

1. Parish: Little Whelnetham

Meaning: Water meadow frequented by swans.

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (–1884), Horningsheath (1884–1930)
Horringer (1914–1972) Lavenham (1972–)

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

RDC/UDC: Thingoe R.D. (–1974) St. Edmundsbury D.C. (1974–)

Other administrative details:

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

3. **Area:** 599 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loams, some with calcareous clay subsoils
- b. 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:**

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, oats, barley, sugar beet
1969	Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Small well scattered settlement. Parish divided in two by Sicklesmere hamlet. Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 13, 1801 – 21, 1851 – 35, 1871 – 45, 1901 – 36, 1951 – 44, 1981 – 68

8. Communications:

- Road:** Line of Roman road.
Roads to Bury St. Edmunds, Bradfield St. George, Rougham and Bradfield St. Clare.
1891 Carrier passes through to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday.
- Rail:** 1891 Station. Bury St. Edmunds to Long Melford opened 1876, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965. Whelnetham station now used for refuse infill.

9. Population:

- 1086 – 55 recorded (includes Gt. Whelnetham)
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £2 (includes Gt. Whelnetham)
1524 – 16 taxpayers paid £2 12s. 0d.
1603 – 62 adults
1674 – 22 households
1676 – 75 adults
1801 – 142 inhabitants
1831 – 180 inhabitants
1851 – 178 inhabitants
1871 – 204 inhabitants
1901 – 138 inhabitants
1931 – 137 inhabitants
1951 – 138 inhabitants
1971 – 160 inhabitants
1981 – 197 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (1831), Discharged Rectory (1844)

- 1254 Valued £3 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £4 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £4 13s. 4d.
1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £160 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Bradfield Combust £155 p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes 1843
1891 25 acres glebe and good rectory house. Rushbooke annexed 1901
1912 Joint net value £120 p.a. 23 acres glebe

Patrons: Sir Robert Jermyn (1603), Marquis of Bristol (1831–)

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

- 1086 2 churches + 40 acres free land in alms. Foundations of semi-circular apse of Norman structure can be traced at East end of the church. It has been suggested that this was originally either a bi-apsidal chapel or a Saxon watch tower.
13th/14th cent. Tower and chancel.

15th cent. Nave.
1842/1880 Restorations.

Seats: seating capacity unknown.

11a. Other Religious Institutions.

Priory and chapel – cell of crouched/crossed friars.

Dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr.

Documents refer to as situated in Whelnetham. Uncertainty as to exactly which parish.

Founded 1274. Dissolved 1538, Granted to Anthony Rouse 1539.

Believed to be cell to principal house near Tower of London. Ancient farmhouse (Chapel Hill Farm – Crutched Friars) in Lt. Whelnetham said to have been the property of the Friars.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Parson fails to wear surplice.
1676 1 nonconformist.

13. Manorial:

Whelnetham Parva

c.1280 Linked to Lt. Cornard, Onehouse and Gt. Whelnetham (Thomas de Weyland)
c.1375 Linked to Gt. Whelnetham (Thomas le Despencer)
c.1499 Annexed to Whelnetham Magna (Sir John Raynford)
c.15/16th Linked to Bradfield Combust, Rougham (Thomas Jermyn)
1827 Linked to Cockfield, Bures, Ickworth, Horringer, Tuddenham, Worlington, Shotley, Sproughton and Lt. Saxham (Marquis of Bristol)
1885 Linked to Gt. Whelnetham (J.H.P. Oakes of Nowton)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £869 rental value
1891 £834 rateable value
1912 £779 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 H.J. Oakes/R. Rushbrooke principal owners + few small owners.
1891 H.J. Oakes/R.W.J. Rushbrooke principal owners
1912 R.B.W. Rushbrooke/W.O. Palmer principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1891 Lt. Col. A.H. Josselyn

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 3 yeomen, 1 labourer, 2 husbandmen

1600–1649 3 yeomen, 1 miller, 1 spinster, 1 knacker

1650–1699 3 yeomen, 2 husbandmen

1831 29 in agriculture, 4 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1 labourer, 11 in domestic service, 4 others

1844 Blacksmith, 2 farmers

1912 Schoolmistress, stationmaster, farmer, blacksmith, publican. Rake factory established 1910 (still in existence in 1970)

19. Education:

1833 1 Sunday school (25 attend)

1844 National school built, repaired 1872. Average attendance 1891 24 (including children from Rushbrooke). Closed 1938

20. Poor relief:

1776 £43 15s. 8d.

1803 £113 16s. 0¼d.

1818 £114 15s.

1830 £124 19s.

1832 £129 14s.

1834 £107 10s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

Chapel of St. Thomas 1510

1891 Police officer listed.

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Little Whelnetham Hall: built c.1600. Alterations and extensions 19th cent.

Crutched Friar: Former priory of 5 brothers. Order of the Holy Cross of Whelnetham. House built c. 1500 with 16th cent. and 20th cent. Alterations. Formerly cloistered linking house to chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr. Grade II listed 6 friars' cells removed due to worm-eaten condition c.1939.

Sign from railway station held in York Railway Museum (Rail siding at Sicklesmere closed c.1875.

Sicklesmere Home Guard: photograph in parish folder for Lt. Whelnetham.