

1. Parish: Cookley

Meaning: Cuca's meadow (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (1733-1868), Dunwich (North) (1868-1914), S. Dunwich (1914-1972), Halesworth (1972-)

Union: Blything

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

Other administrative details:

1733 Abolished ecclesiastically to create Huntingfield with Cookley
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. Area: 1,727 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
 - b) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Slight risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086		8 acres meadow, wood for 87 pigs, 1 mill, 2 cobs, 1 cow, 8 pigs, 7 sheep, 30 goat, 2 beehives
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:	Cereals and roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1864 56 acres enclosed at Cookley, Huntingfield Manor, Linstead Parva and Huntingfield under General Acts, 1862.

7. Settlement:

1975 Small well spaced development, restricted by wetlands to the East. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 30, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 55, 1871 – 57, 1901 – 46, 1951 – 45, 1981 – 44

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Walpole, Chediston and Halesworth
Rail: 1891 3 miles Halesworth station. East Suffolk Railway opened (19854), closed for goods (1965)

9. Population:

1086 — 15 recorded
1327 — 38 taxpayers paid £2. 18s. 5d. (includes Sibton and Walpole)
1524 — 24 taxpayers paid £2. 9s. 10d.
1603 — 93 adults
1674 — 34 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 264 inhabitants
1831 — 287 inhabitants
1851 — 275 inhabitants
1871 — 249 inhabitants
1901 — 185 inhabitants
1931 — 173 inhabitants
1951 — 151 inhabitants
1971 — 117 inhabitants
1981 — 109 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (1831), Discharged Rectory (1844)
(United with Huntingfield)**

1254 Valued £5. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1650 Valued £40
1831 1 curate. Approx. stipend of £50 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Aldham
1891 Rent-charge of £405 in lieu of tithes. (payable to Rector of Huntingfield)
1912 Joint value £550. 145 acres glebe with residence

Patrons: (1349) The King, (1361) William of Huntingfield, (1381) William de Ufford, (1385) Michael de la Pole, (1418) Katherine, Countess of Suffolk, (1424) Robert Bolton, (1429-1554) Dukes and Duchesses of Suffolk, (1557) Anne of Cleves, (1559) Henry Cary, (1563-1597) Lord Hunsdon, (1603) Sir George Carewe, (1644-1679) Coke family, (1709) Horace Walpole, (1731) Charles Gibbs, (1831) Lord Huntingfield

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

1086	½ church + 1 acre
Norman	N. wall of nave, N. doorway, tower (13 th cent. Arch)
13 th cent.	Chancel rebuilt
14 th cent.	Nave
1597	Chancel decayed – repaired same year
1894	Restoration

Seats: 150

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597	2 persons absent from church
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13. Manorial:

Cookley

1066	Manor of 6 carucates held by Wulfric
1086	Manor of 6 carucates belonging to William de Ecois
13 th cent.	Mid-13 th cent. possible links with Loudham (Robert de Ludham)
13 th cent.	Fressingfield family owns
14 th cent.	Links with Alderton, Pettistree and Stowmarket (William de Huntingfield)
16 th cent.	Late 16 th cent. annexed to Heveningham (Sir John Heveningham)
1700	John Bence owns
1752	Links with Aldringham and Heveningham Hall (Sir Joshua Vanneck)
1910	J.C. Vanneck owns

Sub-Manors:

Cookley Grange

Held at early date (unknown) by Abbots of Sibton
13 th cent. Consists of 2 carucates

1537	Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Thomas, Duke of Norfolk)
1559	Nicholas Smith died seised
1599	Linked to Chediston (John Pettus)
Circa 1675	Linked to Chediston (George Fleetwood)
1745/46	Annexed to Chediston (Walter Plumer died seised)
1833	George Parkyn (linked to Chediston)

Rughagh

13 th cent.	Roger de Cressy owns
1302	Absorbed by main manor (Walter de Fresynfield)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,719 rental value
1891	£1,636 rateable value
1912	£1,275 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Lord Huntingfield and George Parkyns, principle owners
1891	Lord Huntingfield and Trustees of George Parkyns, principle owners
1912	Lord Huntingfield and E.F.L. de Lacroix, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

1680	1 gent
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18. Occupations:

1500-1549	1 yeoman, 1 husbandman
1550-1599	3 yeomen, 4 husbandmen
1600-1649	9 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 tailor, 5 husbandmen
1650-1699	9 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 carpenter, 1 cooper, 1 butcher
1700/02	1 yeoman, 1 tailor, 1 spinster
1844	Farrier/beerhouse keeper, 3 shopkeepers, blacksmith, 11 farmers
1912	Schoolmaster, 11 farmers, shopkeeper

19. Education:

1701	Bequest of £3 p.a. for teaching 6 poor children, by will of Thomas Neale (still in existence 1844)
1833	1 daily school (16 attend, 6 free)
1873	National school built (114 attend), average attendance (1912) 107

20. Poor relief:

1776	£42. 11s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£86. 19s. 1d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£206. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£348. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£665. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£545. 5s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate

1840 2 houses, a homestall and 4 acres let at £19 p.a. to church repairs and occasional relief

Neale's Charity

1701 by will of Thomas Neale. £3. 10s. p.a. to education of poor children

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844 1 beerhouse

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Large block of stone stands in parish – believed to be Druidical in origin (1912)

Archaeological Sites

Neo. Burnt flint patch (CRN 2152)

Stray finds: Neo. Flint axe (CRN 648)
Mes. Microlith blade (CRN 2148)
Neo. Greenstone axe (CRN 2149)
Flint arrowhead (CRN 2150)
Worked flint (CRN 2153, 2154)

Scatter finds: Med. pottery (CRN 647, 2155)
Mes. Worked flint (CRN 2151)