1. Parish: Easton Bavents

Meaning: Eastern enclosure/homestead owned by the Bavent family

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (North) (1868–1914), Beccles (1914–1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1972–)

Union: Blything


Other administrative details:
Abolished ecclesiastically 1749 – united with Benacre to create Benacre with Easton Bavents
Civil Boundary change 1934
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. Area: 231 acres land, 46 acres water, 15 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion
   b. Small amount deep peat soils associated with clay over sand, in part very acid. High groundwater levels, risk of flooding.

5. Types of farming:

1086  3 acres meadow, wood for 8 pigs, 1 cob, 3 cattle, 2 pigs, previously contained 1 salt house.
This area has problems of acidity and trace element deficiencies

1500–1640 Thirsk: Sheep corn region, where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.

1804 Young: “This corner of Suffolk practices better husbandry than elsewhere”. He identified this area as carrot growing region.

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, turnips, arable/dairying region
1969 Trist: Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1976 Narrow strip of land between Southwold to the south and Covehithe to the north. Very little in the way of development. Previous settlements lost in coastal erosion. Marsh land exists to north, and southern sectors of parish together with area known as Southend warren (southern sector)


8. Communications:

Road: Link road to Raydon appears only communications route although there is a track to Southwold.

Rail: 1½ mile Southwold station: Southwold–Halesworth line opened 1870, closed 1929

9. Population:

1086 – 13 recorded
1327 – 55 taxpayers paid £4 14s. 1½d. (includes Raydon)
1524 – 60 taxpayers paid £8 11s. 1d.
1603 – 46 adults
1674 – 7 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 17 inhabitants
1831 – 16 inhabitants
1851 – 3 inhabitants
1871 – 6 inhabitants
1901 – 16 inhabitants
1931 – 21 inhabitants
1951 – 39 inhabitants
1971 – 19 inhabitants
1981 – 16 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (consolidated with Benacre and Covehithe)

1254 Valued £5
1291 Valued £12
Portion of Wangford 13s. 4d.
£12 13s. 4d.

1535 Valued £12
1603 Has no parson
1831 Joint benefit of 1 curate, stipend £100 p.a. No glebe house.
Joint gross income £467 p.a.
Joint value £440 1835
1912 Joint net value £290 p.a. and 22 acres glebe

Patrons:
Nathaniel Bacon (1603)

11. Church  St. Nicholas
In existence until c.1666 when it disappeared into the sea

Chapel of St. Margaret
Stood to the west of the church of St. Nicholas. Said to have held a special relic (place of pilgrimage).
Remains used as barn 1748

12. Nonconformity etc:
1597 1 person stands excommunicated because he is “a common swerer”

13. Manorial:
1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Aelfric, son of Wulfgeat under patronage of Earl Harold
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Gilbert the Crossbowman from the King
1237 Thomas Bavent owns (linked to Blythford and Combs)
1392 Robert de Shardelewowe owns (linked to Chediston)
1451 John Hopton owns (linked to Blythburgh)
1579 William Roberds owns
1596 Robert Smith owns
17th cent. Jeffrey Howland owns
1718 Thomas Carthew owns (linked to Covehithe)
1743 Sir Thomas Gooch owns (linked to Benacre and Covehithe)

14. Markets/Fairs
1330/31 Grant of market and fair. Described as weekly market held on Wednesday and a fair on the eve, day and morrow of feast of St. Nicholas 1844 although not then in existence.
15. **Real property:**
   
   1844  £370 rental value  
   1891  £127 rateable value  
   1912  £101 rateable value  

16. **Land ownership:**
   
   1844  Sir Thomas S. Gooch owns, sole owner  
   1891  Sir A.S. Gooch, sole owner  
   1912  Sir Thomas Vere S. Gooch, sole owner  

17. **Resident gentry:**
   
   1679  Allen Cotton  

18. **Occupations:**
   
   1500–1549  2 mariners  
   1550–1599  2 mariners, 1 husbandman  
   1600–1649  2 yeomen  
   1650–1699  1 yeoman  
   1831  4 in agriculture  
   1844  1 farmer  
   1912  Not recorded  

19. **Education:**
   
   1912  Children attend school at Reydon  

20. **Poor relief:**
   
   1776  not recorded  
   1803  £3 7s. 6d.  
   1818  £8 8s.  
   1830  £12  
   1832  £12  
   1834  £16  

21. **Charities:**

22. **Other institutions:**

23. **Recreation:**

24. **Personal:**
25. **Other information:**

Promontory known as Easton Ness formerly projected more than 2 miles out to sea forming northern boundary of Southwold Bay.

Parish seriously affected by sea erosion. Land area recorded in 1815 was 770 acres but by 1844 this had been reduced to 260 acres; 1 cottage and 60 acres land were submerged in 1838.