

1. Parish: Wickham

Meaning: Dwelling place/manor with a racecourse (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (-1897), Hartismere (South)(1897-1931), S. Hartismere (1931-1972), Stowmarket (1972-)

Union: Hartismere

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hartismere R.D. (-1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1883)
Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. Area: 1,783 acres (Fertile and well wooded)(1912)

4. Soils: Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoil.
Subject to seasonal waterlogging

5. Types of farming:

1086		Wood for 44 pigs, 14 pigs, cattle, 33 sheep
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, sugar beet
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Four main centres of occupation: a) Church and Wickham Hall, b) Wickham Green, c) Wickham Street) and d) Daisy Green
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 37, 1801 – 60, 1851 – 121, 1871 – 125,
1901 – 95, 1951 – 103, 1981 – 94

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Mendlesham, Finningham and Thornham Magna
Rail: 1891 3 miles Finningham station: Ipswich – Norwich line,
opened (1849), station closed (1966)

9. Population:

1086 — 60 ½ recorded
1327 — 37 taxpayers paid £2. 2s. 5d
1524 — 31 taxpayers paid £3. 9s. 8d.
1603 — 150 adults
1674 — 52 households
1676 — 180 adults
1801 — 442 inhabitants
1831 — 556 inhabitants
1851 — 613 inhabitants
1871 — 555 inhabitants
1901 — 413 inhabitants
1931 — 373 inhabitants
1951 — 298 inhabitants
1971 — 266 inhabitants
1981 — 289 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £6. 13s. 4d
Goods of the Abbot of Colchester £10. 13s. 4d.
£17, 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £10
Vicar of the same £5 £15
1535 Valued £5. 8s. 1 ½ d.
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £125 p.a
Tithes commuted for £422. 3s. p.a. to the 9 impropiators
and £115. 6s. 1d. to the vicar (1839). 8 acres glebe
1912 Nett value £85. 8 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Executors of late T. Bond (1831), Incumbent (1855), Mrs.
Perrin (1912)

11. Church St Andrew

(Chancel, nave, N & S. porches, W. tower)

1086 Church + 12 acres land, valued 2s.
14th cent. Tower
15th cent. N. & S. porches, nave and chancel
1597 'The chauncell windows wante glasing'

1857 Restoration

Seats: 275

11a Other Religious Institutions:

Wickham Priory: Dedication unknown

Cell of Colchester Abbey

Circa 1135 Founded by manor of Wickham Skeith. Given to Colchester by Sir Robert de Sackville on condition 4 monks resided there to pray for his soul
Parish church used by monks
1542 Dissolved. Given to John Freston

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 'Rector dothe not Catechise the youthe as the Article requireth'
1676 2 papists, 6 nonconformists
Newly erected building set aside for worship (1819)
House set aside for worship (1827)
Wesleyan chapel (no dates)

13. Manorial:

Wickham Skeith Manor

1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Aelfled, a free woman, under patronage of Harold.
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou
1120 Robert de Sackville owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) Granted manor to Colchester Abbey
1542 Sir Richard Freston owns passing by marriage to Sir Nicholas Bacon (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1885 Henniker family owns (linked to Gislingham, Mellis, Stoke Ash and Thornham Magna)

Sub Manors:

Wickham Called Skeith's/Skeith Hall

1298 Robert de Ufford owns (linked to Ufford)
14th cent. John de Hemenhale owns (linked to Cotton)
1573 Richard Freston owns (absorbed by main manor)
16/17th cent. John Tirrell and Edward Cleere own passing to
1840 Castell Gerrard

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,293 rental value
1891	£2,479 rateable value
1912	£1,831 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1679	John Breme and John Hervey
1680	2 gentlemen

18. Occupations:

1500-1549	1 vicar
1550-1599	3 yeoman, 6 husbandmen, 1 pailmaker, 1 tailor, 1 blacksmith, 1 shearman (one who cuts woollen cloth, 1 vicar, 1 carpenter
1600-1649	5 yeoman, 1 linen weaver, 3 husbandmen, 1 curate, 1 labourer, 2 taliors, 1 blacksmith, 1 glover
1650-1699	5 yeoman, 1 linen weaver, 1 tailor, 1 cordwainer, 1 tailor, 1 spinster
1831	92 in agriculture, 24 in retail trade, 17 in domestic service
1844	Miller, victualler, wheelwright/blacksmith, shopkeeper, 9 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, publican, 2 carpenters, 9 farmers, blacksmith/miller, farm bailiff, grocer, 2 pork butchers, coal dealer, 2 shopkeepers, hawker, jobbing gardener, bricklayer, blacksmith

19. Education:

1818	Sunday school has been discontinued
1833	1 daily school (20/30 attend)
	National school built (1844), enlarged (1873), 90 attend (1891)
	School Board established (1877)
	Public Elementary school built, average attendance (1912) 75
	School Council of 5 members formed (1903)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£51. 7s. 6d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£328. 14s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£925. 7a.	spent on poor relief

1830	£552. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£530. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£487. 15s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 2 cottages occupied by poorhouse, outbuildings, 15 acres OR 39P in Brockford let at £20 p.a. applied to church and poor rate

22. Other institutions:

1464	Guild of St John the Baptist
1803	Friendly Society (23 members)

23. Recreation:

1844-1912	The Swan public house
-----------	-----------------------

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Village Hall built of fetes etc. (1909)

Archaeological Sites:

Med. priory (CRN 5516)

Stray finds: Rom. pottery (CRN 5517)

Scatter finds: Sax. coin (CRN 5515)
Rom. pottery (CRN 7298)