

1. Parish: Hessett

Meaning: Fold by a hedge

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (-1972), Lavenham (1972-)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: Thedwastre RD (-1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

1884 Civil boundary change
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,599 acres of land, 5 acres of water (1912)

4. **Soils:** Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. 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 and 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, beans

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal grown and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:** 1851 78 acres enclosed under General Acts, 1848

7. Settlement:

1978 Moderately sized development along 'The Street', 'The Green' and 'Heath Road'. Church centrally situated in The Street. Woodland occupies S.W. sector of parish. Line of Roman Road forms western boundary. Blackburn brook crosses southern portion of parish from W – E. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 28, 1801 – 45, 1851 – 99, 1871 – 97, 1901 – 85, 1951 – 86, 1981 – 140

8. Communications:

Road: To Beyton, Drinkstone, Rougham and Gedding
Length of Roman Road
1844–1912 Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 2½ miles Thurston Station, Bury St. Edmunds–
Cambridge line opened 1879, unmanned halt 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 76 recorded
1327 – 29 taxpayers paid £3 8s. 5 3/4d (includes Beyton)
1524 – 31 taxpayers paid £17 10s. 7d.
1603 – 120 adults
1674 – 49 households
1676 – 148 adults
1801 – 323 inhabitants
1831 – 428 inhabitants
1851 – 487 inhabitants
1871 – 437 inhabitants
1901 – 381 inhabitants
1931 – 311 inhabitants
1951 – 285 inhabitants
1971 – 329 inhabitants
1981 – 381 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Value £10
1291 Value £13. 6s. 8d.
1535 Value £12. 17s. 11d.
1674 Parsonage has 6 hearths
1831 1 curate. Stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Lackford.
Value £255 1835
Tithes commuted for £350 p.a. 1840
1887 19 acres 2R 38P glebe. Gross rent £24 12s. 6d. p.a.
1891 New rectory house. 20 acres glebe
1912 Value £200 p.a., 7 acres glebe

Patrons: Edmund Bacon (1603), Le Heup (1831), C. Tinling & M.E. Rogers (1844), D.P.R. Nunn (1912)

11. Church St. Ethelbert

(Chancel, N. vestry, clerestoried nave, aisles, side chapels, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 12 acres
13th/14th cent. Murals, some restored by the Pilgrim Trust

- 14th/15th cent. Chancel, main structure
 15th cent. Tower. Vestry (once anchorites cell with altar and squint), 2 storeyed (upper room reached by solid stepped ladder – built 1340)
 1906 Restoration

Seats: 175 appropriated, 225 free (1874)

Church contains rare sindon cloth to cover the Pyx (on loan to British Museum)

15th cent. base of cross in churchyard.

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1328 Rector of Hessett (Alexander Bryd) suspected of incendiarism and imprisoned. Cleared himself by means of 'Canonical Purgation'
 1597 Rector does not wear the surplice
 1611 2 persons not receiving communion
 1676 3 nonconformists
 1814–1835 3 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

Hessett

- 1540 Held by Abbot of St. Edmunds
 1540 Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Thomas Bacon) passing by marriage and inheritance to Robert Walpole (17th century)
 1708 Aubrie Porter owns
 1853 Mrs. M.E. Rogers and Mr. C.S. Tinling own
 1885 C.T. Tinling and Rev. J.H. Marshall own
 1896 T. Tinling and Mrs. White own

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

- 1844 £1,642 rental value
 1891 £2,052 rateable value
 1912 £1,537 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

- 1844 Charles Tinling and M.E. Rogers principal owners
 1891/1912 Mrs. Tinling and Mrs. White principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1699 Thomas Aldrich, High Sheriff
1912 Rev. G.H.D. Jones, M.A., Major T.H. Topham, D.S.O.

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 1 tailor, 3 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 2 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 1 ploughwright, 1 smith

Note: 1455 1 rope weaver

1600–1649 1 tailor, 1 wheelwright, 2 husbandmen, 15 yeomen, 1 cooper, 1 carpenter, 1 shepherd

1650–1699 1 wheelwright, 1 clerk, 7 yeomen, 1 silk weaver, 1 linen weaver, 1 labourer, 1 thatcher, 1 hosier

1844 Cooper, 2 parish clerks, victualler, carpenter/shopkeeper, bricklayer, blacksmith, carpenter, maltster, 4 shoemakers, 7 farmers

1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmaster, carrier, 8 farmers, carpenter, 3 shopkeepers, publican, wheelwright, hurdle maker, coconut and wool mat manufacturer, miller

19. Education:

1818 1 Dames school where children are sent while their parents are engaged in the fields. 'The poor can spare neither time nor money for education'.

1833 1 Daily school (32 attend)
Public Elementary school built 1847, average attendance 1912 63

1891 National School (50 attend)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£125 12s. 3d.
1803	£218 12s. 1½ d.
1818	£483 3s.
1830	£603 6s.
1832	£846 10s.
1834	£569 2s.

21. Charities:

Poor And Town Estate:

1840 12 acres 1R let at £16. 16s. 6d. p.a.
to Churchwardens accounts

Poor's Money:

1840 Dividends on £200 Old South Sea annuities
(received every 4 years) distributed among poor. Sum received

1828 = £22 4s. 10d.

Allotment:

1848 8 acres awarded at enclosure let for £16.

22. Other institutions:

 Guild listed 1521
 Almshouse said to date from 1494: by will of Walter Nunn
1803 Friendly Society (33 members)

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Five Bells public house
 Football Club 1924
 Quoits Team 1930s

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Churchyard said to contain a never-failing spring which supplied part of village with water, now covered 1891.

'Burse and Veil at Hesselst' printed by Ecclesiological Society 1868 contains photograph on p.86.

Cloth of lace and painted Burse (made c.1420) preserved under glass in vestry. (Burse: flat case, often embroidered and/or embellished, in which the communion cloth was kept.).

'Materials for a History of Hesselst', by W. Cooke 1877 contains some fine illustrations of the church with architectural detail.

Hesselst Hall destroyed by fire c.18th cent. never rebuilt.

2 windmills listed 1340. John de Herst and Robert de Hulme held for the abbot 1349.

Land on which stood the Parish butts was sold for 3s. 4d. 1588.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.

Record of a public whipping of two persons according to the law for wandering 17th cent. (described as vagrant beggars)

Report on 4 medieval cottages in The Street, Hesselst with view to restoration 1958.

Parish has 3 miles of footpaths, map issue by Parish Council.

(Notes: original has "Cont .../" but no more pages supplied under Patrons (item 10) original stated as Tingling. All other refs to this are Tinling so changed here too.)