

1. Parish: Spexall

Meaning: Suggested: valley with brushwood (not given in Ekwall)

County: Suffolk

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (North)(1968–1914), 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 change, 1885 and 1934, gains detached part of Halesworth.

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,793 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

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

5. Types of farming:

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 as preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crop:	Wheat, barley, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1875/82 Length of Roman road crosses parish north to south (Illketshall St. Lawrence to Halesworth). Main area of development is at

Stone Street, on the main Halesworth Road. Small development around Church called Spexhall. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 16, 1801 – 17, 1851 – 34, 1871 – 25, 1901 – 45, 1951 – 61, 1981 – 68.

8. Communications:

Road: To Illketshall St Lawrence, Halesworth, Wissett and Westhall. Main Halesworth Road former Roman road.

Rail: 1891 2 miles Halesworth station: East Suffolk line opened 1854, closed for goods 1964.
Southwold–Halesworth line opened 1879, closed 1929.
Halesworth–Beccles–Haddiscoe line opened 1854, closed 1959.

9. Population:

1086 – Not recorded
Domesday vill of Stone Street: 3 recorded
1327 – 48 taxpayers paid £4 11s. 7d. (includes Holton, Wissett and Rumburgh)
1524 – 11 taxpayers paid £1
1603 – 80 adults
1674 – 16 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 140 inhabitants
1831 – 197 inhabitants
1851 – 196 inhabitants
1871 – 203 inhabitants
1901 – 195 inhabitants
1931 – 220 inhabitants
1951 – 216 inhabitants
1971 – 183 inhabitants
1981 – 198 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £13 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £14
Portion of Rumburgh £1 £15 0s. 0d.
1535 Valued £14
1650 Valued £100
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £283 pa
1844 45 acres glebe. Modus of £297 15s. 0d. in lieu of tithes.
1912 Nett value £36. 45 acres glebe and residence.
Incumbent also holds Wissett.

Patrons: The King (1603), The Crown (1831), Lord Chancellor (1891), Lord Chancellor and Church Patronage Society (1912)

- 11. Church St Peter**
 (Chancel, nave, south porch, west tower)
- | | |
|---------|--|
| Saxon | Tower |
| Norman | North doorway |
| 1250 | Chancel rebuilt |
| 1450 | Nave walls raised |
| 1713 | East wall rebuilt |
| 1720 | Round tower fell in |
| 1877 | Thorough restoration |
| 1910–11 | Remains removed and new tower built. General restoration |
- Seats: 120 (1915)

- 12. Nonconformity etc:**
- 1597 Rector does not usually wear the surplice.

13. Manorial:

Spexhall Manor

- 1288 John de Vallibus died seised (linked to Parham, Rumburgh, Walpole, Wenhaston, Wissett, Shottisham, Bramfield, Wenham Parva and Covehithe).
- c.1317 William de Roose owns
- No dates Sir John Swillington owns.
 Further information is limited.

Sub-Manors

Banyards

- 1422 Richard Baynard owns
- 16th cent. Thetford Prior owns.
 It would appear that this manor became split into 2 portions although the information is confused.

Burghard's Manor

- No dates Henry Banyard owns
- 1546 Roger Bell owns
- 1596 Paul Bannynge held as of the manor of Wissett (linked to Rumburgh, Laxfield).

Supposed Manor of Rivet

- 1513/14 Roger Townsend owns (linked to Bramton)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£1,468 rental value
1891	£1,981 rateable value
1912	£1,643 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	3 husbandmen
1550–1599	1 husbandman, 2 yeomen
1600–1649	1 cooper, 7 yeomen
1650–1699	1 linen weaver, 5 yeomen, 1 spinster, 1 clerk
1831	31 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 1 professional, 19 in domestic service, 12 others.
1844	Victualler, blacksmith, 11 farmers.
1912	9 farmers, farm bailiff, blacksmith, publican.

19. Education:

1597	Schoolmaster teaches school in parish
1833	1 daily school established 1823, 6 girls attend.
1891	Children attend the Illketshall St Lawrence Board School established 1875.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£63 16s. 1d.
1803	£125 15s. 6d.
1818	£288 10s.
1830	£193 14s.
1832	£241 18s.
1834	£171

21. Charities:

Poors Land

1840 5 acres in Holton let at £7 10s. to poor relief.

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844 The Huntsman and Hounds public house
1891 The Huntsman and Hounds and The Chequers public
houses.
1912 The Huntsman and Hounds public house.

24. Personal:

1908 Rider Haggard, author of 'She', owned the Hall.

25. Other information:

Spexhall Manor House: refronted and enlarged in 1888, half timbered on east side, moated on 2 sides.
'Spexhall 1309', East Anglian Miscellany (1929), p.65 and 1930, p.2.
Regarding theft of bed valued 2s