

1. Parish: Holton

Meaning: Hala's homestead/village (EKWALL)

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 – 1934), Wainford RD (1934 – 1974), Waveney DC (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary changes (1884 and 1934), gains detached part of Blyford (1885)

Ecclesiastical boundary change (1935)

Blything Petty Sessional Division

Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,236 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Slowly permeable calcareous/ non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion.
 - b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay.
 - c) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or woodland, risk wind erosion.
 - d) Deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, in part very acid, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding near river.

5. Types of farming:

1086		Wood for 3 pigs, 1½ acres meadow
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, wheat on lighter lands.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, oats.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1975 River Blyth forms natural boundary to south with associated wetlands. Former airfield occupies large amount of northern sector in area known as Upper Holton. Both factors probably influenced settlement in these areas. Moderate sized compact development around centrally situated church. Sand and gravel pits occupy site to SE of settlement while Holton Hall Park is situated to the north.
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 30, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 111, 1871 – 106, 1901 – 128, 1951 – 163, 1981 – 305

8. Communications:

Road: To Southerton, Blyford, Wenhaston, Halesworth and Wissett
1844 Carriers to Halesworth on Tuesday
To Lowestoft on Wednesday

Rail: 1891 1 mile Halesworth station: East Suffolk line, opened 1854, closed for goods (1964)
Southwold-Halesworth line, opened 1879, closed 1929.
Halesworth-Beccles-Lladiscoe line, opened 1854, closed 1959.

Water: 1 mile River Blythe navigation, navigable to Halesworth 1761, silted up.

Air: Halesworth Air station: operational as American Air Base 1943, taken over by R.A.F 1945, closed 1946. Site of Turkey Farm 1979.

9. Population:

1086 — 15 recorded.
1327 — 48 taxpayers paid £4 11s. 7d. (Includes Wissett, Rumburgh and Spexhall)
1524 — 23 taxpayers paid £1. 11s. 2d.
1603 — 80 adults
1674 — 34 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 328 inhabitants
1831 — 435 inhabitants
1851 — 516 inhabitants

1871 — 429 inhabitants
 1901 — 502 inhabitants
 1931 — 474 inhabitants
 1951 — 523 inhabitants
 1971 — 668 inhabitants
 1981 — 857 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £10
 1291 Valued £10. 13s. 4d.
 1535 Valued £10. 13s. 4d.
 1650 Valued £30
 1831 Curate, stipend £55. P.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £213 p.a. Incumbent also holds vicarage of Beguildy, Radnor.
 Valued £197 (1835)
 Rectory house built (1838)
 1891 Valued £310
 1912 Nett value £190 p.a. and residence

Patrons:

Crown (1603-), Lord Chancellor (1915)

11. Church St Peter

(Chancel, N. Chapel, nave, N. aisle, S. porch, round W. tower)

Norman Tower (3 stages), S. doorway
 1644 2 superstitious pictures and Jesuits badge from chancel window destroyed by William Dowsing (Puritanical Vandals)
 19th cent N. aisle and N. Chapel (added 1897)
 1856-67 Considerable restoration and enlargement.

Seats: 250 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1912 Baptist chapel near to Halesworth

13. Manorial:

Holton Hall:

1066 Manor of 20 acres held by Edric
 1086 Manor of 20 acres belonging to Robert Malet
 1286 William de Vaux/Vallibus owns
 1476 John Mannock owns

It is speculated that manorial rights were transferred, at a date unknown, to the parish of Wissett. There has been no manor in Holton parish since 15th/16th century.

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,487 rental value
1891	£2,215 rateable value
1912	£2,133 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land Sub-Divided
1912	Mrs Easton, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844	Rev. R. Day MA
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18. Occupations:

1500-1699	None recorded
1831	86 in agriculture, 32 in retail trade, 5 in domestic service
1844	Brewer, 2 victuallers, mill grease, oil and colourmen/sack tilt makers, nursery manager, 2 school teachers, joiner, butcher, shopkeeper/beerhouse keeper, nursery/seedsman, blacksmith, cooper, 2 boot/shoemakers, 2 wheelwrights, 11 farmers.
1912	Sub-postmaster, school teacher, innkeeper/farmer, gardener, shopkeeper, 2 boot/shoemakers, 8 farmers, publican, 2 farm bailiffs, 4 market gardeners, wheelwright, carpenter/undertaker, builders, cycle agent, blacksmith, insurance agent.

19. Education:

1818	Schoolroom houses 60 instructed on Dr. Bells system 1 infants and 1 young ladies school
1833	1 daily school (71 attend), 1 Sunday school (50 attend) National school built (1814) supported by Rector Rebuilt and enlarged (1856), endowed with £20 p.a 130 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 126

20. Poor relief:

1776	£41. 19s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£96. 6s. 4¼d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£226. 17s.	spent on poor relief

1830	£201. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£276. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£247. 16s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

TOWN HOUSE: 1891 2 cottages + 4R land, let at £9. 15s. p.a.
Owned by the church for unknown period.

LORD NELSON public house
1796 belonged to parish. Leased churchwardens
to a brewer

22. Other institutions:

1803 1 friendly society (31 members)

23. Recreation:

1844 LORD NELSON public house in existence (1786)
THE DUKE, THE CHERRY TREE and THE LORD
NELSON public houses, 1 beerhouse.
1891 THE LORD NELSON, THE DUKES HEAD and THE
CHERRY TREE INN
1912 THE LORD NELSON and THE CHERRY TREE public
house.

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Holton Hall: partially burned down (1882), rebuilt on old foundations
(1883)

Park extends to 100 acres, well wooded

Windmill dated (1752): post mill, ceased working (pre 1914),
considerably repaired (1966-68), considered to stand on
one of the best mill sites in the country.

Archaeological Sites

Rom. Pottery (CRN 935)

NOTE: CRN = Computer Record No.