

1. Parish: Wickhambrook

Meaning: Dwelling place/manor with a brook

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

Deanery: Clare

Union: Risbridge

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Clare RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division.
Haverhill County Court District.

3. **Area:** 4,337 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sand soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		16 acres meadow, woodland for 60 pigs, 2 cobs, 7 cattle, 88 pigs, 24 sheep, 25 goats
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. Also has similarities with sheep – corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variation of crops and management techniques including summer fallow and preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, roots.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet
20 th cent.		Justin Brooke fruit farms 'Peaches, Apricots and other stone fruit' by J. Brooke 'Peach Orchards in England' by J. Brooke 5 acre vineyard at Genesis Green 1975.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. Settlement:

1958 Pattern of development based on multi-green / settlement area
i.e. settlement situated at:

- a. Aldersfield/Ashfield Green
- b. Attleton Green
- c. Genesis Green
- d. Ladies Green
- e. Clopton Hamlet
- f. Boyden End
- g. The Duddery
- h. Part of Farley Green
- i. Baxters Green
- j. Meeting Green/Moor Green
- k. Colts Cross / Foot Green
- l. Nunnery Green
- m. Maltings End
- n. Wickham Street
- o. Thorns

Church situated in southern part of parish midway between Wickham Street and Thorns. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 75, 1801 – 145, 1851 – 338, 1871 – 337,
1901 – 249, 1951 – 280, 1981 – 383

8. Communications:

Road: To Lidgate, Ousden, Cowlinge, Stradishall, Denston,
Stansfield, Depden and Hargrave.

1844 Carriers: to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
to Clare on Tuesday and Thursday

1891 Carriers: to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
to Newmarket on Tuesday

1912 Carriers: to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday, Friday and
Saturday
to Clare on Friday

9. Population:

1086 – Badmondifield: 48 recorded
1327 – 54 taxpayers paid £6. 5s. 9d.
1524 – 17 listed taxpayers paid £6. 0s. 6d.
(membrane incomplete)

1603 – 400 adults
1674 – 159 households
1676 – 445 adults
1801 – 1,002 inhabitants
1831 – 1,400 inhabitants
1851 – 1,597 inhabitants

1871 – 1,503 inhabitants
 1901 – 964 inhabitants
 1931 – 792 inhabitants
 1951 – 844 inhabitants
 1971 – 805 inhabitants
 1981 – 1,024 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £10. 0s. 0d.
 Portion of chapel of Badmondifield £3. 6s. 8d.
 Portion of Prior of Castleacre (separate tithes) £0. 10s. 0d
 Portion of Prior of Stoke (by Clare) (separate tithes) £1. 0s. 0d.
£14. 16s. 8d.

1291 Valued at £18. 0s. 0d
 Portion of chapel of Badmondifield £5. 0s. 0d.
 Portion of Castleacre £0. 10s. 0d
 Portion of Prior of Stoke £1. 0s. 0d.
£24. 10s. 0d.

Impropration sometime held by Abbey of Sepwell (no date)

1535 Valued £8. 6s. 10½d.

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £211 p.a.
 Rectory house unfit for occupation (1824), sold (1846)
 Modus of £350 p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes (1840)
 Valued £300 (1873)

1891 Good vicarage house + 5 acres glebe.

1912 Nett value £220 p.a. + 7 acres of glebe and residence
 Incumbent of holds vicarage of Denston.

Patrons: Crown (1831), Lord Chancellor (1873)

11. Church All Saints

(Chancel, nave, aisles, N. vestry, N porch, W. tower)

1086 Badmondifield: Church + 10 acres of free land
 13th cent. Main structure
 14th cent. Chancel enlarged
 17th cent. Nave has rare hammerbeam roof
 1886 Restoration
 Note: External wall of S. aisle – crude carving of soldier
 with sword and shield, reputedly of Saxon date.
 Saxon chapel was situated at E. end of N. aisle.

Seats: 350 appropriated, 120 free (1873)

11a Other religious institutions:

Free Chapel

St. Mary at Badmondifield

Mentioned in 1256. In patronage of the Hastings and Grey families
 Granted to William Mansey 1538

No trace remains 1844

Free Chapel

St. Edward

Said to belong to Badmondfield Hall and stood within its moat on island called St. Edwards. Believed pulled down c.1591 by order of Sir George Somerset, it being in decayed state.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1643 Independent / Congregational chapel formed 1734, origins are claimed as 17th cent. Seats 200 1912
Primitive Methodist chapel built 1850
1704–1823 10 houses set aside for worship

'History of Wickhambrook Congregational church', by J. Duncan 1968
Samuel Cradock inherited house called 'Gessings' (Gesyns) and maintained Congregational Chapel and academy there 1672–1696
Account of Samuel Cradock contained in Suffolk Nonconformist

13. Manorial:

1066 Badmondfield: Manor of 10 carucates held by Algar
1086 Manor of 10 carucates belonging to the King (Roger Bigot has charge)

Badmondfield Hall

12th cent. Given with Honor of Montgomery to Baldwin de Bulers / Bulers
1292 Robert de Bures owns (linked to Milden)
1312 John de Hastings died seised. Yearly value of manor £19. 2s. 8d.
1560 Sir George Somerset owns
c.1620 Lord Roger North owns (linked to Boulge, Mildenhall, Gt. Finborough and Tostock)
c.1695 Francis Warner owns
1837 Warner Bromley owns

Sub-Manors

Gaynes Hall at Attleton

–c.1361 de Bures family (annexed to main manor)
1361 Sir Richard de Wldegrave owns (linked with several manors throughout Suffolk)
1554 Humphrey Moseley owns (linked to Ousden)
1847 Mrs. Sarah Sparke owns

Giffords Hall

13th cent. Peter Gifford owns
1377 Sir William Clopton died seised (linked to Hawkedon)

1428	Sir Hugh Granceys / Francis owns passing by marriage and inheritance to Sir Clement Heigham (linked to Moulton)
1764	George Chinery owns

Clopton Hall/Chappeley Manor

12 th cent.	William Clopton owns
17 th cent.	Major Robert Sparrow owns
1750	Mileson Edgar owns
1855	Part of Charity Estate of Lord William Maynard
1909	Thaxted Charities owns

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£4,204 rental value
1891	£4,700 rateable value
1912	£3,818 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Gray
1680	2 gents
1844	Rev. C. Borton
1891	N.W. Bromley JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 husbandman, 1 tanner, 1 smith
1550–1599	23 yeoman, 2 labourers, 2 tailors, 5 husbandmen, 1 vicar, 3 carpenters
1600–1649	29 yeoman, 3 tailors, 1 chairmaker, 10 husbandmen, 1 blacksmith, 1 bricklayer, 2 turners, 1 baker, 1 spinster, 1 glover, 1 clerk, 2 bowl turners
1650–1699	26 yeoman, 1 wheelwright, 1 labourer, 11 husbandmen, 1 blacksmith, 1 bricklayer, 1 webster (female weaver), 1 miller, 1 spinster, 1 cordwinder (shoemaker), 1 clerk, 1 joiner, 1 knacker
1831	220 in agriculture, 69 in retail trade, 7 professionals, 19 in labouring, 44 in domestic service, 20 others
1844	Vestry clerk / beerhouse keeper, 2 victuallers, schoolmaster / mistress, surgeons, cooper, plumber / glazier, relieving officer, beerhouse keeper, 3 blacksmiths, 8 boot / shoemakers, 2 bricklayers, 2 butchers, 2 corn millers, 29 farmers, 5 shopkeepers, 2 tailors, 2 wheelwrights, maltster, glover, joiner, baker
1891	Brick manufacturer

1912 Public officers, police officer, schoolmaster, coal dealer, 24 farmers, stationer, baker, 2 publicans, nurseryman, 3 carriers, gardener, 4 beer retailers, 3 bootmakers, 2 joiners, 2 shopkeepers, blacksmith, dressmaker, brewer, threshing machine owner, miller, cycle agent, painter, farm bailiff, thatcher, surgeon, grocer / draper.

19. Education:

1818 4 day schools (58 attend), 1 boys school (34 attend)
1833 5 daily schools (64 attend), 1 Independent Sunday School (135 attend)
1844 2 schools, part supported by subscription.
1891 Parish school used as Sunday school and Mission Room
School board established 1878 and schools built for 230/240 children. Average attendance 1912 93
Boys Boarding school run by Henry J. Pearson listed

20. Poor relief:

1776 £299 16s. 3d.
1803 £596 3s. 5d.
1818 £1,852 0s. 0d.
1830 £1,681 1s. 0d.
1832 £1,709 19s.0d.
1834 £1,411 7s. 0d.

21. Charities:

Vernons Gift

1737 by deed of James Vernon. Erection of workhouses in Hundon, Wickhambrook and Stradishall.

Warners Gift

1785 by will of Mrs. Anne Warner: Dividends on £400 distributed among poor families at Christmas

Chinery's Charity

1818 by will of Mrs. Elizabeth Chinery: Dividends on £250 stocks, to purchase of hempen cloth for 10 poor families

Church/Poor Estate

1840 Tenement + 15 acres let at £15 p.a. applied to church repairs, residue applied to benefit of poor

Rent Charges/Doles

- 1840 Gift of Dr. Palmer: 20s. from farm in Wickhambrook
Gift of Charles Owers: 20s from messuage and land called Giffords
Gift of Benjamin French: 10s. from property called Hasty Wood
Anthony Sparrow Charity: £3. from Stansfield Mill farm

22. Other institutions:

- 1776 Workhouse (42 inmates)
1803 2 Friendly Societies (49 members)
1844 Petty sessions held at White Horse public house every 4th Friday. Transferred to Bury St Edmunds 1873
Almshouses built 1612 by Anthony Sparrow for 6 inmates (near churchyard)
1891 Oddfellows Lodge held at White Horse Inn
Police officer listed. Police station closed 1979
1912 Reading room and Institute
Workhouse at Attleton Green (site occupied by 3 cottages 1979 believed built early 1600's)
Horticultural Society founded 1889
Hill View Riding Stables 1979

23. Recreation:

- 1844 The Crown and The White Horse Inn public houses, 2 beerhouses
1891 The Crown Inn, The White Horse and The Greyhound public houses, 3 beerhouses
1912 The Greyhound Inn and The White Horse public houses, 4 beer retailers and a brewer.
Unionist Club 1912
Happy Hours Club formed c.1956
Football club 20th cent.
1976 The Cloak public house 1976

24. Personal:

- Sir Thomas Heigham: b.1556, d. 1630 (buried in Wickhambrook church).
Native of Barrow, he lived at Giffords hall, Wickhambrook.
Distinguished Elizabethan soldier.
Samuel Cradock: 1621–1706 – see nonconformity.
Typescript history of the Griffiths, Woollard and Warner Bromley families of Badmondfield hall in RO.

25. Other information:

Clopton Hall: 16th cent. building.

Badmondfield Hall: Elizabethan moated manor house, possibly built by Sir

George Somerset who was in possession c.1559. Has even older antecedents pre-dating 1066 (former aisled hall house)

Giffords Hall: built c.1840 by Heigham family, restored and enlarged 20th cent.

Photograph of first pension day January 6th, 1908 in parish folder

Wickhambrook Auxiliary Fire Service Unit, based at Clopton Hall, formed in 1939 by Don Thompson, Captain of RDC Fire Brigade. Manned mainly by employees of Justin Brooke Fruit Farms. Passed to the control of Suffolk and Ipswich Fire Authority on 1st April 1948 and became a retained station with HQ at Bury St. Edmunds. New Fire Station built 1966/67 and opened by Mrs. Edith Brooke 1st July 1967. Still operational.

Bank, situated in private house, opened post 1945

Village Hall: opened c.1949

Memorial Hall: opened 13th April 1951 by its Chairman Mr Griffiths Woollard.

Extension opened in May 1972 by Mrs Eldon Griffiths

'Suffolk Prospect' by J. & E. Brookes, pub. 1963

Village magazine, 'Wickhambrook Scene', Feb. 1969–

Old Bank House: situated at Maltings End, believed 16th cent. with later additions, formerly used as a pub and bank 1980.

Photograph of Bullocks Mill, demolished 1982, Thorns Corner. A well by the mill reputedly never ran dry.

Winners of the Kenyon Best Kept Village Trophy 1982

Blacksmiths shop said to have occupied site at Thorns Corner

Parish formerly had 3 mills: Bullocks Mill, one at Fullers Hill and the Great Mill. All had disappeared by 1981.