

1. Parish: Wissett

Meaning: Willow fold

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), Wainford RD (1934–1974), Waveney DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1884 lost portions to Chediston
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,181 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.
- c. Some deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding by the river.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 490 pigs, 10 acres meadow, 4 cobs, 20 cattle, 60 pigs, 63 sheep, 51 goats.
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, oats, roots.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

1851 164 acres of Rumburgh Common in Rumburgh and Wessett enclosed under General Acts 1849.

7. Settlement:

1975/82 Small ribbon type development along road to Halesworth, mainly on the northern side of the road. Church situated on southern side of the road. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 33, 1801 – 40, 1851 – 96, 1871 – 98, 1901 – 77, 1951 – 92, 1981 – 90

8. Communications:

Road: To Rumburgh, Illkestshall St Margaret, Halesworth, Chediston and Spexhall.

Rail: 1891 2 miles Halesworth station: Southwold–Halesworth line, opened 1879, closed 1929.

9. Population:

1086 – 97 recorded (probably includes Rumburgh)

1327 – 48 taxpayers paid £4 11s. 7d. (includes Holton, Rumburgh and Spexhall)

1524 – 37 taxpayers paid £3 18s. 8d.

1603 – 111 adults

1674 – 37 households

1676 – Not recorded

1801 – 349 inhabitants

1831 – 419 inhabitants

1851 – 490 inhabitants

1871 – 413 inhabitants

1901 – 327 inhabitants

1931 – 370 inhabitants

1951 – 299 inhabitants

1971 – 239 inhabitants

1981 – 255 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy 1831, Vicarage 1912

1254 Valued £16 13s. 4d.

1291 Valued £24 (includes Rumburgh)

1535 Not recorded

1597 Parsonage house wants thatching

1603 Curate, stipend £13 6s. 8d.

1650 Valued £28

1831 Curate, stipend £62 pa. No glebe house. Gross income £111 pa. Incumbent also holds Perpetual Curacy of Tamworth, Stafford, Rectory of Walton and Prebend in Cathedral of Lichfield.

1835 Valued £105

1844 Tithes commuted for £452 pa to impropiator and £90 to incumbent.

1891 Valued £80
1912 Nett value £59. 16 acres glebe and residence.
Incumbent also holds and resides in Spexhall.

Patrons: Sir E.C. Hartopp (1831), Lord Chancellor and Church
Patronage Society (1912)

11. Church St Andrew
(Chancel, vestry, nave, S. porch, round W. tower)

1086 1 church + 2 carucates free land. 1 chapel.
Norman N. doorway, inner S. doorway, tower (lower sections) and
tower arch.
13th cent. Priests door
14th cent. Chancel rebuilt
14/15th cent. Nave
c.1470 Porch added, chancel arch rebuilt, tower raised
c.1800 Restoration

Seats: 250 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Curate fails to wear the surplice, hold monthly sermons or
catechise the youth.
1841 Independent/Congregational chapel built.

13. Manorial:

Wissett Manor

c.1325 Sir Robert de Ufford owns (linked to Parham and
Fressingfield)
1391 Sir Robert de Swillington held as of the Castle of Eye
(linked to Westhall, Westleton, Yoxford, Blythburgh,
Middleton and Walsham le Willows)
1497 John Hopton owns (absorbed by Wessett le Roos)

Wissett/Wissett le Roos

1066 Manor of 4 carucates held by Ralph the Constable.
1086 Manor of 4 carucates belong to Count Alan
1220 Roger Bigot owns (linked to numerous manors throughout
Suffolk)
1241 Crown property
1267 Sir John de Vallibus owns (linked to Parham, Rumbugh,
Spexhall, Walpole, Wenhasgton, Shottisham, Bramfield,
Wenham Parva and Covehithe).
1383 Sir Thomas Roos owns.
c.1401 Sir Roger Swillington own (absorbs Manor of
Wissett)(linked to Ubbeston)

c.1479 John Hopton owns (linked to Thorington, Yoxford, Blythburgh, and Easton Bavents).
 1588 William Robertys owns
 c.1648 Maj Gen Fleetwood owns (linked to Chediston, Cookley and Halesworth).
 1875 F. Charsley owns
 1896 Henry Calthorp owns

Sub-manors:

Blenche's

1275 Henry Blench owns
 1574 Edward Wilkinson owns
 c.1584 Henry Norton owns

14. Markets/Fairs

1229 and 1267 Grant of market and fair to Sir John de Vallibus

15. Real property:

1844 £2,551 rental value
 1891 £2,454 rateable value
 1912 £2,414 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
 1912 H.C. Hollway-Calthorp principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Henry Stebbing
 1891 Rev. W.G. Baxter BA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman
 1550–1599 3 yeoman, 3 husbandmen, 1 tailor
 1600–1649 12 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 2 labourers, 1 carpenter, 1 ploughwright.
 1650–1699 4 yeomen, 2 spinsters, 1 husbandman
 1831 91 in agriculture, 1 in manufacturing, 14 in retail trade, 1 professional, 20 in domestic service, 5 others.
 1844 Shoemaker, schoolmistress, victualler, 3 auctioneers, beerhouse keeper, blacksmith, corn miller, shoemaker, surgeon, blacksmith, brewer/shopkeeper, 17 farmers.
 1912 Sub-postmaster, school mistress, police officer, 20 farmers, miller, poulterer, fishmonger, shopkeeper,

blacksmith/wheelwright, publican, shoemaker, carpenter, cattle dealer, beer retailer/shopkeeper, farm bailiff.

19. Education:

1818 Sunday school (30 attend)
1833 Sunday school (35 attend)
1844 School (30 attend)
1878 School Board established
1884 New school built for 50 pupils
1908 Council school built, average attendance in 1912 of 56.

20. Poor relief:

1776 £57 18s. 6d.
1803 £103 18s. 7¹/₂d.
1818 £246 4s.
1830 £222 3s.
1832 £280 1s.
1834 £343

21. Charities:

Town House

1840 House and small garden let at £1 5s. 4d. pa to church repairs.

22. Other institutions:

1912 Police officer listed

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Swan public house and 1 beerhouse/retailer

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

1844 Case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest.
The Grange: possibly 14th cent. timber framed, small hall open to roof, crown post truss.
'Petition from the Inhabitants of Wissett 1609', East Anglian Miscellany 1912, p.51.
Wissett Hall: group of original star-topped chimneys. Much rebuilding.
Forestation 20th cent.