

1. Parish: Henstead (+ Hamlet of Hulver)

Meaning: Place of many hens

2. **Hundred:** Blything (part), Wangford (part)

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

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Blything RD (1894-1934), Lothingland RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Beccles and Bungay County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,953 acres land, 6 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clay and fine loam over clay soils
- b) Deep well drained sand and coarse loam soils, some coarse and fine loam with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		6 cattle, 40 sheep, 12 pigs, 20 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 Also has similarities with sheep corn-region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variation of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main Crops:	Wheat, barley, peas, beans, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1799 620 acres in Sotterley, Hulver Street, Wrentham and Henstead enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1797

7. Settlement:

1977 Hundred River forms natural boundary to north. Small dispersed settlement. Church situated near parish center. Secondary settlement to the west at Hulver Street
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 37, 1801 – 30 1851 – 58, 1871 – 120,
1901 – 111, 1951 – 118, 1981 – 104

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Rushmere, Wrentham, Kessingland, Benacre and Ellough

Rail: 1891 5 ½ miles Beccles station: Ipswich – Beccles line opened (1854) Tivetshall – Lowestoft line: opened to Beccles (1863), closed (1965)

9. Population:

1086 — 15 recorded
1327 — 30 taxpayers paid £1. 8s. 8d.
1524 — 22 taxpayers paid £3. 19s. 8d.
1603 — 123 adults
1674 — 37 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 355 inhabitants
1831 — 566 inhabitants
1851 — 559 inhabitants
1871 — 552 inhabitants
1901 — 455 inhabitants
1931 — 467 inhabitants
1951 — 383 inhabitants
1971 — 301 inhabitants
1981 — 267 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (united with Hulver) (1831)

1254 Valued £8. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £12
1535 Valued £12
1831 1 curate, stipend £52. p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £436 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectories of Blickling with Erpingham, Norfolk and Cadeby, Leicestershire + Vicarage of Selston, Notts.
1835 Valued £423

1912 Nett value £205 p.a. 46 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Simon Peyrpond (1301-1316), Alan de Henstede (1349),
Jacob Trenchmere (1393), J. Rothenhall (1419), William
Paston and William Cove (1442-1444), E. Jenney (1482-
1488), William Yarmouth (1490), Clopton family (1502-1552),
William Sydnor (1579-1595), J. Uttyng (1620), R. Brook
(1662), Emmanuel College, Cambridge (1714-1758), Bevill
Paston Chambers (1793), R. Sparrow (1810), Earl of Gosford
(1831), R.O. Sheriffe (1891), Sir. R.H.I Palgrave (1912)

11. Church St. Mary

(Continuous chancel and nave, S. porch, W. tower)

Norman Chancel/nave, N. & S. doorways
1470 Tower and S. porch added
1641 Chancel damaged by fire
20th cent. Refurnished

Seats: 160 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1840 Wesleyan chapel recorded in Hulver Street, built (1840)

13. Manorial:

Henstead Perpounds al Poynings

1271 Sir Simon de Pierpont owns (linked to Covehithe)
1585 William Sydnor owns (linked to Blundeston and Fritton)
Consisted of 8 messuages, 8 gardens, 30 acres land, 30
acres meadow, 20 acres pasture, 40 acres alder and
100s rent (1587)
circa 1634 Sir Robert Brooke owns
1687 Henry Mildmay owns
18th cent. Halliday family owns
1799 Robert Sparrow owns
1801 Thomas Kett owns
circa 1834 Robert Sheriffe owns
1894 Robert H. Inglis Palgrave owns

Sub-Manor

Blundeston, Savages and Henstead

13th cent. Robert de St. Denis owns
circa 1349 Alan de Henstead owns
circa 1479 Henry Boundes owns

circa 1530 Sir William Clopton owns (linked to Lt. Waldingfield, Long Melford, Groton, Boxford, Cowlinge and Gt. Thurlow)
circa 1576 William Sydnor owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,397 rental value
1891 £2,192 rateable value
1912 £1,861 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Sir Thomas S. Gooch and F. Barne principal owners
1891 Land sub-divided
1912 Sir R.H.I Palgrave and Capt. Miles Barne, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Rev. Thomas Sheriffe MA, Thomas Sheriffe, Rev. C. Clarke
1891 Col H.C.B. Chester JP
1912 Rev. Canon R.V. Booker MA, Sir R.H.I. Palgrave JP, Rev. G.A. Whitaker MA

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 2 husbandmen, 1 reder
1550-1599 7 husbandmen, 5 yeomen
1600-1649 5 husbandmen, 6 yeomen, 4 labourers, 1 joiner
1650-1699 15 yeomen, 2 wheelwright
1831 52 agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 23 in domestic service, 1 other
1844 2 shopkeepers, tailor, schoolmaster/bookbinder, 2 wheelwrights, beerhouse keeper, 8 farmers
1912 9 farmers, 2 market gardeners, blacksmith, gamekeeper
Hulver: 2 farmers, bootmaker, publican, 2 market gardeners, grocer, horse slaughterer

19. Education:

1833 1 daily school established (1823) (30 attend, 17 assisted places by Mrs. O. Saville)
2 day and Sunday schools (52-78 attend)
1844 Schoolmaster recorded
School built by Rev. Thomas Sheriffe (1844) 75 attend (1891) enlarged (1873 and 1895), average attendance (1912) 115

20. Poor relief:

1776	£56. 6s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£105. 12s. 3 ½ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£260. 11s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£176. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£250. 9s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£195. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Land:

1840	2 acres land and tenement let at £4 p.a. applied to church repairs
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Brandon's Gift:

1599	by will of Henry Brandon: 3R + tenement let at 17s. p.a. 8s. 6d. distributed among poor of Henstead. 6s. 8d. distributed among poor of Rushmere and 1s. 10d. to repairs to Henstead church
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Poors Allotment:

1840	Allotment of 14 acres let at £20 p.a. applied to distribution of coals to poor
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22. Other institutions:

1803	1 Friendly Society (14 members)
1912	Police station + 1 officer recorded

23. Recreation:

1844	The Gate public house, 1 beerhouse
1891	The Gate Inn
1912	The Hulver Gate public house (in Hulver hamlet)

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Severe damage by fire to village (1641)

Reproduction of picture showing The Old Hundred Bridge, Henstead in 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk' by Rev. A. Suckling Vol. II

The bridge spans Willingham water

Machinery breaking incidents recorded at Henstead (chaff cutter destroyed)
(1822)

Archaeological Sites:

Ring ditch (CRN 1426)
B.A. palstave (CRN 1427)

Stray finds: Neo. flint axe (CRN 1423, 1424)

Scatter finds: Neo. worked flint (CRN 1422, 1429)
 Neo. pottery/worked flint (CRN 1425)