

1. Parish: Wingfield

Meaning: Field of Wiga's people or Temple field

2. Hundred: Hoxne

Deanery: Hoxne

Union: Hoxne (1835–1907), Hartismere (1907–1930)

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hoxne RD (1894–1934), Hartismere RD (1934–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Hoxne Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. Area: 2,495 acres (1912)

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

5. Types of farming:

1086		15 acres meadow, wood for 150 pigs, 1 cob, 1 cattle, 20 pigs, 20 sheep, 2 beehives
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 production.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

Licence to enclose and impark all woods and lands belonging to Wingfield Manor c.1383.

7. Settlement:

1984 Small well spaced development stretching from the castle to the church and college. Secondary settlement at Wingfield Green and the Syleham Road.

Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 57, 1801 – 69, 1851 – 133, 1871 – 125, 1901 – 95, 1951 – 113, 1981 – 109

8. Communications:

Road: To Syleham, Weybread, Fressingfield, Stradbroke and Hoxne.

Rail: 1891 4½ miles to Harleston station: Waveney Valley line, opened 1855/60, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1966.

9. Population:

1086 – 34 recorded (includes Domesday will of Chickering)
1327 – 77 taxpayers paid £7 14s. 3d. (includes Stradbroke)
1524 – 23 taxpayers paid £6 10s. 6d.
1603 – 221 adults
1674 – 76 households
1676 – not recorded
1801 – 521 inhabitants
1831 – 668 inhabitants
1851 – 654 inhabitants
1871 – 581 inhabitants
1901 – 387 inhabitants
1931 – 392 inhabitants
1951 – 404 inhabitants
1971 – 286 inhabitants
1981 – 303 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy 1831, Vicarage 1891

1254 Valued £8
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.
Portion of St Faiths 10s.
Portion of Wodebregg 2s. £11 5s. 4d.
1535 Valued £10
1603 Curate, stipend £10
1831 No glebe house, gross income £100 p.a.
Tithes commuted for £698 3s. 3d. p.a. 1840
1844 Augmented by Bishop of Norwich for value of £150 p.a.
200 acres of castle and college farms are tithe free
Parsonage house built 1848
1891 Valued £250 p.a. Augmented with 34 acres in Syleham
Tithes commuted for £700 1s. p.a. of which £298 0s. 9d.
is for the vicar
1912 Nett value £186 p.a. 35 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Bishop of Norwich (1831–)

- 11. Church St Andrew**
 (Chancel with chapels, nave, clerestory, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)
- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1086 | Church + 8 acres (in Chickering) |
| | Church + 24 acres, valued 4s. |
| 1362 | Collegiate church to College found by Sir John de Wingfield in the parish |
| 14 th cent | Tower and N chapel |
| 14/15 th cent. | Main structure |
| | Chancel lengthened 1430 |
| 1866/1879 | Restorations |
| 1880 | S. aisle renewed |
- Seats: 350 (1915)

Chickering: Chapel, site granted to William Boldero and Robert Parker 1545

11a. Other religious institutions:

Wingfield College

Virgin Mary, St John the Baptist and St Andrew

Secular Canons

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1362 | College for secular Canons built at SE corner of churchyard
3 poor boys supported by College
Provost, 3 priests, later 9 priests and 3 choristers |
| 1534 | Gross value £82 10s. 4d. p.a. |
| 1542 | Dissolved |

12. Nonconformity etc:

- | | |
|------|------------|
| 1603 | 1 recusant |
|------|------------|

13. Manorial:

Wingfield/Wingfield Castle

- | | |
|--------|--|
| c.1335 | Sir John Wingfield owns (said to have anciently been held by the Wingfield family) (linked to Fressingfield, Stradbroke and Syleham) |
| 1375 | Michael de la Pole owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) |
| 1538 | Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) |
| 1544 | Sir Henry Jerningham owns (linked to Syleham and Herringfleet) |
| 1625 | Richard Catelyn owns (linked to Woolverstone) |
| 1758 | Robert Leman owns |
| 1796 | Robert Wilson, Lord Berners, owns |

- 1856 Sir Robert Shafto Adair owns (linked to Depden, Cratfield and Naughton)
- 1909 Capt Sir F.E.S. Adair owns (linked to Fressingfield, Syleham and Naughton)

Sub-Manors:

Wingfield Old Hall

- 1275 Sir Richard de Brewse owns (linked to Stradbroke, Wenham Parva, Hasketon, Martlesham and Newborne)
- 1408 Michael de la Pole owns (absorbed by main manor)

Chickering Hall/Chickering with Wingfield

- 1311 Jeffrey de Chickering owns
- 1436 William de la Pole owns (annexed to main manor)
- 1539 Thomas Southwell owns
- 1544 Giles Bridges owns (linked to Weybread)
- 1621 Alexander Prescott owns (linked to Hoxne)
- 1704 William Maynard owns (linked to Hoxne)
- 1817 Matthias Kerrison owns (linked to Denham, Hoxne, Braiseworth, Brome, Eye, Yaxley and Thelnetham)
- 1909 Lady Bateman owns (linked to Denham, Horham, Hoxne, Stradbroke and Thelnetham)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

- 1844 £ 3,791 rental value
- 1891 £ 2,964 rateable value
- 1912 £ 2,106 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1814–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

- 1674 Mr Catchpole
- 1679 John Cornwallis, Sheriff of Suffolk (1698)
- 1912 I. Goodwin JP

18. Occupations:

- 1550–1599 1 thatcher, 3 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 2 weavers
- 1600–1649 2 tailors, 1 thatcher, 1 spinster, 14 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 weaver, 1 cooper
- 1650–1699 3 spinsters, 3 linen weavers, 13 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 labourer, 1 cordwinder

1831	117 in agriculture, 21 in retail trade, 2 in labouring, 24 in domestic service, 13 others
1844	School master and mistress, corn miller, grocer, 2 blacksmiths, carpenter, 2 beerhouse keepers, tailor, wheelwright, victualler, 25 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, school teacher, grocer/draper, 19 farmers, 2 blacksmiths, publican, shopkeeper, thatcher

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday school (22 girls attend)
1844	National schoolmaster and mistress recorded National school built in churchyard 1834, Rev. John Bicker buried under pavement of the school 1836 Public Elementary school built 1875, average attendance 1912 95

20. Poor relief:

1776	£175 6s.
1803	£304 13s. 2¾d.
1818	£1,256 13s.
1830	£1,047 13s.
1832	£727 6s.
1834	£801 9s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate: 1840 House occupied by poor + 35 acres 34P let at £45 p.a. applied to poor house repairs, parochial relief. £1 applied to provision of bread for poor.

Harlings Dole: 1731 by will of Mr Harling: Rent charge of £1 5s. p.a. applied to distribution of bread to poor

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844	2 beerhouses, The Kings Head public house
1891/1912	The Kings Head public house

24. Personal:

Pedegree of the Wingfield family. PSIA Vol. VII, p.57.

Seat of Wingfield and de la Pole families in parish –14th cent.

Church holds memorials to members of both families. Particularly William de la Pole, beheaded at sea 1450 but buried at Wingfield church.

'History of the de la Poles', by Rev. J.J. Raven. PSIA Vol.VII, p.51.

'The Story of the de la Poles' contained in 'Wingfield: Its church, castle and College', by S.W.H. Aldwell 1925.

'The de la Pole family', by A.S. Harvey 1957.

25. Other information:

Castle: Licence obtained to convert manor house into castle and crenelate c.1384 by Michael de la Pole. Central three-storeyed gatehouse. Brick battlements. House dates c.1544. Large structure without earthworks, moat crossed by drawbridge. ½ mile NW of church. Open to public 1984. Grade I listed.

College: Built SE corner of churchyard 1362. Remains of domestic buildings to priests college visible to rear of farmhouse 1891. Neo-classical facade and lodging range from the College and Wingfield Manor house added 1760, until restoration 1971–81. Has become home for the annual Wingfield Arts and Music Season 1984.
Open to the public.
College Seal preserved in British Museum.
Earlier manor house site exists to rear of the college.

'Wingfield', by Rev. S.W.H. Aldwell 1933.

'Wingfield: Its Church, Castle and College', by S.W.H. Aldwell 1925.

'Wingfield Church'. PSIA Vol.III, p.331.

'The Bricks of Wingfield College', by L.S. Harley. PSIA Vol.33, p.86.