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 24 domestic service, 6 others
 1844 Shopkeeper, beerhousekeeper, carpenter, plumber/glazier, baker, corn miller, victualler, bricklayer, 3 blacksmiths, 3 boot/shoemakers, 10 farmers, 2 tailors, 2 wheelwrights
 1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, stationmaster, 5 farmers, beer retailer, boot maker, carpenter/undertaker, land agent, grocer/draper, laundry, coal merchant, 2 publicans, cowkeeper, coal merchant, blacksmith, corn merchant

19. Education:

- 1818 1 Sunday school (35 attend)
 1833 4 assisted places at Rougham endowed school
 1 daily school (30 boys attend), 1 Sunday school (60 attend)
 1870 National School built, enlarged 1871, average attendance 90 1891, 100 1912

c.1984 Primary school (150 attend)
1973 Thurston Upper school opened (1,000 attend). Managers Minutes 1973–1979 in R.O.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£137 6s. 9d.
1803	£293 1s. 3½d.
1818	£789 15s.
1830	£596 12s.
1832	£779 5s.
1834	£403 10s.

21. Charities:

Church Estate:

1840	Double cottage and garden near church plus 11 acres 2R 12P let at £21 11s. p.a.
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Town Lands:

1840	13 acres 5R 2P let at £20 p.a.
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Poor's Allotments:

1802/3	Allotment of 10 acres 3R 14P set aside in lieu of right of cutting fuel on common
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Warren's Gift:

1662	Gift of Charles Warren: £10 p.a. to poor widows and men of the parish
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Bright's Charity:

1713	by will of Thomas Bright: Rents to benefit poor of Pakenham and Thurston. £5 applied to purchase of clothing 1840
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22. Other institutions:

1490	Guilds of St. John Baptist, St Peter and St. Margaret de Grenende
1912	Village Hall built by Julia Cavendish in memory of her husband, Tyrell William Cavendish, who died on the SS Titanic
1958	The Planche Nursing Home for the elderly, converted to home for the mentally retarded 1977
1986	Thurston Residents Association New Sewerage Treatment Works built

23. Recreation:

1844	1 beerhouse, Victoria public house
1891	Beer retailer, Fox and Hounds and The Victoria public houses
1912	Beer retailer and public houses as above
c.1920	Football team
c.1975	The Grange Hotel
1977	The Black Fox public house (previously a beerhouse)
1983	Equestrian centre at Thurston House

24. Personal:

1937 'The Life of Winifred Mercier', by Lynda Grier

25. Other information:

Thurston House: built 18th cent. of red brick.

The parish contains a natural feature known as Thedwastre Hill which name is perpetuated in the name of the Hundred.

Thedwastre Oak: meeting place for villagers to air their grievances.

Parish has experienced major expansion and development for many years and some more wide-scale house building is forecast 1986.

Western sector of parish was open heath until 1960.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1843/44.

Village sign erected 1978.