

1. Parish: Ashfield with Thorpe

Meaning: Open ground where ash-trees grew

2. **Hundred:** Thredling

Deanery: Claydon (–1972), Loes (1972–)

Union: Bosmere and Claydon

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Bosmere and Claydon RD (1894–1934),
Gipping RD (1934–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Framlingham Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. **Area:** 1, 580 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed

- a. Some slowly permeable calcareous clay soils
- b. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clay soils, variably affected by groundwater, slight risk of water erosion
- c. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay sands

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pastures, 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 and barley
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1953 Small well spaced development along link road off main Debenham–Earl Soham road. Church centrally situated.

River Deben forms natural boundary to the south
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 24, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 69, 1871 – 67, 1901
– 52, 1951 – 58, 1981 – 71

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Monks Soham, Earl Soham and Debenham
1891 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday and Friday 1912

Rail: 1891 6 miles Framlingham station: Wickham Market–
Framlingham line opened 1859, closed for passengers 1952,
closed for goods 1965

Water: River Deben

9. Population:

1086 – 48 recorded (includes Thorpe)

1327 – 20 taxpayers paid £1 8s. 8d.

1524 – 14 taxpayers paid £1 6s. 8d.

1603 – 50 adults

1674 – 32 households

1676 – Not recorded

1801 – 252 inhabitants

1831 – 375 inhabitants

1851 – 327 inhabitants

1871 – 322 inhabitants

1901 – 214 inhabitants

1931 – 212 inhabitants

1951 – 197 inhabitants

1971 – 159 inhabitants

1981 – 207 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy

1254 Valued £20

1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d.

1603 1 curate, stipend £10 p.a.

1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation, Gross income £55 p.a.

Tithes commuted for £466 p.a. 4 acres 1 R 23P glebe

1839

1844 Valued £53

11 acres glebe 1873

Incumbency vacant 1881

1912 Nett value £52. 11 acres glebe. Tithes computed at £465
p.a.

Patrons: Lord Henniker (1844–1912)

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

1086 1 church + 12 acres land
 1 church + 4 acres of land
 Nothing remains of older church
1853 Rebuilt in red brick

Seats: 150 (1912)

St. Peters, Thorpe

11/12th cent. Ruined round tower is all that remains
14th cent. Greater part of building had been of this date
 Rebuilt 1739
 Destroyed at rebuilding of St. Marys 1853

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

Ashfield Manor

1313 Ivo de Kenton owns
14th cent. Butley Priory owns
1544 Francis Framlingham died seized
1629 Linked to Debenham and Great Thornham
1905 Lord Henniker (linked to Gislingham, Mellis, Stoke Ash,
 Thornham, and Wickham Skeith)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 Not recorded
1891 £1,664 rateable value
1912 £1,260 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1891 Land sub-divided
1912 Lord Henniker, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 1 gentleman
912 F.M. Youngman JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 5 yeomen
 1600–1649 10 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 1 carpenter
 1650–1699 5 yeomen, 1 inn holder
 1831 71 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 19 in domestic service,
 4 others
 1844 12 farmers, blacksmith, cattle dealer, publican
 1912 Teachers, shopkeeper/carrier, publican, rate collector, 10
 farmers, blacksmith, miller, 3 farm bailiffs

19. Education:

1818 2 small day schools (30 attend)
 1 Sunday school recently dissolved through lack of funds
 1833 No schools recorded
 School board established 1880
 School built 1871, 40 attend 1891, average attendance
 1912 38
 School Council formed 1903

20. Poor relief:

1776 £62 0s. 1d.
 1803 £175 3s. 5d.
 1818 £319 12s.
 1830 £404 13s.
 1832 £449 4s.
 1834 £468 14s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society (10 members)

23. Recreation:

1650–1699 Inn holder recorded
 1844–1912 The Swan public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Thorpe hall, Ashfield Place and Ashfield Hall – all farmhouses by 1844.