

1. Parish: Wangford

Meaning: Ford by the open fields

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (North)(1868–1914), N. Dunwich (1914–1972), Halesworth (1972–)

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Blything RD (1894–1934), Lothingland RD (1934–1974), Waveney DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Included chapelry of Henham (–1866) when it gained civil parish status.

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. Area: 897 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a) Deep well drained sandy coarse loam soils, some with slowly permeable sub-soils and slight seasonal waterlogging, 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:

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|-----------|-------------|---|
| 1086 | | Wood-for 60 pigs, 2 acres meadow, 1 mill, formerly 1 salthouse, 17 cattle, 17 pigs, 80 sheep, 8 goats, 3 beehives |
| 1500–1640 | Thirsk: | Sheep-corn region1 sheep 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, beans1 peas, roots |
| 1969 | Trist: | Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots |

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1975 River Wang forms natural boundary to west,
Wetlands, sand and gravel pit and Wangford Common
occupies southern sector,
Small compact development around central church.
Secondary settlement at Barnaby Green.
Few scattered farms
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 27, 1801 – 53, 1851 – 154,
1871 – 147, 1901 – 130, 1951 – 144,
1981 – 173

8. Communications:

Road: To Frostenden, Uggeshall, Henham and Reydon
1844 Coaches to Yarmouth and Ipswich daily
Carriers to Norwich Tuesday and Friday
to Halesworth Tuesday
to Saxmundham Friday
1912 Carrier from Southwold to Blythburgh passes through
daily

Rail: 1891 3½ miles Southwold station: Southwold-Halesworth line,
opened 1879, closed 1929

Water: River Blyth: navigable to Halesworth 1761 silted up

9. Population:

1086 — 29 recorded
1327 — Not recorded
1524 — 36 taxpayers paid £2. 19s. 6d.
1603 — 200 adults
1674 — 38 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 477 inhabitants
1831 — 636 inhabitants
1851 — 713 inhabitants
1871 — 647 inhabitants
1901 — 576 inhabitants
1931 — 491 inhabitants
1951 — 457 inhabitants
1971 — 464 inhabitants
1981 — 450 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (with Henham) 1831,
Vicarage 1891**

1254 Valued £10

| | |
|------|--|
| 1291 | Valued £10 13s. 1d. Portion of Norwich £2 13s. 4d. £13 6s. 8d. |
| 1535 | Valued £8 |
| 1650 | With Henham. Curate has his 'diet' housekeeping and £20 Consolidated with Henham (no dates) |
| 1831 | No glebe house. Joint gross income £79 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Thorpe-by-Hadiscoe, Norfolk Tithes, not belonging to Earl of Stradbroke, commuted for £93 p.a. (1840) |
| 1891 | Valued £36 p.a. Incumbent also holds Reydon. 3 acres globe |
| 1912 | Consolidated with Henham and Reydon. Joint nett value £175. 12 acres glebe and residence. |

Patrons: Sir John Rous 1650, Earl of Stradbroke 1831 and 1912

11. Church St. Peter

(Chancel, N vestry, N aisle, N porch, tower on N side of chancel)

Church was formerly attached to Wangford Priory. Joined to S. side.

| | |
|------------|--|
| c.1370 | Aisles, porch, nave, S wall |
| 15th cent. | Windows in nave and aisles |
| 1643/4 | Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 16 superstitious pictures |
| 1863 | Nave restored and altered |
| 1865 | Considerable restoration and alteration |
| 1875 | Tower and chancel + vestry added |
| c.1982 | Restorations |

NOTE: Pulpit and Readers desk made from 17th cent. woodwork from Henham Hall

Seats: 520 (1912)

11a. Other religious institutions

Priory: **St. Mary alias St. Peter and St. Paul**
also known as St. Peters, Reydon (being formerly in that parish)

for Cluniac Monks

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| c.1160 | believed founded as cell of Thetford Priory by Doudo Asini or alternatively as alien priory to Abbey of Cluni |
| 14 th cent. | Consisted of Prior and 2/3 monks Used parish church Slight traces of foundations to S of church |

Sources also give it as: possibly founded by Ansered of France

| | |
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| 1159 | Confirmed to Thetford |
| 1535 | Valued £30 |

1540 Dissolved
'The Priory of Wangford'. Victoria County History Vol.11 p.88

12. Nonconformity etc:

Primitive Methodist chapel built 1827
Independent/Congregational chapel built 1831, not recorded 1891

13. Manorial:

Wangford Manor

1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Thored
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Ralph Baynard and held by Anbold
c.1160 Dondo/Dodo Assini Dapifer granted manor to Wangford Priory
1540 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1652 Sir John Rout died seised (linked to Uggeshall and Mutford)
1909 Earl of Stradbroke owns (linked to Reydon, Sotherton, Stoven, Uggeshall, Henham, Dennington, Tannington and Bruisyard)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £1,230 rental value
1891 £1,819 rateable value
1912 £1,544 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Earl of Stradbroke, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1891 E R Blackett, MD, JP, and Rev J A Patrick MA
1912 Rev J A Patrick MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 3 husbandmen, 1 tailor
1550–1599 3 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 1 miller
1600–1649 6 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 1 linen weaver
1650–1699 7 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 3 cordwainers, 1 tailor, 1 inn holder, 1 grocer, 1 blacksmith
1831 70 in agriculture, 75 in retail trade, 12 professionals, 1 in labouring, 19 in domestic service, 1 other
1844 2 tailors, 5 victuallers, vet, baker, plumber/glazier/painter, 2 beerhouse keepers, pork butcher, 2 surgeons,

1912 bricklayers, grocer/draper, butcher, glover, wheelwright, timber merchant, saddler, yeoman, corn miller, grocer/draper, school teacher, 3 blacksmiths, 5 boot/shoemakers, 3 farmers, maltster
 Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, police officer, surgeon, 3 hotel owners, butcher, 2 grocers, rate collector, shoemaker, 2 bakers, pork butcher, saddler, smith, registrar, boot repairer, 2 farmers, harness maker, 3 shopkeepers, 3 beer retailers, hairdresser, cycle agent, butcher, wheelwright, miller, refreshment rooms owner, stationer, thatcher, market gardener, artificial manure agent, tailor

19. Education:

1818 1 day school (30 attend), 1 boarding school (6 attend), 1 Sunday school (40-50 attend)
 1833 5 daily schools supported by Countess of Stradbroke (160 attend, 20 assisted places)
 1844 Day and boarding school in existence
 1891 Children attend school at Henham (140 attend)
 Public Elementary school built 1859 by Earl of Stradbroke, average attendance in 1912 of 150

20. Poor relief:

1776 £ 38 0s. 8d. spent on poor relief
 1803 £ 78 18s. 11d.
 1818 £100 19s.
 1830 £198.14s
 1832 £222 16s
 1834 £216 5s

21. Charities:

Doles: 1840 Rent-charge of £5 distributed among poor £1 (by will of Matthew Walters 1589) for the poor - not made since 1783

22. Other institutions:

Guilds of St. Peter and St. George 1458 and St. John Baptist c.1468, Guild of the Virgin 1460
 1803 Friendly Society (60 members)
 1844 Petty Sessions held at Angel Inn first Wednesday of every month
 Town House in existence, occupied rent free by poor widows
 1891 Police officer recorded

23. Recreation:

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| 1689 | Inn holder recorded |
| 1844 | The Swan, The Red Lion and The Angel public houses 2 beerhouses |
| 1891 | The Lion, The Angel and The Swan public houses 3 beerhouses |
| 1912 | The Angel Hotel and The Lion Hotel 3 beer retailers and 1 refreshment rooms |

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Wangford, Henham and Reydon Parochial Magazines Sept. and Nov. 1887
bound within the Raven Pamphlets Vol .20

'The Lost Arcade at Wangford'. East Anglian Notes and Queries New Series
Vol. V p.299

Wangford Green was open common land –1817

Small bridge (west end of town) built 1843