

# 1. Parish: Walpole

**Meaning:** Pool of the Welsh

**2. Hundred:** Blything

**Deanery:** Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (South) (1868–1914), S. Dunwich (1914–1972), Halesworth (1972–)

**Union:** Blything

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

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division  
Halesworth County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,675 acres (1917)

**4. Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk of water erosion.
  - b. Slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, some calcareous clay and fine loams over clay soils.
  - c. Some deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding by river.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		6 acres meadow, wood for 30 pigs
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 crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, peas, roots.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1975/82 River Blyth forms natural boundary to north. Small compact development close to boundary with Cookley at Walpole Bridge. Church centrally situated. Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 –39 , 1801 – 62, 1851 – 136, 1871 – 104, 1901 – 89, 1951 – 80, 1981 – 75.

**8. Communications:**

Road: To Cookley, Huntingfield, Heveningham, Sibton, Bramfield and Wenhaston.

Rail: 1891 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles Halesworth station: Southwold–Halesworth line opened 1879, closed 1929.  
East Suffolk line opened 1854, closed for goods 1964.  
Halesworth–Beccles–Haddiscoe line opened 1854, closed 1959.

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

**9. Population:**

1086 – 29 recorded  
1327 – 38 taxpayers paid £2 18s. 5d. (includes Cookley and Sibton)  
1524 – 23 taxpayers paid £3 5s. 8d.  
1603 – 126 adults  
1674 – 45 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 494 inhabitants  
1831 – 658 inhabitants  
1851 – 563 inhabitants  
1871 – 426 inhabitants  
1901 – 348 inhabitants  
1931 – 307 inhabitants  
1951 – 267 inhabitants  
1971 – 224 inhabitants  
1981 – 218 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831, Rectory (1844), Vicarage (1912)**

Anciently appropriated to Nuns of Redlingfield.  
1254 Valued £8  
1291 Portion of Blythburgh in church of Walpole 4s.  
1535 Church of Walple (annexed to Sibton Monastery) valued 2s.  
1597 Parsonage house decayed in thatching  
1603 Curate, stipend £9  
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £82 pa.  
1844 Whole parish tithies free except for modus of £40 pa  
1882 Present vicarage purchased  
1891 Valued £100. 31 acres glebe.  
1912 Nett value £98. 32 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Rev. B. Philpot (1831), Church Patronage Society (1891)

**11. Church**      **St Mary**  
(Chancel, nave, N aisle, S porch, W tower)

1086      Church + 16 acres land and ½ acre meadow, valued 12d.  
Saxon      Quoins of nave and buttresses of chancel  
Norman      S doorway and holy water stoup.  
14<sup>th</sup> cent.      Note: suggested chancel may have been apsidal  
1878      Porch  
                Extensive restoration and rebuilding including tower. N  
                aisle added.  
                Note: Font came from St Andrews, Norwich c.1878.  
                Hanging lamps replaced candles in 1906.

**Seats:**                      160 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Independent Congregational church built in 1607, adapted to use in  
1647, enlarged c.1698.  
'Walpole (with photographs)' in *History of Congregationalism in Suffolk*,  
by T.J. Hospen (1920), p.171  
Chapel believed to be one of the oldest in the country.  
Primitive Methodist chapel built in 1865.

**13. Manorial:**

**Walpole Manor**

1288      John de Vallibus died seised (Linked to Parham,  
Rumburch, Spexhall, Wenhaston, Wissett, Shottisham,  
Bramfield, Wenham Parva and Covehithe).  
1311      Walter de Norwich (linked to Mells, Herringswell,  
Bredfield, Dallinghoo, Mendham, Bramfield and Dalham).  
1374      Sir Robert Carbonell owns (linked to Ubbeston, Henham  
and Heveningham).  
1453      Sir John Heveningham died seised (linked to Ubbeston,  
Henham and Heveningham).  
1909      Lord Huntingfield owns (linked to Sibton and Westleton).

**Sub-manors**

**Chicering**

13<sup>th</sup> cent.      William de Royng owns  
16<sup>th</sup> cent.      William de la Pole granted manor to the Chantry and  
                College of Wingfield (linked to numerous manors  
                throughout Suffolk).  
c.1544      William Whyting owns

1591 Sir Arthur Heveningham owns (probably absorbed by main manor) (linked to Carlton Colville).

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £1,927 rental value  
1891 £1,728 rateable value  
1912 £1,292 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 Land sub-divided  
1912 Lord Huntingfield and Miss Tatlock principal owners.

**17. Resident gentry:**

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 smith  
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 2 husbandmen  
1600–1649 8 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 turner, 1 miller 1 butcher, 1 carpenter, 1 weaver.  
1650–1699 12 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 miller, 1 butcher, 1 clerk.  
1831 98 in agriculture, 34 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 17 in domestic service.  
1844 2 tailors, wheelwright, bricklayer, 2 corn millers, vet, basket maker, saddler, 2 school teachers, thatcher, surveyor/postman, joiner, mole catcher, gardener/beerhouse keeper, butcher/ victualler, 2 blacksmiths, 3 boot/shoemakers, 14 farmers, 3 grocer/drapers, baker.  
1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, wheelwright, 9 farmers, miller, 2 farm bailiffs, poulterer, shopkeeper, blacksmith, publican, grocer/drapper, market gardener, beer retailer, poulterer, vermin destroyer, rat and mole destroyer, cycle agent.

**19. Education:**

1701 Endowment by Thomas Neale for schooling of 5 poor children  
1818 1 endowed school, 4 day schools (67 attend)  
1823 National school built  
1833 1 endowed school (5 attend), 2 daily schools (37 attend), 1 established church Sunday school (20–30 attend), 1 Independent Sunday school (55 attend).  
1891/1912 Children attend school at Cookley.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£84 19s. 3d.
1803	£175 16s. 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d.
1818	£392 19s.
1830	£440 15s.
1832	£810 11s.
1834	£699 19s.

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate**

1840	Old Town house and lands let at 7s. 6d. pa. 1 acre, called the Clink, let at £1 pa 3 acres let at £7 1s. pa. Rents applied with church rate.
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**Neale's Charity**

1701	by will of Thomas Neale: £2 10s. pa for education and provision of Bibles.
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**22. Other institutions:**

1776	Walpole Workhouse (6 inmates)
1891	Police station in existence.
1904	St Mary's Mission Room opened, seats 120.

**23. Recreation:**

1844/1912	1 beerhouse/retailer, The Bell public house
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**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

1613	The Elms: pargetting is partly original and partly of 1708.
1830s	Case of agrarian unrest due to Swing Riots.
	'Walpole Old Chapel – A 17 <sup>th</sup> century Meeting House', by I.E. Moore. PSIA Newsletter No 17 (1983) p.7. Reputedly the oldest surviving non-conformist meeting house in England. Photograph of interior in 'History of Suffolk', by D. Dymond and P. Northeast opposite p.80.