

## 1. Parish: Great Bradley

**Meaning:** Wide clearing

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

**Deanery:** Clare (–1884), Thurlow (1884–1916),  
Newmarket (1916–1972), Clare (1972–)

**Union:** Risbridge

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

### Other administrative details:

Risbridge Petty Sessional Division  
Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,340 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

#### Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous 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 Bradley: 23 acres meadow, woodland for 500 pigs, 1 cob, 18 cattle, 53 pigs, 63 sheep, 7 goats, 1 beehive

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 variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, what on lighter lands.

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, roots, sugar beet

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet. Pig-keeping – major feature of parish (approximately 4,000 pigs). Main crops: Wheat, barley, oil seed rape and field beans.

6. **Enclosure:**

1815 508 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1811

**7. Settlement:**

1960 River Stour crosses parish W–S forming small part of eastern boundary. Parish situated on border with Cambridgeshire which forms western and part of northern boundaries.  
Small but well spaced development. Church and hall slightly separated from main settlement on Cowlinge Road. Secondary settlements at Ever Green, East Green and Longacre Green.  
Few scattered farms  
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 25, 1801 – 52, 1851 – 110, 1871 – 93,  
1901 – 62, 1951 – 69, 1981 – 115

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Little Thurlow, Brinkley, Cowlinge, Kirtling, track to Little Bradley  
1912 Carrier from Haverhill daily

**Water:** River Stour: made navigable 1705, last barge to Dedham 1928

**9. Population:**

1086 – 57 recorded (includes Little Bradley)  
1327 – 18 taxpayers paid £2 14s.  
1524 – 10 recorded (membrane illegible)  
1603 – 60 adults  
1674 – 37 households  
1676 – 37 adults  
1755 – 273 inhabitants  
1801 – 395 inhabitants  
1831 – 527 inhabitants  
1851 – 542 inhabitants  
1871 – 455 inhabitants  
1901 – 264 inhabitants  
1931 – 189 inhabitants  
1951 – 212 inhabitants  
1971 – 262 inhabitants  
1981 – 320 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £10 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £20  
1535 Valued £17 1s. 5½d.  
Parsonage house with barn, hayhouse, stable, cowhouse, 3 outhouses, orchard, gardens and yard – 1 acre 1R 1709  
1831 1 curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.  
Gross income £426 p.a. Incumbent also holds Prebend in Cathedral of Lincoln and the vicarage of Eye.  
Value £407 1835  
Tithes commuted for rent-charge of £626 10s, 52 acres glebe  
1843  
Value £560 1873  
Rectory house built 1876, sold 1965

1912 37 acres glebe. Rent charge of £641 12s. 2d p.a. 1887  
Net income £345. 42 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** John Buteturt, Knt (1316-1332) & (1344-1391), John de Hyde (1400), John Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny (1422), Bartholomew Brokesby (1437), Robert Peyton (1576), Penelope Dynham (1674), William Soame (1675), Lord Dacre (1831), Trustees W J P Wilder (1873)

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

1086 Bradley: Church + 15 acres free land  
Norman N & S doors  
12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> cent. Walls and chancel arch  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Nave/chancel (east end shortened in 18<sup>th</sup> cent.) and tower  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. S porch  
1841 & 1864 Repairs  
1864, 1896  
& 1911 Restorations

**Seats:** 14 appropriated, 29 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1676 1 nonconformist

**13. Manorial:**

**Bradley:**

1066 Manor of 7 carucates held by Ulf, a thane  
1086 Manor of 7 carucates belonging to Robert of Tosney and held by Robert

**Great Bradley**

1088 Held by Robert de Toden, Lord of Belvoir Castle  
12/13<sup>th</sup> cent. Some dispute as to ownership by the Bigot family  
early 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Hugh de Lopham owns  
1305 Granted to Sir John Boteturte  
c.1390 Sir Hugh Burnell owns  
c.1524 Bartholomew Brokesby owns  
1609 Sir John Peyton (linked to Wixoe)  
1764 Thomas Brand (Lords Dacre) owns  
1851 Lordship, by Royal Licence, authorised to take surname and Arms of Trevor  
1909 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Hampden owns

**14. Market/Fair:**

1844 Formerly held fair on September 29<sup>th</sup> (obsolete by 1844)

**15. Real Property:**

1844 – £3,049 rental value  
1891 – £3,300 rateable value  
1912 – £1,439 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Land sub-divided  
1891 St Johns College holds large portion of parish  
1912 Viscount Hampden and St Johns College principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1690 1 gent  
1891 Rev J. Trafalgar MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 4 yeomen, 1 tailor  
1600–1649 5 husbandmen, 2 spinsters, 1 labourer, 1 tailor, 12 yeomen,  
1 joiner, 1 butcher  
1650-1699 5 husbandmen, 4 spinsters, 2 labourers, 7 yeomen, 1 clerk,  
1 blacksmith, 1 butcher  
1831 104 in agriculture, 18 in retail trade, 3 in labouring,  
11 in domestic service  
1844 Wheelwright/victualler, cooper, joiner/builder, tailor, corn miller,  
beerhousekeeper, shopkeeper, shoemaker, bricklayer,  
blacksmith, 8 farmers, 2 corn merchants, brick and tile maker,  
1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmistress, 2 farm bailiffs, 6 farmers,  
shopkeeper, 2 publicans, beer retailer, gardener

**19. Education:**

1818 1 Sunday school on National plan (42 attend)  
1833 1 Sunday school (44 attend)  
1891 National school, average attendance 40  
1912 Public Elementary school, average attendance 49,  
closed 1967. Children attend Thurlow VC school and  
Haverhill Middle and Upper schools 1981

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £164 7s. 4d.  
1803 £281 18s. 9d.  
1818 £971 4s.  
1830 £585 3s.  
1832 £578 13s.  
1834 £479 9s.

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

Almshouse restored to occupation of 1 aged person 1907 having become disused.

1912 Kennels for Newmarket and Thurlow fox hounds  
Women's Institute established 1934  
Parish Council formed 1894

**23. Recreation:**

1844 Fox and Goose public house (16<sup>th</sup> cent. origins)  
Beerhouse keeper  
1891/1912 The Crown and The Fox public houses  
Beer retailer  
The Fox public house (by now the only public house in parish)  
due to close 1987

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Great Bradley Hall: built late 17/early 18<sup>th</sup> cent. with 19<sup>th</sup> cent. additions.  
Earlier hall said to have occupied moated site to rear of churchyard.

School converted into village hall, opened 1973.

Tower Mill: said to have built 1839, badly damaged during storm 1908  
The miller, Josiah Nice, had spent all his savings on renovations (which were almost complete when storm struck). The resulting additional cost of repair was too much for him and he committed suicide. Mill was never used or occupied again.

Matthews Farm: built c.1686. Can be divided into 4 sections:  
a. the barn, b. the Primitive Methodist chapel, c. old farmhouse,  
d. single storey wooden building 1981.

Note: There is no other record of a Primitive Methodist chapel in this village.

Clarendale Estate: built 1966, consists of 40 homes. Increased population by approximately 50%.

'History of Gt Bradley' by B.J. Buchs 1981