

1. Parish: Gorleston

Meaning: Homestead/village of Gerle/Gurle or a young homestead (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Lothingland (-1764), Nutford and Lothingland (1764-1974), transferred to Norfolk (1974-)

Deanery: Lothingland (-1970), Flegg (1970-)

Union: Yarmouth

RDC/UDC: Great Yarmouth Municipal Borough (1835-1888)

Other administrative details:

Great Yarmouth Petty Sessional Division and County Court District
Gorleston added to Borough of Yarmouth (1681)
Southtown annexed to great Yarmouth (1870), full amalgamation (1891)

3. **Area:** 2,148 acres land, 74 acres tidal water, 35 acres foreshore (1908) includes Southtown)

4. **Soils:**

Urbanized area

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 5 pigs, 10 acres meadow, 3 salt houses, 300 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep corn region, where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Not recorded
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main cash crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots

6. **Enclosure:**

1813 273 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1809

7. Settlement:

Complete maps unavailable – see Norfolk Record Office for details.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 74, 1801 – 338, 1851 – 573, 1871 – 973,
1901 – see Norfolk
Southtown: 1674 – 26, 1801 – not recorded, 1851
– 307, 1871 – 464, 1901 – see Norfolk

8. Communications:

Road: Turnpike road passes from Lowestoft through Southtown to
Yarmouth. Tollgate positioned in vicinity of the Bear Inn (1826)
1891 Carriers pass through to Yarmouth daily
Rail: Southtown station: Southtown – Beccles line, opened 91859),
closed for passengers (1959), closed for goods (1965).
Southtown station used as oil-rig supply depot (20th cent.)
Yarmouth – Gorleston line, opened (1903), closed (1953)
1891 tramway: Yarmouth and Gorleston cars run every ¼
hour.
Water: River Yare: Navigable river to Norwich

9. Population:

1086 — 45 recorded
1327 — 76 taxpayers paid £7. 6s. 10½d. (includes Restone)
1524 — 47 taxpayers paid £5. 9s. 8d.
1603 — 260 adults (includes Southtown)
1674 — 135 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 1,728 inhabitants (includes Southtown)
1831 — 2,116 inhabitants
1851 — 2,587 inhabitants
1871 — 6,653 inhabitants (includes Southtown)
1901 — See Norfolk

Southtown:

1086 - Not recorded
1327 - 22 taxpayers paid £2. 13s. 6d.
1524 - 10 taxpayers, total paid [ILLEGIBLE]
1603 - See Gorleston above
1674 - 29 households
1676 - Not recorded

10. Benefice: Vicarage (Southtown – Rectory)

1254 Gorleston: Valued £12
 Southtown: Valued £5. 6s 8d.

1291 Gorleston: Valued £20
 To vicar in same £6. 13s. 4d.
£26. 13s. 4d.

Southtown: Valued £4. 6s. 8d.
 To vicar in same £4. 6s. 8d.
£8. 13s. 4d.

1511 Livings of Gorleston and Southtown consolidated
 1535 Combined value £11
 1831 Curate, stipend £150 p.a. No glebe house. Joint gross
 income £385 p.a.
 Incumbent also holds rectory of Sloely, Norfolk

1912 Recorded in Norfolk

Patrons:

Gorleston: Prior and Convent of St. Bartholomew (1335-15240, William
 Robards (1563-87), N. Bacon (1603), Owen Smith (1624),
 Humphrey Bedingfield (1665-73), Bedingfield family (1703-22),
 John Astley (1777), Lucy Browne (1832), Rev. F. Upjohn
 (1844), Rev. A.R. Abbott (1891)

Southtown: Thomas William, Lord Viscount Anson (1831-44)

11. Church St. Andrew (formerly the church of Austin Friars)
 (Chancel of 2 bays, NE and SE chapels, nave of 6 bays,
 aisles, south porch, west tower)

13th cent. Lower portion of tower
 14th cent. Nave, aisles, chancel, chapels and porch
 14/15th cent. Upper portion of tower
 1871/72 Restorations
 Note: 14th cent. Easter Sepulchre recess leads to
 cloisters, vestry and octagonal hall)

Seats: Not recorded

St. Mary (Southtown)
 (Chancel, nave and vestries)

Chapel of Ease:

1831 Main structure
 1896 Vestries added

Seats: Not recorded

Note: Churches of St. Mary and St. Nicholas decayed prior to
 (1511). St. Mary's demolished (1548), remains used in

repairs to pier. Inscription placed on wall adjacent to stables of Bear Inn marks site of St. Mary's Church

11a. Other religious institutions:

Priory and Church of Austin Friars

Founded (1267)
20 members of the Hermits of Gosle resident (1277)
William Wolderove, benefactor (14th cent.)
Priory church of St. Nicholas reputedly built on site of Roman temple in vicinity of Priory Street. Church remained standing until (1813) at which time it fell during a gale.
Slight remains of cell in Row 59, Yarmouth (doorway, length of wall)
Dissolved (1538)

Leper House: St. Mary and Nicholas

Mentioned in Heydon will book (1372). No definite evidence to support its existence.
Knowles and Hadcock place foundation at (circa 12th cent.)
1st reference (1331), presumed same hospital that recorded as St. James (1643)

Hospitals:

St. John the Baptist (13th cent.)
St. Mary Magdalene (16th cent.)
St. Luke (16th cent.)
St. Bartholomew (16th cent.)

Southtown:

Remains of religious house, reputedly Augustinian Friary, said to be visible to west of Greyhound public house (18910)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1844 Independent and Wesleyan chapels listed
Roman Catholic church of St. Peters, built (1889)
2 Independent chapels built (1826 and 1860)
Free Methodists, Primitive Methodists, Baptists and Wesleyan chapels
Wesleyan built (1886), seats 350. Baptists built (1875)

United Methodist chapel, and Salvation Army Hall (1908) and Plymouth Brethren meet at Oddfellows Hall (built 1866)

Southtown: Church Mission Hall at Cobholm Island (1908)
Primitive Methodist chapel and Congregational Mission Hall (1908)

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 5 carucates held by Gyrrh
1086 Manor of 5 carucates belonging to the King
13th cent. Warin de Montchensy owns
Circa 1333 John de Dreux, Earl of Richmond owns
Circa 1341 Michael de la Pole owns (linked to Eye, Thorndon, Haughley, Higham and Stratford St. Mary)
1510 Edward Jernegan/Jerningham owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Corton, Lound and Mutford)
1670 Sir Thomas Allin owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Mutford, Lound and Fritton)
Circa 1843 Lord S.G. Osborne owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Mutford and Lound)
1844 Samuel Morton Peto owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Rushmere, Mutford and Lound)
1885 Richard Henry Reeve owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Rushmere, Pakefield, Mutford, Lound, Kirkley and Gisleham)

Sub-Manors:

Bacons

1292 John Bacun owns
15/16th cent. Philip Calthorp owns
1518 Thomas Spring owns (linked to Whatfield and Brettenham)
1546 Richard Gunville owns
1602 Henry Ward owns
1609 Roger Godsave owns
1633 William Vesey owns
1723 Mary Prattant owns
1749 Francis Larwood owns
1785 Robert Harvey owns
1818 Thomas Read owns
1821 James Barber owns
1843 William Thurtell and Arthur Steward owns

Spitting

- 1444 Anciently held by William Spittings
John Falstoff owns (linked to Oulton, Levington, Nacton,
Bentley, Holbrook, Holton St. Mary, Capel St. Mary and
Cowlinge)
- 1478 Magdalen College, Oxford owns

14. Markets/Fairs

- 1792 Fair on June 8th

15. Real property:

- 1844 £3,796 rental value
1891 See Norfolk
1912 See Norfolk

16. Land ownership:

- 1844/91 Land sub-divided
1912 See Norfolk

17. Resident gentry:

- 1674 Southtown: Capt. Sanders
1891 Southtown: E.H.H. Combe JP
Gorleston: E.P. Youell JP

18. Occupations:

Gorleston:

- 1500-1549 2 husbandmen, 1 mariner, 1 roper
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 4 seamen/sailors, 1 cooper, 1 labourer, 2
shipwrights, 1 husbandman, 2 mariners, 1 carpenter, 1
weaver, 1 blacksmith
1600–1649 1 yeoman, 1 seaman/sailor, 2 bakers, 2 husbandmen, 1
carpenter, 1 victualler/innholder, 1 butcher, 1 tailor
1650–1699 12 yeomen, 1 barber, 3 seamen/sailors, 1 cooper, 2 beer
brewers, 1 bricklayer, 1 shipwright, 3 husbandmen, 7
mariners, 1 housewright, 1 carpenter, 2 cordwainers, 1
victualler/innholder, 1 butcher, 1 linen weaver, 1 miller, 1
maltster, 1 clerk, 1 gardener, 1 merchant
1831 77 in agriculture, 190 in retail trade, 10 professionals, 136
in labouring, 53 in domestic service, 95 others

Southtown:

- 1500-1549 1 husbandman
1550-1599 1 yeoman, 1 roper
1600-1649 1 yeoman, 1 blacksmith, 1 innholder, 1 merchant tailor

1650-1699 1 yeoman, 2 merchants, 1 husbandman, 1 marshman, 1 smith
 1831 10 in agriculture, 98 in retail trade, 20 professionals, 21 in labouring, 110 in domestic service, 119 others

Ship and boat building, timber trade and herring fishery (1908). Included with Yarmouth (1844-)

19. Education:

1818 1 day school on Madras system (200 attend)
 1833 3 infants schools (38 attend), 6 daily schools (239 attend, 51 taught gratuitously), 3 Sunday schools (established church) (190 attend), 1 Independent Sunday school (90 attend), 70 persons also taught 3 evenings per week.
 Gorleston: National schools built (1840) (260 attend), 100 attend (1891)
 School Board established (1875), new schools built (1876)
 Southtown: Yarmouth Proprietary Grammar School built (1833)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£126. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1803	£194. 16s. 0¼d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£404. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£373. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£475. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£684.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

3 lifeboats stationed in Gorleston (1908)
 North Sea Mission founded (1895) to provide Church services on board fishing fleets and medical aid.
 Oddfellows Hall built (1866)
 Guild of St. Mary and St. Andrew (1460)
 Cottage hospital established (1888), 2 wards holding 4 bed in each.
 2 lighthouses built (1886)
 Southtown; Royal armoury built (1806) by Government, stored 10,000 stand arms during 1914-18 war.

23. Recreation:

Regatta held annually in August, first held (1879)
 Recreation ground (10 acres) opened (1889)
 Free library (1891)

1600-99 Holiday resort (19/20th cent.)
 Inn holders recorded

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Battery Hill: platform for gun emplacements, dismantled by (1826)
'Ancient Gorleston and its churches' by J. Bately. Raven pamphlets
Vol. 21

Reputedly circle of standing stones existed in field called 'Stone Close'
(1768), at which time they were removed. These have
given rise to legends regarding existence of Druids in
parish.

Parish of Reepham said to have existed to east of Gorleston, anciently
washed away by the sea.

14th cent. Gorleston Psalter bequeathed to British Museum (1958)
considered to be masterpiece of medieval East Anglian
art.

Parish connected to Yarmouth by bridge over Yare (1908).

Place of considerable importance before Yarmouth was built, prosperity
declined as Yarmouth advanced. Frequent conflicts
appear to have occurred with Yarmouth over sights and
privileges of the port since (13th cent.). At times these
disagreements spilled over into violence (burgesses of
Yarmouth insulted, plundered and one person killed in
riots of 13th cent.). Disputes continued until arbitration
resolved conflicts (circa 1569). Peace lasted just 6 years
before same arguments began again and continued until
unification of Gorleston with Yarmouth (1668).

2 crosses formerly existed a) near White Horse Inn, Fenn Street and b)
near Feathers Inn, High Street.

Southtown:

Suggested that in Saxon times Southtown was the main settlement
consisting of islands of West Town, South Town,
Cobholm and North Town, connected by causeways
passable at low water. Main industry being oysters and
deep sea fishing.

The Hermitage – no information exists except to site it opposite the
original church of St. Mary.

Area became favoured by Yarmouth merchants (19th cent.)

Archaeological Sites

See Norfolk