

# 1. Parish: Reydon

**Meaning:** Rye hill

**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), Lothingland RD (1934–1974), Waveney DC (1974)

Other administrative details:

Included Chapelry of Southwold. Separate civil parish status early. Some parochial rights since 15<sup>th</sup> cent., separate ecclesiastical parish status 1752  
Blything Petty Sessional Division  
Halesworth County Court District

**3. Area:** 2,729 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well-drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk of wind erosion.
- b. Deep stoneless, mainly calcareous, clay soils, flat land, risk of flooding by river.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 60 pigs, 1 cob, 5 cattle, 30 pigs, 110 sheep, 15 goats
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
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, oats, turnips.
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots.

**6. Enclosure:**

1800            504 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1798

**7. Settlement:**

1976 River Blyth, Wolseys Creek and Buss Creek form natural boundaries to south. Associated wet lands restrict development in this area. Marshland to north similarly restricts development. Large compact development to north of Mights Bridge. Church situated separately to the west of development. Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 22, 1801 – 40, 1851 – 71, 1871 – 66, 1901 – 106, 1951 – 448, 1981 – 862.

## 8. **Communications:**

**Road:** To Southwold, Eastern Bavents, South Cove, Wangford and Blythburgh.

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

**Water:** River Blyth: navigable to Halesworth 1761, silted up. Remains of wharf (possibly 13<sup>th</sup> cent.) at Wood's End Creek.

## 9. **Population:**

1086 – 62 recorded

1327 – 55 taxpayers paid £4 14s. 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. (includes Easton Bavents)

1524 – 30 taxpayers paid £3 1s. 1d.

1603 – Dangerous sickness in town: incumbent did not appear.

1674 – 24 households

1676 – Not recorded

1801 – 317 inhabitants

1831 – 338 inhabitants

1851 – 337 inhabitants

1871 – 275 inhabitants

1901 – 453 inhabitants

1931 – 981 inhabitants

1951 – 1,447 inhabitants

1971 – 2,136 inhabitants

1981 – 2,204 inhabitants

## 10. **Benefice: Vicarage**

1254 Valued £13 6s. 8d. (includes Southwold)

1291 Valued £17 6s. 8d.

To vicar in same £6 13s. 4d. (probably includes Southwold) £24 0s. 0d. ?£24 13s 4d

1535 Valued £13 6s. 8d. (includes Southwold)

1831 No glebe house. Gross income £220 pa

1844 Tithes commuted for £410 to the impropiator and £218 pa to the vicar.

1891 Incumbent resides in Wangford

1912 Consolidated with Henham and Wangford. Joint nett value £175. 3 acres glebe and residence. Incumbent resides in Wangford.

**Patrons:** Earl of Stradbroke (1831 and 1912)

**11. Church**      **St Margaret**  
(Chancel, nave, south porch, west tower)

1086                      2 churchs + 1 carucate land, valued 10s.  
c.1200                    Appears granted to Wangford Priory  
13<sup>th</sup> cent.                Chancel  
14<sup>th</sup> cent.                Tower  
15<sup>th</sup> cent.                North aisle destroyed  
1877                      Restoration  
1952                      Foundations of north chapel discovered. Believed to be  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. origins, destroyed c.16<sup>th</sup> cent. PSIA  
Vol XXVI, p.58.

**Seats:**                      150 (1915)

Chapel                **St Margaret de Rissemere** (Rissemere being the former  
name for Reydon)

c.1200                    Grant of the church of Reydon with the chapel of  
Rissmere to Wangford Priory. Victoria County History Vol  
II, p.88.

**11a Other religious institutions:**

College                **St Mary, St John Baptist and St Andrew**

1362                      Said to be founded by Sir John Wingfield.  
c.1535                    Valued at £50 3s. 5d. and granted to the Bishop of  
Norwich. This, however, has been unsubstantiated from  
any other source except Raven Pamphlets Vol 20, No 7.

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

**Reydon Manor**

c.1205                    Sir High de Cressy owns (linked to Gt Glemham and  
Thelnetham)  
c.1276                    William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke owns (linked to  
Westleton, Exning, Mutford and Offton).  
1325                      Laurance de Hastings owns. Yearly value £51 18s.  
3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d.  
c.1519                    Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester owns  
1562                      Francis Rous owns  
1909                      Earl of Stradbroke owns (linked to Sotherton, Stoven,  
Uggeshall, Wangford, Henham, Dennington, Tannington  
and Bruisyard).

## **Sub-manors:**

### **Reydon Blevilis**

Mid 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir George Somerset owns (linked to Wickhambrook)  
16<sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Rous owns (becoming absorbed by main manor)(linked to Burgh, Clopton and Cransford).

### **Reydon Wingfields/Reydon Ugghall**

Nothing significant known and probably became absorbed into main manor.

## **14. Markets/Fairs**

1310 Grant of market and fair.

## **15. Real property:**

1844 £2,000 rental value  
1891 £2,749 rateable value  
1912 £4,407 rateable value

## **16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 Land sub-divided  
1912 Earl of Stradbroke and Mrs Ewen principal owners.

## **17. Resident gentry:**

1844 Mrs and Miss Elizabeth and Agnes Strickland  
1891 Rev. J.N.F. Ewen MA and Rev. J.A. Patrick MA  
1912 Rev. K. MacKinnon MA

## **18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 1 yeoman, 1 labourer, 3 husbandmen  
1600–1649 2 husbandmen  
1650–1699 1 maltster, 1 carpenter, 2 yeomen  
1831 59 in agriculture, 3 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 5 in labouring, 15 in domestic service, 1 other.  
1844 Shopkeeper/shoemaker/victualer, blacksmith, 9 farmers.  
1912 2 sub-postmasters, school teacher, hotel owner, 4 shopkeepers, 9 farmers, farm bailiff, 4 apartment house owners, house decorator, engineer, builder/blacksmith/wheelwright, head mistress to girls school, dairyman.

## **19. Education:**

1818	Some attend school in Southwold
1833	1 Sunday school, established 1827 (35 attend)
1866	National school built (30 attend in 1891)
1908	East Suffolk County Council School built, enlarged in 1912 when average attendance was 161.
1912	St Felix School for Girls in existence.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£62 7s.
1803	£115 0s. <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.
1818	£277 15s.
1830	£258 7s.
1832	£257
1834	£333 8s.

**21. Charities:**

**Church land**

1840	4/5 acres let at £7–£8 pa applied to church repairs.
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**Poors allotments**

1840	22 acres acquired on enclosure let at £18 pa laid out in coals.
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**Walter's dole**

1589	by will of Matthew Walters: 10s. pa (discontinued 1840)
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**22. Other institutions:**

1908	'The Rest for the aged Poor of Southwold' built: 4 cottages (housing for 8) arranged on 3 sides of quadrangel with central garden.
1472	Guilds of St Margaret and St Mary

**23. Recreation:**

1844	The Bear public house
1891	The Quay Inn public house
1912	The Randolph Hotel

**24. Personal:**

1844	Mrs and Miss Elizabeth and Agnes Strickland, residents of Reydon Hall, authors of 'Queens of England'
1796–1874	'Agnes Strickland and her birthplace' by E.R. Cooper PSIA Vol XXIV, p.33.

**25. Other information:**

- Parish is reputedly site of ancient park.
- c.1200 Water mill and dam at Reydon granted to Wangford Priory
- 1472 Pilgrimages made to an Image of St Remigius.
- 1684 Hall in the park taken down by Oliver Dave.
- 1747 Sluice for drainage of low lands constructed at Wolsey Bridge by Sir John Rous. Tradition says Cardinal Wolsey built this bridge but this is unsubstantiated.
- 1754 Described by Gardner as enjoying 'a market and a park, there being some lands still retaining the appellation of the market close with high, low and middle park pieces and park lane'.
- 1860 Reydon Hall alterations and additions. Reydon Hall east wing bears the date 1682. No date for rebuilding. Water mill and quay once existed near Wood's End Creek. Quay probably declined as Southwold gained domination.  
'Wangford, Henham and Reydon Parochial Magazine', Raven Pamphlets Vol. 20, no7.