

1. Parish: Huntingfield

Meaning: The field of Hunta's people

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (1733–1868), Dunwich (North) (1868–1914), South Dunwich (1914–1972), Halesworth (1972–)

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: (E Suffolk) Blything RD (1894–1934), Blyth RD (1934–1974), Suffolk Ccoastal DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

1733 Abolished ecclesiastically to create Huntingfield with Cookley

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. Area:

2,121 acres land, 16 acres water 1921

4. Soils:

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

5. Types of farming:

1086 Wood for 120 pigs, 17 acres meadow, 2 cobs, 10 'idle' cattle, 30 pigs, 100 sheep, 60 goats, 6 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 in preparation for corn products.

1937 Main crops: Cereals and roots.

1969 Trist More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

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

7. Settlement:

1983 Line of Roman road crosses western sector of parish NW–SE. Henevingham Park intrudes into parish and occupies most of its eastern spur. River Blyth forms natural boundary to SE. Small compact development. Church and rectory situated separately to NW of settlement while the hall is offset to the north. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 37, 1801 – 44, 1851 – 82, 1871 – 75, 1901 – 68, 1951 – 62, 1981 – 63.

8. Communications:

Road: To Heveningham, Cratvfield, Cookley and Linstead Parva.
1891/1912 Carrier to Halesworth daily

Rail: 1891 5 miles Halesworth station: East Suffolk line, opened 1854, closed for goods 1964.
1879 Southwold–Halesworth line opened, closed 1929
1854 Halesworth–Beccles–Haddiscoe line opened, closed 1959.

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

9. Population:

1086 – 69 recorded
1327 – 54 taxpayers paid £2 10s. 4d. Includes Linstead.
1524 – 29 taxpayers paid £4 13s. 4d.
1603 – 120 adults
1674 – 43 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 373 inhabitants
1831 – 400 inhabitants
1851 – 411 inhabitants
1871 – 361 inhabitants
1901 – 306 inhabitants
1931 – 234 inhabitants
1951 – 223 inhabitants
1971 – 164 inhabitants
1981 – 187 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (with Cookley)

1254 Valued £12
1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d. Portion of Prior of Eye £2 £15 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £13 6s. 8d.

1546 No incumbent. Yearly value £7. Clerks stipend £7 appropriated by Nicholas Arrowsmith
 1650 Valued £100.
 1773 Consolidated with Cookley
 1831 2 curates, stipend £100 pa. Glebe house. Gross income £800 pa. Incumbent also holds rectory of Aldham.
 1891 Joint value £1,160. Good rectory house + 150 acres glebe. 2 yearly rent-charges of £538 in lieu of tithes/
 1912 Nett value £550 pa. 145 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Sir Carewe (1603), Sir Robert Cooke (1650), Lord Huntingfield (1831), Rev. S.H. Turner (1912).

11. Church **St Mary**
 (Chancel, nave, aisles, porch, mortuary chapel, tower)

1086 Church + 14 acres land, value 2s.
 Norman Nave, N aisle, (N. arcade represents Norman N. wall)
 14th cent. Chancel and arcade of S. aisle
 15th cent. Tower and porch
 1858 Restoration
 1859–66 Roof painted by Mrs Holland, the rectors wife.
 1896–1906 Restoration

Seats: 120 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 6 carucates held by Edric of Laxfield
 1086 Manor of 6 carucates belonging to Robert Malet and held by Walter, son of Aubrey.

Huntingfield

12th cent Roger de Huntingfield owns (linked to Mendham, Alderton, Pettistree, Stowmarket and Cookley)
 c.1377 Inquis. pm of William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk (linked to numerous manors through Suffolk)
 c.1389 Michael de la Pole owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1538 Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1540 Anne of Cleves owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1559 Sir Henry Carey owns
 c.1635 Sir Robert Coke owns
 1752 Sir Joshua Vanneck (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

1909 Joshua Chrles Vanneck owns (linked to Heveningham, Leiston, LinsteadMagna and Linstead Parva).

Sub-manors:

Newhawe/Newhall

1428 Alice de la Uiore owns
1558 Henry Carey owns (absorbed by main manor)

Rectory Manor

The Lords of manor would be the Rectors of the parish, a few of whom are:

1311 Richard Lenebfand
1447 John Hawtayn
1510 William Wrighte
1621 Edmund Stubbe
1709 Nicholas Cremer
1848 William Holland

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £2,258 rental value
1891 £2,332 rateable value
1912 £1,848 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Lord Huntingfield principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1674 William Gwavis

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 husbandman
1550–1599 1 yeoman
1600–1649 4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 carpenter
1650–1699 7 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 carpenter, 1 cordwinder, 1 tailor
1831 75 in agriculture, 14 in retail trade, 1 professional, 20 in domestic service, 4 others.
1844 Steward, wheelwright/victualer, corn miller, shopkeeper, tailor, blacksmith, boot/shoemaker, plumber/glazier, 8 farmers.
1912 Sub-postmaster, school teacher, 7 farmers, publican, miller, fruit grower, blacksmith, tailor/outfitter, grocer,

carrier, 2 farm bailiffs, thatcher, estate carpenter, wheelwright, shoemaker.

19. Education:

1725 Bequest of £4 pa from Berry Snelling Charity for education.
1818 1 endowed school (6 taught free)
1833 Endowment discontinued.
1849 National school built, 68 attend in 1891, enlarged in 1870, average attendance of 46 in 1912.

20. Poor relief:

1776 £125 18s. 10d.
1803 £251 10s. 6¹/₄d.
1818 £582 10s.
1830 £503 10s.
1832 £551 12s.
1834 £649 19s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 7 houses + 8 acres let at £24 15s. pa, 6 acres 2R let at £15 pa, applied to repairs to church and houses occupied by poor, residue to churchwardens account.

Snellings Charity:

c.17th cent. £4 pa bequeathed by Mr Berry/Bury Snelling for support of education of poor children.

Vanneck Trust:

No information found.

22. Other institutions:

1803 1 Friendly Society (39 members)

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Huntingfield Arms public house

24. Personal:

1752 Vanneck family: Lords Huntingfield. Wealthy Dutch family who bought Heveningham Hall.
1777 Sir Joshua Vanneck died, and

1796 his son was created Baron Huntingfield.

1676–1741 William Gwavas, born Huntingfield Hall, writer in Cornish, remains of which are preserved in British Museum.

25. Other information:

Heveningham Park extends into parish. Queen Elizabeth I visited the Hall sometime between 1559 and 1596. William Carey, Lord of manor, was her cousin. Queen Elizabeth's Oak, alleged vantage point used by Queen Elizabeth I while on deer hunt when staying at Heveningham Hall. Trunk was 11 yards in circumference and 7' high 1782 (CRN 6789). Hall taken down in the 18th cent.

1830 Arson attack associated with the Swing Riots.