

1. Parish: South Elmham St. Margaret

Meaning: Village where elms grew (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Wangford

Deanery: South Elmham (-1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1972-)

Union: Wangford

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Wangford RD (1894-1935), Wainford RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Bungay Petty Sessional Division
Harleston County Court District

3. Area: 595 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

- 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	South Elmham:	Wood for 80 pigs, 30 pigs, 1 mill. A community of individualists who depend hardly at all on their neighbours in their day to day farming activities.
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region. Mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pigs 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:	Wheat, barley, beans.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1961 Ribbon type development scattered along South Elmham Sancroft to South Elmham All Saints road at junction with road to Flixton. Settlement possibly influenced by the Beck which flows north of the present village.
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 18, 1801 – 22, 1851 – 31, 1871 – 33, 1901 – 29, 1951 – 37, 1981 – 38

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Flixton, South Elmham Sancroft and South Elmham All Saints road and at junction with road to Flixton. Settlement possibly influenced by the Beck, which flows north of the present village.
Scattered farms.

Rail: 1891 2½ miles Homersfield station: Tivetshall – Lowestoft line, opened (1860), closed (1964).

9. Population:

1086 — South Elmham: 119 recorded
1327 — South Elmham: 133 taxpayers paid £12. 15s. 4d.
1524 — 18 taxpayers paid £4. 15s. 4d.
1603 — 65 adults
1674 — 28 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 186 inhabitants
1831 — 169 inhabitants
1851 — 182 inhabitants
1871 — 143 inhabitants
1901 — 121 inhabitants
1931 — 78 inhabitants
1951 — 126 inhabitants
1971 — 105 inhabitants
1981 — 100 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (with South Elmham St. Peter)

1254 Value not recorded
1291 Valued £4. 13s. 4d.
Consolidated with Elmham St. Nicholas (1362).
1535 Valued £6. 2s. 11d.
Consolidated with Elmham St. Peter (1734)

- 1831 2 curates, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation, Gross income £296. Rectory house built, ½ acre (1834). Tithes commuted for £136. Yearly payments of £2. 2s. to Dean and Chapter of Norwich, £1. 8s. to Sir Robert Adair and 10s. 6d. to Lord Berners (1855).
- 1912 Joint nett value £210. 93 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Bishop of Norwich (1309/1420 and 1433/1504), The Crown (1425), Vicar-general (1426), Lord North (1545-1599), George Gooch (1631), Robert Woolmer (1679), Thomas Baxter (1684), William and Jane Clayton (1717), Danial Sayer (1732), Grace Britten (1753), Alexander Adair (1802-1833), Sir F.E.S. Adair (1912).

11. Church St. Margaret
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. door)

Norman S. doorway
14th cent. W. tower and N. chapel
1875 Restoration, particularly to chancel roof.

Note: In porch: Village stocks and holy water stoup
Chamber above holds old barrel organ.
By pulpit: Old hour glass stand.

Seats: 180 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

South Elmham:

Manor extended over 9 parishes called the liberty, manor or township of South Elmham.

Circa 680AD Granted to Felix the Burgundian by Sigebert, King of the East Angles.

1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Godric the Steward under patronage of Ralph the Constable.

1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford.

1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Alwin.

1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Bondi.

1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford, in the hands of a freeman under patronage of Stigand.

1086	Manor of 30 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Alwy under patronage of Edric of Laxfield.
1101	See of Norwich owns.
1535	Seized by the Crown and granted to Sir Edward North.
1613	Tasburgh family owns (linked to Flixton).
1787	Adair family owns (linked to Cratfield).

Sub-Manors:

New Hall

15 th cent.	Robert Bateman of Flixton owns.
1583	Tasburgh family owns (absorbed by main manor).

Kings Hall

1558	Alice Wentworth owns.
1599	Berdwell family owns.

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£705 rental value
1891	£750 rateable value
1912	£534 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Adair family, principle owners.

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

South Elmham Manor:	350,000 Breketylls (bricks) were being made and sent to Hoxne (1464/65), 'Suffolk Landscape' by N. Scarfe p.182.
1550–1599	South Elmham: 4 yeomen, 6 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 1 wheelwright, 2 labourers.
1600-1699	5 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 2 tailors, 1 clerk South Elmham: 22 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 husbandmen, 1 wheelwright, 1 butcher, 1 linen weaver, 1 clerk.
1831	34 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 8 in domestic service, 9 others.
1844	2 shoemakers, 1 joiner, 10 farmers.
1912	1 sub-postmistress 1 farm bailiff, 9 farmers, 1 carpenter, 1 shopkeeper.

19. Education:

1818 School supported by Mr. Adair (all poor children admitted)
1833 No school recorded.
Schoolhouse built (1872), maintained by government grant and children's weekly pence.
1912 Children attend school at South Elmham All Saints.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£42. 16s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£87. 6s. 4d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£475. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£259. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£272. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£243. 6s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate: 17th cent. House and 50 acres originally used to discharge taxes.
1828 Yearly sums from rents - £1. 10s.
Above house and 50 acres let at £65 p.a. applied to Churchwardens office, residue to overseers of the poor.

Town House: No date 1 cottage originally appropriated to repairs to highways, footpaths and church paths.
1828 Let at £1. 10s. p.a. applied to Town Estate.

22. Other institutions:

1937 Guild of St. Margaret and the Image of St. Thomas (no dates).
Police Station

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

'The Tasburghs of South Elmham: The Rise and Fall of a Suffolk Gentry Family' by N. Evans. PSIA Vol.34 p.269.

25. Other information:

'Present State of Elmham Controversy' by F.S Stevenson. PSIA Vol. III p.110.
'On the site of the Bishopric of Elmham'. PSIA Vol. IV p.7.

Bishop of Norwich had palace in the area, suggested that moated ruins in St. Margarets parish could be remains of this. St. Margarets Hall said to be late Bishop's residence. William Bateman (Bishop of Norwich) said to have lived in palace at St. Margarets (1343). Elmham Hall much decayed (1651).

Archaeological Sites

Med. moated sites (CRN 885, 886)

Pmed farmstead (CRN 1246)

Pmed house (CRN 1266, 2220, 3292)

Pmed enclosure (CRN 3293)

Med. mill mound (CRN 4601)

Med. green (CRN 5081)

Stray finds: Neo. Axe (CRN 889)

Worked flint (CRN 1531)

Med. seal (CRN 1732)

Scatter finds: I.A. pottery (CRN 887, 2814)

Un. Burnt flint patch (CRN 888, 2219)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 2808, 2811, 2815, 1960, 1963, 2218)

Sax. Pottery (CRN 2812, 1962, 1964)

Med. pottery (CRN 2810, 2813, 1961, 1965, 2217, 3291)