

1. Parish: South Elmham St. Michael

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:

Two main centres of settlement: a) St. Michael's Green; and b) along road from South Elmham All Saints and scattered along road from South Elmham St. Peters to Ilketshall St. Lawrence. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 11, 1801 – 14, 1851 – 28, 1871 – 30, 1901 – 21, 1951 – 20, 1981 – 18

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Ilketshall St Lawrence, South Elmham All Saints, South Elmham St. Peters and Flixton.
Roads unsafe for travelling and practically impassable for several months of the year (18th cent.).

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. 9d.
1524 — 6 taxpayers paid £4. 2s.
1603 — 27 adults
1674 — 17 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 107 inhabitants
1831 — 147 inhabitants
1851 — 150 inhabitants
1871 — 139 inhabitants
1901 — 84 inhabitants
1931 — 97 inhabitants
1951 — 68 inhabitants
1971 — 50 inhabitants
1981 — 51 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Rumburgh)

1254 Not recorded
1291 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £4. 7s. 11d.
Rectory valued at £4. 18s. 9d. (1555)
Consolidated with Rumburgh as perpetual curacy (1805)
1831 No glebe house. Joint gross income £130 p.a.
1912 Joint nett value £65. 66 acres glebe.

Patrons: L. Atthill (1831)

11. Church **St. Michael**
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

Norman South doorway
Circa 1375 Main structure
16th cent. Timber porch

Seats: 120 (1915)

11a. Other religious information:

‘South Elmham Deanery’ by V.B. Redstone. PSIA Vol.XIV p.323.
Secular College: Theory is that the group of churches within the
South Elmhams may have formed a religious
centre.

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

15th 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 £924 rental value
1891 £937 rateable value
1912 £578 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 1 carpenter, 1 yeoman
South Elmham: 22 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 husbandmen, 1 wheelwright, 1 butcher, 1 linen weaver, 1 clerk.
1831 22 in agriculture, 14 in retail trade, 8 in domestic service, 1 other
1844 1 victualler, 1 blacksmith, 1 boot/shoemaker, 2 millers, 1 shopkeeper, 6 farmers
1912 1 miller, 6 farmers, 1 publican, 1 grocer

19. Education:

1818 Children can attend day school at South Elmham All Saints or Sunday school at Rumburgh.
1912 Children attend school at Rumburgh.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£11. 9s. 3d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£28. 11s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£47.	spent on poor relief
1830	£141. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£169. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£100. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate: 1828 Yearly sums from rents – 18s.

Town Land: 1828 2 acres 1R appropriated from ancient times let at £3. 5s. p.a. applied to church and poor rate.

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844-1912 The Jolly Farmers public house

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. Elmham Hall much decayed (1651).

Archaeological Sites

Med. toft (CRN 892)

Med. moated site (CRN 893)

PMed house (CRN 7609)

Church of St. Michael (CRN 7610)

Med. Green (CRN 7611)

PMed farmstead (CRN 7616)

PMed building (CRN 7983)

Scatter finds: Med. Pottery (CRN 890-, 891, 894, 7601, 7603, 7605, 7606, 7608, 7612, 7614, 7617, 7978, 7979, 7980, 7981, 7982).

Rom. Pottery (CRN7602, 7604, 7615)

PMed Pottery (7607)
Burnt flint patch (CRN 7613)