

1. Parish: Benacre

Meaning: Bean field (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (-1868), Dunwich (North) (1868-1914), Beccles (1914-1974), Beccles and South Elmham (1972-)

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: Blything RD (1894-1934), Blyth RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. Area:

2,521 acres land, 23 acres of water and 13 acres of foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy/coarse loam soils. Some coarse/fine loams with slowly permeable subsoils. Slight seasonal waterlogging, risk wind erosion
 - b) Fine loams over clay, slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged
 - c) Some deep stoneless calcareous clay soils. Risk of flooding

5. Types of farming:

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Light lands, sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agents, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with the condition of sandy soils. One universal feature – turnips as preparation for corn and grass
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, roots
1969	Trist:	Main crops are barley and sugar beet but on the better sands rotation of wheat, barley, sugar beet or kale is practiced. Also cattle farming

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Settlement restricted by marsh to N. , plantation and Benacre Borad to S., and Benacre Park to W. Small well spaced development. Church situated at N.W. end of village. Some scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 35, 1801 – 18, 1851 – 40, 1871 – 43, 1901 – 50, 1951 – 49, 1981 – 21

8. Communications:

Road: To Kessingland
1844 Turnpike road adjoins Benacre Hall Park
1891 Carrier to Lowestoft daily, to Yarmouth Fridays
1912 Carriers from Southwold and Wrentham to Lowestoft pass through daily

Rail: 1891 6 miles Southwold Station, Southwold – Halesworth line, opened (1879), closed (1929)
1912 6 miles Lowestoft station. Ipswich – Lowestoft line opened (1854)

9. Population:

1086 — 1 freeman
1327 — 63 taxpayers paid £4. 3s. 4d. (includes Bulcamp and Bregge)
1524 — 40 taxpayers paid £2. 6s. 6d.
1603 — 80 adults
1674 — 41 households
1676 — Not listed
1801 — 178 inhabitants
1831 — 208 inhabitants
1851 — 223 inhabitants
1871 — 196 inhabitants
1901 — 216 inhabitants
1931 — 206 inhabitants
1951 — 158 inhabitants
1971 — 82 inhabitants
1981 — 59 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory
(united with Easton Bavants/Vicarage of Covehithe)

1254 Valued £8. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
To the vicar of the same £4. 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £18
1650 Valued £62
1831 1 curate. Stipend £100 p.a. No glebe house
1835 Valued £440
1881 Rectory house built

1887 51 acres 1R 24P glebe. Rent charge £359. 0s. 4d. p.a.
1891 Valued £240

Patrons:

H. Yarmouth (1603), H. North (1650), Sir T.S. Gooch (1831), Sir A.S. Gooch (1891)

11. Church St. Michael
(Chancel, nave, aisle, W. tower, porch)

14th cent. Tower, S. aisle, pier aroade to S. aisle
1643 Visited by William Dowsing (Puritanical Vandals)
Destroyed 6 superstitious pictures and ordered steps to
be leveled
1769 Repaired, parts rebuilt including Nave and chancel after
being extensively damaged by fire (no date)
1888/90 Restoration
1980 Made redundant

Seats: 275

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

11th cent. Godefridus de Petro Ponti/Pierrepoint (links with
Henstead)
1237 Simon de Pierpont has wreck at sea in Benacre
13th cent. Robert de Pierpont had free warren, right of gallows and
wreck of sea.
Manor passes by marriage via Lords Dacre
1577 Henry, Lord Norris owns
17th cent. Links with Mildenhall (Henry North)
1743 Thomas Gooch owns

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,467 rental value
1891 £2,240 rateable value
1912 £1,784 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch principle owner
1891 Sir A.S. Gooch principle owner
1912 Sir Thomas Vere Sherlock sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Edward North
1680	3 gentlemen listed
1785	Sir Thomas Gooch, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1833	Sir Thomas Sherlock Gooch, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1855	Sir Alfred S. Gooch, High Sheriff of Suffolk

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	7 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 3 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 miller, 1 carpenter, 1 tailor
1600–1649	8 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 13 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 miller, 1 carpenter, 1 saddler
1650–1699	2 husbandmen, 6 yeomen, 1 thatcher, 2 cordwainers, 1 carpenter, 1 knacker
1831	40 in agriculture, 2 in retail/handicrafts, 2 professionals, 3 in labouring, 16 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	Victualler, bailiff, 3 farmers
1912	Gamekeeper, 3 farmers, head gardener, farm bailiff

19. Education:

1833	1 daily school (29 attend), 1 Sunday school (42 attend)
1844	1 Sunday school
1891	Children attend school in Wrentham

20. Poor relief:

1776	£35. 6s. 3d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£80, 12s, 11 ³ / ₄ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£104. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£202. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£220. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£214. 9s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Marianne Gooch Charity

1860	Interest on £100 for purchase of clothing or blankets for 12 aged men or women to be distributed at Christmas
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22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844	THE WALNUT TREE public house
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24. Personal:

1727 Sir William Gooch. First Governor of Virginia, U.S.A.

25. Other information:

Ecclesiastical boundary change (gains Easton Bavents, church washed into sea) (1749)

Smuggling reported by coastguards who were afraid to intervene (1745)

Benacre Hall, built (circa 1721) by Thoimas Carthew. Destroyed by fire (1926). Restored by 1981. possibly built on site of older house

Archaeological Sites

Benacre Park, deserted Med. village, park, field system (CRN 1360)
13/14th cent. pottery, millstone, loam weight (CRN 1370)

Cropmark system (CRN 1372)

Cropmark and enclosure (CRN 1373)

Church of St. Michael

Stray finds: Med. bronze belt fitting (CRN 1055)

Worked flint (CRN 1361)

Neo. Axe and arrowhead (CRN 1362/63)

Rom. Coin hoard (CRN 1364)

Coin (CRN 1366)

Bronze candlestick (CRN 1367)

Med. metalwork debris, bronze brooch and vessel (CRN 1368)

I.A. coin (CRN 1378)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 1379)

Med. Quern (CRN 1380)

Scatter finds: Sax/Med. Coins (CRN 1054)

Worked flint (CRN 1365)

Med. building debris (CRN 1371)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 1374)

Med. Pottery, building material (CRN 1375)