

# 1. Parish: South Cove

**Meaning:** Southern cover or harbour

2. **Hundred:** Blything

**Deanery:** Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (North) (1868–1914), North Dunwich (1914–1972), Waveney DC (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  
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,212 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion
  - b. Some deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding by river

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep corn region, where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, turnips
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are main cash crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots

6. **Enclosure:**

1799 169 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1797

7. **Settlement:**

1958/76 Very small compact development around church in Northern sector of parish. Secondary settlement at Cove

Bottom. Marshland occupies southern sector and heath  
land the eastern sector.  
Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 13, 1801 – 23, 1851 – 39, 1871 – 35, 1901  
– 33, 1951 – 34, 1981 – 11

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Reydon, Frostenden, Wangford and Covehithe  
1891 Carriers pass through to Lowestoft daily  
Carriers pass through to Yarmouth Friday

**Rail:** 1891 3½ miles Southwold Station: Southwold–Halesworth  
line, opened 1879, closed 1929

**9. Population:**

1086 – 12 recorded  
1327 – 19 taxpayers paid £1 0s. 10d.  
1524 – 18 taxpayers paid £1 11s. 3d.  
1603 – 55 adults  
1674 – 16 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 131 inhabitants  
1831 – 183 inhabitants  
1851 – 194 inhabitants  
1871 – 170 inhabitants  
1901 – 158 inhabitants  
1931 – 146 inhabitants  
1951 – 96 inhabitants  
1971 – 40 inhabitants  
1981 – 35 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £3 6s. 8d.  
1291 Valued £8.  
Portion of Rumburgh 6s. 8d.  
£8 6s. 8d.  
1535 Valued £6 2s. 11d.  
1831 Curate, stipend £60. glebe house. Gross income £275  
p.a.  
Incumbent also holds Rectory of Toppesfield, Essex.  
1844 Tithes commuted for £267. 10s. p.a. exclusive of £2 10s.  
on the glebe.  
1891 New rectory house built 1880, 10 acres glebe.  
1912 Nett value £130. 9¼ acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:**

The King (1603), Sir Thomas Gooch (1831), Sir A.S. Gooch (1891), T.V.S. Gooch (1912)

- 11. Church      St. Lawrence (thatched)**  
(Chancel, continuous nave, south porch, west tower)
- Norman      North wall and doorway. Some masonry on south side and south doorway
- 14<sup>th</sup> cent.      Chancel extended
- 15<sup>th</sup> cent.      Windows in nave. tower
- 1643/44      Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed 42 superstitious pictures in glass, 20 cherubim and the steps where “digged down”
- 1877      Chancel restored
- 1880      S. porch rebuilt, nave repaired

**Seats:**                      120 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

**South Cove with North Hales**

1307      John de Cove owns (linked to Thorington and Covehithe)

15<sup>th</sup> cent.      Sir Brian Stapleton owns (linked to Denham)

1457      William Calthorpe owns

1686      Sir Charles Blois owns (linked to Westleton and Swilland)

1909      Sir Ralph B.M. Blois owns (linked to Yoxford and Blyhtburgh)

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844      £814 rental value

1891      £1,146 rateable value

1912      £866 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844      Sir T.S. Gooch, principle owner

1891      Sir A.S. Gooch, principle owner

1912      Sir T.V.S. Gooch, principle owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1891/1912 Rev. G.M. Norris MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 husbandman  
1550–1599 3 yeomen, 5 husbandmen  
1600–1649 11 yeomen, 6 husbandmen  
1650–1699 10 yeomen  
1831 42 in agriculture, 3 in retail trade, 7 in domestic service  
1844 Victualler, 8 farmers  
1912 Publican, brick makers, 4 farmers, gamekeeper

**19. Education:**

1833 1 Sunday school established 1829 (12 attend)  
1912 Children attend school at Wrentham

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £13 0s. 9d.  
1803 £26 0s. 3d.  
1818 £51 4s.  
1830 £109 1s.  
1832 £122 11s.  
1834 £115 2s.

**21. Charities:**

**Poors Allotments/Gisleham's Dole:**

1840 12 acres let at £13 10s. + dole of 3s. 4d. for distribution in coals

**22. Other institutions:**

Guild of St. Gregory in the church 1482  
Common house to be built for the guilds and others to hold "potations" 1485

**23. Recreation:**

1844–1912 The Five Bells public house

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**