

1. Parish: Mettingham

Meaning: Village of Metti's people

2. Hundred: Wangford

Deanery: Wangford (early in South Elmham) (-1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1972-)

Union: Wangford

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Wangford RD (1894-1934), Wainford RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Beccles Petty Sessional Division
Beccles and Bungay County Court District

3. Area: 1,380 acres

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
- c) Deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils in part very acid. High groundwater levels, risk of flooding near river

5. Types of farming:

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing in dairying with some pig-keeping horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp. Carrots and turnips were being grown by the more enterprising farmers in the Waveney Valley
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main Crops:	Wheat, barley, beans. 1 Shire horse stud farm
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1917 245 acres in Mettingham and Holy Trinity Bungay enclosed under Private Act of Lands (1814)

7. Settlement:

1961 Very diverse development. Main concentration around church and along main Beccles – Bungay road. Expansion probably influenced by River Waveney and marshland to north and the main road. Secondary settlement around castle which is detached from the main village.
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 30, 1801 – 28, 1851 – 81, 1871 – 82, 1901 – 73, 1951 – 77, 1981 – 70

8. Communications:

Road: A1116 Beccles – Bungay road
Roads unsafe for traveling and practically impassable for several months of the year (18th cent.
Daily postal service to/from Bungay (1874)
Eastern Counties daily bus service (1937)

Rail: 1891 1 mile Ellingham station: 2 miles Bungay station:
Tivetshall – Lowestoft line, opened (1860), closed (1964)

Water: River Waveney

9. Population:

1086 — 20 recorded
1327 — 31 taxpayers paid £1. 18s. 6d.
1524 — 42 taxpayers paid £3. 11s. 5d.
1603 — 80 adults
1674 — 32 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 270 inhabitants
1831 — 406 inhabitants
1851 — 382 inhabitants
1871 — 348 inhabitants
1901 — 318 inhabitants
1931 — 233 inhabitants
1951 — 252 inhabitants
1971 — 195 inhabitants
1981 — 209 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £10.

- 1291 Valued £4. 6s. 8d.
Appropriated by Bungay Nunnery
Advowson given on dissolution to Thomas Duke of Norfolk
- 1535 Valued £6. 17s. 3 ½ d.
- 1603 Vicarage valued at £6. 17s. 3 ½ d.
- 1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £140 p.a.
Discharged vicarage valued £200 (1855)
- 1912 Nett value £180. 51 acres glebe

Patrons: Prioress/Convent of Bungay (1319-1520), Duke of Norfolk (1539-1563), Bacon family (1570-1663), Hunt family (1681-1758), Kitty Safford (1805-1824), J.C. Safford (1831), Mrs. C.F.H. Collisson (1912)

11. Church All Saints

(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, round W. tower)

- 1086 Church + 20 acres land. Valued 3s.
Lower portion N. wall: suspect Saxon
- Norman N. door (above door is height of original structure, still visible)
- circa 1300 Nave and S. aisle
- 14th cent. S. porch extended and restored
W. wall has chimney and fireplace
- 1898 General restoration

Seats : 220 (1915)

11a. Other Religious Institution

College Blessed Virgin Mary

For secular cannons

- 1394 Founded and richly endowed
- 1534/35 Held Master and 11 chaplains, 14 clerks and choristers etc., 14 boys maintained and educated.
Valued £238. 3s. 10 ½ d.
- 1542 Dissolved
Old prints exist (1738). PSIA Vol.IV p.77
- 20th cent. Remains mixed with those of the castle

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1597 2 persons not receiving communion

13. Manorial:

Mettingham Castle cum Bungay Soca

1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Earl Hugh in hands of Aelfric under patronage of Wulfsi
13 th cent.	Sir John de Norwich owns (linked to Ilketshall main manor and Dalham)
1563	Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors through Suffolk)
1675	John Hunt of Cambridge owns (linked to Walsham le Willows)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,367 rental value
1891	£2,173 rateable value
1912	£2,127 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1912	Land sub-divided
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17. Resident gentry:

1680	2 gents recorded
1686	William Gooch
1755	Cooke Freeston, High Sheriff of Suffolk

18. Occupations:

1449	Master of College of Blessed Mary
1500-1549	1 husbandmen
1550-1599	1 yeoman, 1 husbandmen
1600-1649	12 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 labourer, 2 linen weavers
1650-1699	4 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 labourer, 1 blacksmith
1831	57 in agriculture, 12 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 4 in labouring, 28 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	1 shoemaker, wheelwright, 1 blacksmith, 15 farmers
1912	1 sub-postmistress, 1 maltster, 9 farmer, 1 publican, 1 farm bailiff, 1 blacksmith, 1 market gardener, 1 cowkeeper

19. Education:

1597	William Mills accused of teaching a school without a licence
1912	Children attend school in Bungay

20. Poor relief:

1776	£91. 2s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£135. 9s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£336. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£295. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£381. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£329	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate

1828	Ancient trust situated in Mettingham and Shipmeadow (cottage, blacksmiths shop , 36 acres and 2 cattle gates on Stow Fen) let at £82. 14s. p.a. £10 used for purchase of coal for the poor, residue used for church repairs
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22. Other institutions:

Mettingham Castle

1326	Built by Sir John de Norwich
1738	Began to fall into disrepair Photographs in Suffolk Archaeology Unit, Bury St. Edmunds
1776	Workhouse (12 inmates)

23. Recreation:

1874	1 beerhouse
1912	The Tally Ho public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Mettingham College Seal: illustration – PSIA Vol. IV. p.88

Mettingham Castle plan. PSIA Vol.IV p.78

'Mettingham Castle and College' by C.R. Manning. PSIA Vol.IV p.77

'Mettingham College and Castle 1562'. PSIA Vol.XI. p.315

Archaeological Sites:

Med. farmhouse (CRN 1025)

Ring ditch (CRN 1028)
Med. castle/college (CRN 1026)

Stray finds: Neo. axe (CRN 1024, 1029)
 Med. seal (CRN 468)
 Rom. pottery (CRN 102)
 B.A. axe (CRN 1030)

Scatter finds: Rom. pottery (CRN 1027)