

1. Parish: Halesworth

Meaning: Haele's enclosure (Ekwall)

County: Suffolk

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (-1868), Dunwich (North) (1868-1914), N Dunwich (1914-1972), Halesworth (1972-)

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: (E Suffolk) Blything RD (1894-1900), Halesworth UD (1900-1974), Waveney DC (1974-

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1884, 1934)
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth Country Court District

3. **Area:** 1,126 acres land, 6 acres water (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay.
- b. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk of water erosion.
- c. Deep peat soils part very acid, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding near river.

5. Types of farming:

1086		1 ¹ / ₂ acres meadow, wood for 126 pigs, 8 acres meadow, 1 mill, 1 cob, 6 cattle, 10 pigs, 32 sheep, 2 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.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies, usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crops:	Not recorded.
1969	Trist	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1975 Small compact town development. Church centrally situated. Railway crosses parish N-S. River Blyth forms natural boundary to the south. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 167, 1801 – 258, 1851 – 575, 1871 – 549, 1901 – 529, 1951 – 667, 1981 – 1,505.

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Wissett, Holton, Wenhaston, Bramfield, Cookley and Chediston.

1844 Coaches to London and to Norwich and Yoxford on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Carriers to Ipswich and London on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; to Beccles and Bungay on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday; to Ipswich and Norwich on Monday, Tuesday and Friday; to Beccles on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday; to Harleston on Thursday; to Laxfield on Tuesday and Friday; to Lowestoft on Wednesday; to Saxmundham daily; to Southwold on Wednesday and Saturday; to Stradbroke on Tuesday; to Yarmouth on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday.

1912 Carriers to Cratfield on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday; to Heveningham and Ubbeston on Tuesday and Friday; to Huntingfield daily.

Rail: 1912 Rail station: East Suffolk line opened 1854, closed for goods 1964.
Southwold-Halesworth line opened 1879, closed 1929.

Water: River Blyth: navigable to Halesworth in 1761, silted up.

9. Population:

1086 — 34 recorded
1327 — 20 taxpayers paid £2 16s 3d
1524 — 65 taxpayers paid £13 2s 6d
1603 — 360 adults
1674 — 226 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 1,676 inhabitants
1831 — 2,473 inhabitants
1851 — 2,662 inhabitants
1871 — 2,437 inhabitants
1901 — 2,246 inhabitants
1931 — 2,024 inhabitants
1951 — 2,155 inhabitants
1971 — 3,236 inhabitants
1981 — 3,941 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (united with Chediston 1831)

Discharged Rectory 1891

1254	Valued £13 6s 8d
1291	Value £20
1535	Valued £20
1831	1 curate, stipend £188 pa. Glebe house. Joint gross income £481 pa.
1835	Valued £450
1844	Large ancient rectory house, 13 acres glebe.
1912	Joint nett value £300 pa 58 acres glebe, 20 of which are in Chediston, and residence.

Patrons: Sir Giles Athlington (1603), R P Ward (1831), E Badeley (1844), Sir F Fowell Buxton (1891), Bishop of Norwich (1912).

11. Church St Mary

(Chancel, N vestry, chapels, nave, 4 aisles, N and S porches, W tower)

14 th cent.	Arcades. Fragments of Anglo Saxon Frieze in chancel (circa 9 th century).
14/15 th cent.	Main structure
15 th cent.	Tower (completed circa 1430, replacing former round tower) and N porch.
1643	Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 2 crucifixes, 200 superstitious pictures, 5 popish inscriptions, and ordered the steps levelled and crosses removed from chancel and steeple.
1863	2 N aisles and chapel (vestry) restored, adding outer N chapel.
1868	Further restoration adding S aisle and S porch.
1889	Repairs

Seats: 1,000 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1794	Independent (Congregational) chapel built, enlarged in 1836, seats 650.
1819	Baptist chapel built, seats 274.
1844	Baptist and Methodist chapels recorded.
1872	Primitive Methodists chapel built in London Road, seats 300.
circa 1899	Church Mission Room in Chediston Street built.
1936	'History of Independancy in Halesworth and District' by J W Newby.

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Aelfric
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- 1066 Manor of 15 acres held by Gunner, a free man
- 1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Earl Hugh
- 1086 Manor of 15 carucates belonging to Roger Bigot and held by Robert of Vaux.

Halesworth Manor

- mid 12th cent. Earls of Chester own
- 12th cent. Thomas de Halesworth owns, passing to de Argentine family who held the honor of Chester.
- circa 15th cent. Alington family owns.
- circa 1706 William Betts owns (linked to Clopton)
- 1736 Walter Plumer owns (linked to Chediston and Cookley)
- 1834 John Cutts owns who sold quickly to John Crabtree.

Sub-manors:

Dame Margery's

- Possibly related to Dame Margaret, wife of Sir John Argentine (1385)
- 1237 Patrick de Chaories owns.
- circa 1547 Robert Norton owns (linked to Chediston).
- 1693 George Fleetwood owns (linked to Chediston and Cookley).
- 1724 Walter Plumer owns (absorbed into main manor).

Rectory Manor

- 1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Ulf, the priest.
- 1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Earl Hugh.
- Recorded in Terriers as 'a small manor belonging to the rectory, to which several free and copyhold tenants owe suit and service'. Manors of Suffolk by Copinger.

14. Markets/Fairs

- circa 1222 Paid 2 palfreys for licence to hold weekly market and annual fair at feast of St Luke's, 18th October, (3 days).
- 1226 Fair held on 29 October
- 1227 and 1992/3 Grant of market confirmed, formerly held on Thursday.
- 1293 Grant of fair
- 1618 Market held on Tuesday,
- 1679 described as considerable market on Tuesday
- 1681 Fair held on St Luke's Day
- 1759 Fair held on St Luke's Day, 18th October, for Scotch beasts.
- 1792 Fair held on 18th October.
- 1844 Market held on Tuesday. Fairs for pleasure held on Tuesdays in Easter and Whitsun week. Cattle fairs held

- on 29th and 30th October. Fair for hiring of servants held on last Tuesday in September.
- 1885 Pleasure fair held on Easter Tuesday and White Tuesday.
- 1891 Fairs held on Easter Tuesday, Whit Tuesday, 17th September and 19th October (cattle). Market held on Tuesday for sale of corn, etc. Alternate Wednesdays cattle, sheep and pig sales held.
- 1912 Corn market held on Tuesday afternoon.

15. Real property:

- 1844 £3,894 rental value
- 1891 £8,127 rateable value
- 1912 £8,920 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

- 1844-1912 Land sub-divided.

17. Resident gentry:

- 1679 John Bedingfield, Henry Bedingfield, Thomas Carver. William Cary and John Porter.
- 1844 Andrew Johnston
- 1891 F E Babington JP and Capt C Easton
- 1912 F E Babington JP, R E Haward JP, W H Ives JP, J Parry JP, Rev F H W Thornhill MA, Rev A R Upcher MA

18. Occupations:

- 1679 Described as a thriving town of retail trade. 'Linen yarn for housewives cloth and sale cloth here a good commodity'.
- 17th cent. Populous market town where much linen yarn is spun, 'Suffolk (Camden)' Formerly involved in manufacture of Suffolk hempen cloth (no dates).
- 1756- River trade carrying corn, malt, coal and timber, etc, by barge.
- 1891 Colchester brewery.
- 'The Occupational Structure of Halesworth in the later 17th century' by Nesta Evans. Suffolk Review (New Series) No 2 p5. *Analysis of occupations (1653-99)*. Gent/yeomen 3%, agriculture 4%, servants 1.5%, labourers 13%, professionals 5%, metal trades 5%, rope making 0.5%, barbers 2%, building trades 12%, wood trades 5%, leather trades 17%, weaving/cloth making 3%, clothing trades 8.5%, food trades 10.5%, drink trades 5.5%, miscellaneous 3.5%.
- 1500-1549 2 tailors, 1 yeoman, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 1 cooper, 1 butcher, 1 mercer

- 1550–1599 1 husbandman, 1 saddler, 3 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 1 joiner, 1 pinner, 1 carpenter.
- 1600–1649 7 husbandmen, 2 spinsters, 3 brewers, 1 innholder, 4 tailors, 1 saddler, 14 yeomen, 2 shoemakers/cordwainers, 1 cooper, 1 currier, 2 butchers, 2 glaziers, 2 grocers, 1 merchant tailor, 1 housewright, 1 collar maker, 1 sheerman, 1 draper, 1 glover, 1 armourer, 1 reed layer, 1 wheelwright, 1 labourer.
- 1650–1699 1 fellmonger, 3 husbandmen, 4 spinsers, 1 innkeeper, 5 inn holders, 1 tailor, 2 saddlers, 1 ploughwright, 12 yeomen, 6 shoemakers/cordwainers, 23 blacksmiths, 1 gardener, 1 butcher, 1 school master, 2 woolen drapers, 1 grocer, 1 barber, 1 joiner, 1 chapman, 2 millers, 2 apothecaries, 1 tanner, 2 locksmiths, 2 carpenters, 2 surgeons, 1 weaver, 1 grocer, 1 haberdasher, 1 fan maker.
- 1831 118 in agriculture, 9 in manufacturing, 312 in retail trade, 43 professionals, 42 in labouring, 141 in domestic service, 38 others.
- 1844 Large iron foundry and agricultural implement manufacturers. Several malting houses. Postmaster, cork cutter, chief constable, thatcher, lodging house owner, 2 solicitors, 3 chimney sweeps, 2 excise officers, 6 bankers' clerks, wherryman, 2 solicitors' clerks, collector of navigation tolls, well sinker, jeweler/tea dealer, musical instrument maker, 2 hawkers, 2 carriers, tailor, wine merchant, foreman, builder, shopman, 2 overlookers, 2 gardners, 3 police officers, tanner, trunk maker, painter, whiting manufacturer, coach painter, soda water manufacturer, rat catcher, plant dealer, 4 brewers, bailiff, greengrocer, 3 attorneys, 4 banks, 10 fire and life officers, 14 inn/tavern keepers, 11 teachers, auctioneer, 10 bakers, 5 basket makers, 8 beerhouse keepers, fishmonger, 6 blacksmiths, 3 booksellers/printers, 17 boot/shoemakers, 3 brazier/tinners, 5 bricklayers, 3 brickmakers, 10 butchers, 3 cabinet makers, 3 chemist/druggists, 2 coach brokers, 1 coach maker, 4 coal merchants, 3 coopers, 5 corn/flour dealers, 2 corn merchants, 3 corn millers, 2 curriers, 3 dyers, 8 farmers, 2 farriers, 3 furniture/clothes brokers, 3 glass/chine dealers, 2 glovers, 9 grocer/drapers, 2 gun makers, 4 hairdressers, 1 hatter, 4 ironmongers, 9 joiner/builders, 1 lime burners, 7 maltsters, 6 milliners, 4 painter/plumber/glaziers, 5 saddlers, 8 shopkeepers, rope and sack manufacturer, 9 straw hat makers, 4 surgeons, 13 tailors, 1 timber merchant, 2 toy and fancy warehouses, 5 watchmakers, 1 wheelwright, 3 whitesmiths.
- 1912 Main trade: corn and malting. Public officer, 5 pork butchers, 7 hotel owners, 2 dairymen, 2 watchmakers, laundress, 5 surgeons, 7

bankers, 5 dressmakers, dealer in antique furniture, farm bailiff, stone mason, 2 police officers, 3 cycle agents, 2 jobmasters, tobacconist/hairdresser, 3 auctioneers, girls' school owner, 3 grocers, ale, wine and spirits stores, 4 butchers, 4 farmers, corn, seed and coal merchant, 3 fishmongers, 3 shopkeepers, 8 publicans, 7 insurance agents, carpenter/wheelwright, confectioner, bootmaker, plumber/painter, tinsplate worker, bill poster, horse/cattle practitioner, brewer/maltster, 5 solicitors, hairdresser, jeweler, sack, tarpaulin, flag and tent makers, baker/shopkeeper, 2 bakers, chemist, printer/stationer, 4 boot/shoemakers, 3 tailors, motor engineer, stationer, 3 boot/shoe repairers, china, glass and earthenware dealer, coal, corn, paper and rag merchant, draper/furnisher, dentist, drug store, inland revenue officer, wheelwright, miller, publisher, 4 builders, photographer, 2 plumber/decorators, upholsterer, 3 drapers, 2 fruiterers, provisions dealer, 2 ironmongers, berlin wool warehouse, 2 station masters, 2 bricklayers, chimney sweep, cooper, 2 tobacconists, 2 coal dealers, 2 clothiers, assessor/tax collector, blacksmith, jobbing gardener, registrar, school attendance officer, agricultural manure merchant, general carter, shoeing smith, maltster/general merchant, hairdresser/fancy repository, drapers/general provisions, milliner, shopkeeper/cabinet maker, 2 harness makers, timber merchant, coach/carriage builder, vet, seedsman/greencrocer, mineral water manufacturer, beer retailer/grocer, painter, 2 bakers/confectioners, town crier, maltster, fancy repository, beer retailer, assistant overseer, cutlery grinder, apartment owner, shoeing/tyre smith, watch repairer.

19. Education:

17 th cent.	1 schoolmaster recorded
1701	Rent charge for farm of £17 6s 8d bequeathed by Richard Potter/Porter for education of 40 children.
1818	2 endowed schools (includes bequests by Richard Potter and Thomas Neale (1700/1), new schoolroom built 1813.
1833	1 Dissenters school (120 attend) 1 endowed daily school (12 free places) 1 infants school established 1831 (40 attend) 9 daily schools (215-235 attend), 1 day and boarding school for boys (40 attend), 1 day and Sunday National school established 1829 (200 attend), incorporates 40 endowed scholars. 1 Independent Sunday school (110 attend), adult evening school.
1844	National school on Beccles Road (182 attend) Infant school in Pound Street (100 attend) 5 other academies listed.

Church school for girls and infants built 1853, 300 attend in 1891 and average attendance of 276 in 1912.
Halesworth Institute for Moral and Intellectual Improvement established 1850, 95 members in 1891.

1891 Day and boarding school.
Girls day and boarding school.

1912 Public Elementary school (boys) in Holton, enlarged 1898, average attendance of 149 in 1912.
Girls school owner listed.

20. Poor relief:

1776 £296 5s 6d spent on poor relief
1803 £589 0s 7³/₄d spent on poor relief
1818 £1,398 7s spent on poor relief
1830 £900 11s spent on poor relief
1832 £1,004 12s spent on poor relief
1834 £1,050 2s spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Walter's Gift

1589 by will of Matthew Walter: 16s pa applied to bread for the poor.

Launce's Gift

1611 by will of Robert Launce: 5 acres 3R 9P in South Elmham let at £9 4s pa applied to relief of the poor.

Burrough's and Mann's Chairty

1624 Gifts of Reginald Burroughs and Matthew Mann

Keble's Charity

1650 by will of James Keble. Rents for relief of poor, purchase of corn for bread and for apprenticing.

Neal's Charity

1700 Bequest of Thomas Neale: to educating 6 poor children together with 10s pa for purchase of bibles for the children.

Phillips' Gift

1700 by gift of John and Richard Phillips: cottage and 11 acres 1R 35P let at £32 6s pa applied to purchase of penny loaves for distribution to poor on Sundays.

Porter's Charity

1701 by will of Richard Porter: rent charge of £17 6s 8d for education of poor children.

Vincent's Charity

1804 by will of William Vincent. Land and property the rents of which are applied to relief of the poor.

Hutcher's Charity

1816 by will of John Hutcher: pew in church let at £30 pa applied to committee of National School.

Town Estate

1840 57 acres 1R 13P and property let at £209 9s 9d applied to church expenses, lighting the town, support of almshouse and assisting the poor.

Almshouses

1840 6 small houses near church given by William Carey and 2 other cottages occupied by 14 poor widows.

22. Other institutions:

1803 2 Friendly Societies (72 members)
1844 Petty Sessions held at the Angel Inn every third Wednesday. Held in Court House (1891).
Gas works built (1838) on Wissett Road.
Almshouses: 6 small houses near Church founded by W Carey and 2 cottages (founder unknown). Occupied by 14 poor widows (1844).
Blything Hundred Savings Bank
Post Office
1891 Police Station in Pound Street. Police Station in Thoroughfare built 1865.
Court House built 1891 on London Road.
Town Room rebuilt 1886.
Patrick Stead Hospital founded by Mr Patrick Stead 1882 with accommodation for 12 beds and 3 cots.
Blything Hundred Cottage Allotment Society established 1847.
3 banks.
3rd Battalion 7th Suffolk Rifle Volunteers (100 members) + Drill Hall.
Freemasons have hall in market place.

Halesworth Times newspapers established 1855 published Tuesdays.
 Fire engine held near church, brigade has compliment of 12 men in 1891.
 Fire Station (1912)
 1912 Loyal Clarence Lodge of Oddfellows meet at the Swan Hotel, formed in 1892 (450 adult members, 100 juvenile members).
 Memorial Home near church endowed by J Crabtree, built 1859 for 4 poor widows.
 Social Club housed in former Inn (20th cent) (Elizabethan building).
 Halesworth maternity hospital under threat of closure (1988).

23. Recreation:

1650-1699 1 innkeeper, 5 inn holders
 1841 Public Rooms built to rear of the Angel Inn used as Corn Exchange and Assembly Rooms.
 1844 Small theatre situated in Pound Street, restored in 1892, and used as drill hall for Territorial Battalion Suffolk Regiment, becoming known as Rifle Hall (1912).
 14 public houses, 8 beerhouses.
 1891 13 public houses, 5 beerhouses, refreshment room.
 1912 8 public houses, 7 hotels, 2 beer retailers.

24. Personal:

Sir William Hooker: Director of Kew Gardens 1809-1820, resident of the parish.
 Sir Robert Beddingfield: (18th century) native of the parish. Lord Mayor of London 1707.
 Rt Hon Sir Henry Bedingfield (1687). Lord Chief Justice of Court of Common Pleas, Westminster, buried in Halesworth church. Certified buried in woollen cloth.

25. Other information:

Mineral springs situated near the town reputed to contain healing properties for eye inflammations.
 1887 Wherry Inn and 3 cottages destroyed by fire.
 1896 Ground near the church bought, to be maintained as free, open space.
 'Bronze Age Axes from Halesworth and District' by V E Moore. PSIA Vol XXIV, p 121.
 'Monumental Inscriptions in Halesworth Church and Churchyard' by Rev F Haslewood. PSIA Vol IX, p 234
 'A Clay Pipe kiln at Chediston Street, Halesworth' by H Oak-Rhind and Keith Wade. PSIA Vol 34, p 67

Old Rectory in Rectory Road (16th/17th century) timber frame with brick nogging and plaster, 18th century alterations.