

# 1. Parish : Great Barton

**Meaning:** Barley/enclosure/demesne farm or outlying grange

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

**Deanery:** Thedwastre (–1884), Thingoe (1884–)

**Union:** Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

**RDC/UDC:** Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Thingoe and Thedwastre petty sessional division  
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,754 acres land, 10 acres of water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

### Mixed:

a. Deep well drained fine loam over chalk, coarse loam over clay and fine loams some with calcareous subsoils.

b. Some deep well drained sandy soils, in places very acid with subsurface pan. Risk of wind erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		3 acres meadow, woodland for 4 pigs, 4 cobs, 18 cattle, 44 pigs, 402 sheep and 2 beehives
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep–corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley – main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management uniform. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, beans, turnips
1969	Trist:	Deficiencies in minerals are overcome and these lands are now more suited to arable farming with wide range of produce grown.

6. **Enclosure:**

1805 1,975 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands (1802)

7. **Settlement:**

1978 Large well spread development concentrated mainly around Bury Road and Conyers Green. Church is isolated south of main settlement. Secondary settlements at  
a. Pakenham/Thurston Road and public house,  
b. manor house and  
c. Shinham Bridge. Railway crosses parish W–E. Disused airfield situated at southern boundary.

Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 31, 1801 – 56, 1851 – 177,  
1871 – 192, 1901 – 170, 1951 – 251,  
1981 – 634

## 8. Communications:

**Roads:** To Pakenham and Fornham St Martin. Main Bury St Edmunds to Norwich road passes through village.  
1844 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds  
1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday  
Omnibus on Saturday

**Rail:** 1912 2 miles Thurston Station. Bury St Edmunds to Cambridge line, opened 1879, Thurston became unmanned halt 1967

**Air:** Rougham/Bury St Edmunds airfield. Opened 1942 USAF base, returned to RAF 1945. Class A station. Abandoned 1948. Used as Industrial Estate 1987

## 9. Population:

1086 – 104 recorded  
1327 – 40 taxpayers paid £5 19s. 4d.  
1524 – 34 taxpayers paid £2 12s.  
1603 – 160 adults  
1674 – 51 households  
1676 – 121 adults  
1801 – 523 inhabitants  
1831 – 778 inhabitants  
1871 – 878 inhabitants  
1851 – 855 inhabitants  
1901 – 645 inhabitants  
1931 – 728 inhabitants  
1951 – 813 inhabitants  
1971 – 1495 inhabitants  
1981 – 1810 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Vicarage 1831, Discharged Vicarage 1844

1254	Portion of the Rector £20	
	Portion of Abbey of St Emunds £4 13s. 4d.	<u>£24 13s. 4d.</u>
1291	Value £20. Vicar of same £10	<u>£30</u>
1535	Valued £10 15s. 7½d.	
1674	Parsonage house has 5 hearths	
	Description of vicarage (Probate Inventory, Thomas Buxton, incumbent)	
	Kitchen, hall, parlour, servants lodging room, meal house, dairy, Brewhouse, buttery (Library of Books = £20), hall chamber, parlour Chamber, maid's chamber, granary, gallery, house by the pond (parish folder) 1681	
	Tithes commuted 1802	
1844	Value £500 p.a.	
1887	357 acres glebe, gross rent £370 2s. p.a.	

1912 Value £250 p.a. 350 acres glebe with residence

**Patrons:** Katherine Awdeley (1603), Sir H.E. Bunbury (1844), Sir C.F. Bunbury (1874), Sir H.C.J. Bunbury (1912)

**11. Church:** **Holy Innocents**  
(Chancel, clerestoried nave of 4 bays, aisles, S porch, W tower)

1086 Church + 50 acres free land as alms  
13<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel  
1489 Making of steeple (PSIA, Vol. XXIII, p.51)  
14/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure, including tower  
No date Restoration

**Seating:** 420 free (1874)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1627 2 persons not attending church  
1676 5 papists, 6 nonconformists  
1844 1 house set aside for worship  
1912 Baptist mission room and mission church listed at Conyers Green

**13. Manorial:**

**Great Barton Manor**

1066/1086 Manor of 5 carucates belonging to the Abbot of St Edmunds  
1539 At dissolution passed to the Crown  
1554 Linked to Cavenham and Herringswell (Sir Thomas Audley)  
1704 Thomas Folkes owns. Passes by marriage and inheritance to Sir Thomas Hanmer 1722 and thence to Sir William Bunbury 1746 (links to Mildenhall)

**Sub Manor**

**Nacton Hall/Conyers Hall**

1271 Suggested as manor John Haunsell died seized  
1375–1585 Nicholas Conyers of Finningham owns  
1595 Thomas Lawrence owns

**14. Market/Fair:**

**15. Real Property:**

1844 £3,128 rental value  
1891 £4,769 rateable value  
1912 £4,714 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land always subdivided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1674	Lady Audley, Lt. Gen. H.E. Bunbury 1681
1788	Sir Thomas C. Bunbury, High Sheriff
1772	H.C. Blake, Bart.
1844	Sir H.E. Bunbury, Sir H.C. Blake, C.J.F. Bunbury
1891	H.C.J. Bunbury, W.N. King, Sir E.H. Bunbury
1912	J.M. King JP, W.N. King JP, Sir John Smiley, Rev. H. Taylor, MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549	1 vicar/priest
1550–1599	2 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 shepherd, 2 labourers
1600–1649	3 tailors, 19 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 1 cordwainer, 1 shepherd, 1 vicar/priest, 1 labourer
1650–1699	1 tailor, 16 yeomen, husbandman, 1 cordwainer, 1 carpenter, 1 clerk
1844	Land agent, blacksmith and edge–tool maker, 2 shopkeepers, parish clerk, shoemaker, wheelwright, corn miller, 12 farmers, carrier
1851	Tollgate keeper listed
1912	Sub–postmaster, police officer, schoolmaster, mistress, beer retailer/butcher, 7 farmers, 3 farm bailiffs, blacksmith, wheelwright, rate collector, steward to Greene King & Sons, carpenter, tailor, miller, baker, publican

**19. Education:**

1818	2 day schools (67 attend), 1 Sunday school on Madras System (96 attend)
1833	1 daily school (31 attend), 1 Sunday school (131 attend) Girls and infants school built 1840 by Sir H.E. Bunbury (average attendance 1912 – 73) National school for boys built 1857 by Sir H.E. Bunbury (average attendance 1912 – 80)

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£98 7s.
1803	£377 0s. 7¼d.
1818	£676 12s.
1830	£597 19s.
1832	£625 5s.
1834	£666 14s.

**21. Charities:**

**Church and Poor's Estate**

1492	by will of William Howardy. Profits from investment of 40 marks to church repairs. Residue to benefit the poor.
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1840 3 tenements for poor persons + farm of 48 acres 2R 30P  
Let at £50 p.a.

### **Fuel Allotment**

1840 50 acres awarded at enclosure for purchase of fuel for  
poor. Let at £46 15s p.a.

### **22. Other institutions:**

1844 4 almshouses endowed by Lady Bunbury  
1891 4 almshouses called 'Widows' Home built by Sir Henry  
Bunbury in memory of Louisa Emily Bunbury c.1828  
1891 Working Men's Club and Reading Room  
Police constable listed  
Church Institute built for reading and recreation purposes 1904

### **23. Recreation:**

1851 Beerhouse  
1891 Bunbury Arms public house (built 1844). Built after estate  
Workers petitioned Sir Henry Bunbury for a drinking place. Its  
Site was chosen so that 'his men might choose to imbibe alcohol'  
but 'he was not obliged to see them doing so'.  
1912 Beer retailer, Bunbury Arms public house

### **24. Personal:**

18<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir Thomas Hanmer (owner of Barton Hall) Speaker of House of  
Commons  
1780 Sir Charles Bunbury won first ever Derby with his horse Diomen,  
known as father of the Jockey Club  
19<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir Henry Bunbury had the task of informing Napoleon of his  
Lifetime exile on St Helena  
1809–1886 Sir Thomas Charles Fox Bunbury – scientist and acquaintance  
of Darwin

### **25. Other information:**

Stone Cross mentioned as being situated in Church Green 1613. Known as Pleiste,  
situated south of churchyard.

Robert Audley thought to have built New Hall/New House c.1624.

Barton Hall: library said to be one of the best in UK (built 1766–70) by Sir  
T.C.Bunbury, although it has been suggested it is of older origins, modernized c.  
1748. Extended and pleasure grounds added 1821, destroyed by fire 1914.  
Ice house/pit in vicinity of Bunbury Arms public house. Commemorated in  
place name and pit (no other information found).

Article with photographs 'Lest you forget Barton', by A. Jobson. East Anglian  
Magazine Vol. 34.

Church porch said to have been used as threshing place for corn and temporary accommodation for labourers.

Barton Mere: supposed site of ancient lake-dwellers

Conyers Green Farm: formerly Dower House to Bunbury Estate

Village sign unveiled 1978

Montana Home for the elderly opened by Sisters of Our Lady of Grace and Compassion 1960s, 14 residents.

Barton Place transformed into centre for advancement of Tibetan Buddhism 1975.

Transcripts and extracts from documents 1566–1951.

9 aircraft crashes listed re airfield 1943–45.

Remains of well situated near to St Johns Well Cottage 1943–45, (formerly lodge at entrance to Barton Hall Park), about which little is known.

The racehorse Diomed and Eleanor (both Derby winners for Sir Charles Bunbury) are said to be buried in Barton Park and commemorated in street names.

It has been implied that the scattered layout of the parish is the result of plague (unsubstantiated).

Air photographs taken 1938.