

1. Parish: Wixoe

Meaning: Widuc's Hoh or spur of land

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

Deanery: Clare

Union: Risbridge

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Clare RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1884 and 1885

Ecclesiastical boundary change 1931

Risbridge Petty Sessional Division

Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 562 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk of water erosion

b. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sand soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel, slight risk of water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086 13 acres meadow, wood for 10 pigs, 1 mill, 12 cattle, 12 pigs, 40 sheep, 5 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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.

1818 **Marshall:** Wide variations of crops and management techniques including summer fallow and preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.

1937 **Main crops:** Wheat, barley, peas

1969 **Trist:** More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. Settlement:

1958 Very small settlement around central church. Evidence of Roman occupation in western sector. River Stour forms natural boundary to south. Railway crosses parish W–E.

Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 153 (includes Clare and Chilton Street),
1801 – 21, 1851 – 31, 1871 – 30, 1901 – 21, 1951 – 33,
1981 – 50

8. Communications:

Roads: To Sturmer, Birdbrook and Stoke by Clare

Rail: 1891 4 miles Clare station: Cambridge–Sudbury line, opened 1865, closed for goods 1966, closed for passengers 1967
1912 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile Birdbrook station: closed 1962

Water: River Stour: made navigable by Act of Parliament of 1705; last barge travelled as far as Dedham 1928

9. Population:

1086 – 18 recorded

1327 – 13 taxpayers paid £1 1s. 2¼d.

1524 – 8 taxpayers paid 7s. 10d.

1603 – 50 adults

1674 – 194 households (includes Clare and Chilton Street)

1676 – 40 adults

1801 – 130 inhabitants

1831 – 146 inhabitants

1851 – 168 inhabitants

1871 – 170 inhabitants

1901 – 97 inhabitants

1931 – 95 inhabitants

1951 – 92 inhabitants

1971 – 140 inhabitants

1981 – 133 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (1831) Discharged Rectory (1844)

1254 Valued at £5 6s. 8d.

1291 Valued £6

1535 Valued £5 13s. 1½d.

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £180 p.a.

1891 Rectory house, 13 acres glebe. Tithes commuted for £200 p.a.

1912 Net value £131 p.a. + 14 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Sir John Payton (1603), J.P. Elwes (1831), J.E.H. Elwes (1873), R.H.M. Elwes (1891), H. Pereira (1912)

11. Church St. Leonard

(Chancel, nave, wooden bell turret, modern vestry)

1086 1 church + 5 acres
Norman N. and S. doorways, some fragments in walls
14th / 15th Nave and chancel
Century Note: church originally had an apse
1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 1 picture and ordered steps levelled
1898/99 Restoration
Note: schoolroom attached to N. side 1845 demolished (no date)

Seats: 50 appropriated, 115 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

c.1644 Rev. Mark Reynolds ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers
1731–1734 2 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 3 carucates 15 acres held by Godwin, a thane
1086 Manor of 3 carucates 15 acres belonging to Ralph Baynard

Wixoe at Wickesher al Waterhall In Wixoe

12th cent. Chevre/Capra family owns
c.1611 by marriage and inheritance to Sir John Peyton (linked to Great Bradley and Boxford)
c.1654 John Soame owns
1749 Samuel Berkeley owns
1792 Thomas Mattingley owns
1797 John Timms Hervey Elwes owns (linked to Clare and Stoke by Clare)
1909 Gervase Paget Elwes owns

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £712 rental value
1891 £838 rateable value
1912 £677 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 Lord Loch, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1891 F. Payne JP and Maurice Cobham
1912 Rev. W.A. Pywell BA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 1 vicar of Stoke College
1600–1649 2 yeomen, 2 husbandmen
1650–1699 1 spinster, 2 yeomen
1831 25 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 12 in domestic service, 2 others
1844 Corn miller, farmer
1912 School mistress, thatcher, 3 farmers, head gardener, 2 gardeners, jobbing gardener

19. Education:

1833 a few instructed on Sundays
School Board formed 1875, school built 1878 for 64 pupils.
Public Elementary school built 1880, average attendance
1912 47

20. Poor relief:

1776 £27 18s. 9d.
1803 £43 17s. 5½d.
1818 £213 10s.
1830 £153 2s.
1832 £145 17s.
1834 £109 6s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1891 1 beerhouse

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'A Fifteenth Century Building Contract for Suffolk' related to the building of Water Hall, Wixoe and gives considerable detail regarding construction. Reproduction (printed) in parish folder.

War memorial unveiled 1930.

'Wixoe parish survey'. Haverhill & District Archaeology Group Newsletter vol.
3 (1975–82), p.67.