

1. Parish: Sibton

Meaning: Sibba's homestead/village

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (South) (1868–1914), S Dunwich (1914–1972), Saxmundham (1972–)

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: (E Suffolk) Blything RD (1894–1934), Blyth RD (1934–1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change in 1885, lost detached part to Peasenhall
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,770 acres land, 7 acres water (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk of water erosion.
b. Slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, some calcareous, clay and fine loams over clay soils.

5. Types of farming:

1086		17 ¹ / ₂ acres meadow, wood for 132 pigs, 5 cobs, 15 cattle, 56 pigs, 169 sheep, 5 beehives, 6 goats. Domesday vill of Wrabetuna: 7 acres meadow, wood for 6 pigs.
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 crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, turnips.
1969	Trist	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

1534 Portion of wood and 20 acres land belonging to the Abbey enclosed within the Duke of Norfolk's Park at Kelsale. Evidence

of early enclosure especially around the North Grange of Sibton Abbey 1325.

'Suffolk Landscape', by N. Scarfe p.181.

1851 62 acres of Sibton Green in Sibton and Yoxford enclosed under formal written agreement 1809 and 1819

7. Settlement:

1982/84 Small compact development on Yoxford Road. Church situated at eastern extremity. Secondary settlements at Sibton Green, Hemp Green and Rotten End. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 43, 1801 – 55, 1851 – 108, 1871 – 102, 1901 – 95, 1951 – 97, 1981 – 80

8. Communications:

Road: To Peasenhall, Yoxford, Heveningham, Kelsale and Rendham.

Rail: 1912: 3 miles Darsham station: Ipswich–Lowestoft line, opened 1859, closed 1960.

Water: River Minsmere

9. Population:

1086 – 51 recorded

Domesday vill of Wrabetuna – 16¹/₂ recorded

1327 – 38 taxpayers paid £2 18s. 5d. (includes Cookley and Walpole)

1524 – 14 taxpayers in the Abbey and 39 taxpayers in the town paid £6 5s. 8d.

1603 – 120 adults

1674 – 55 households

1676 – Not recorded

1801 – 421 inhabitants

1831 – 498 inhabitants

1851 – 501 inhabitants

1871 – 509 inhabitants

1901 – 418 inhabitants

1931 – 313 inhabitants

1951 – 317 inhabitants

1971 – 213 inhabitants

1981 – 210 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage 1831, discharged vicarage 1912 (with chapel of Peasenhall – 1818)

1254 Valued £2 13s. 4d.

1291 Valued £4

Portion of St Faith's £1 4s.

	Portion of Rumburgh 13s. 4d. <u>£6 0s. 4d.</u>
1535	Valued £8 8s. 4d. (includes Peasinghall)
1597	Incumbent also holds Darsham
1603	Stipend £4.
1650	Valued £44
1821	Residence re built
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £205 pa
1835	Valued £143 13s. 2d.
1843	Tithes commuted
1844	10 acres glebe
1891	Valued £250. Good residence and 6 acres glebe.
1912	Net value £147. 63 acres glebe and residence

Note: Tithes and obventions of parish church given to Monks of Sibton 1192–1200

Patrons: Abbot and Convent of Sibton (1201), Feofees Duke of Norfolk (1603), E Barker (1650), R Sayer (1831), J K Brooke (1891)

11. Church

St Peter

(Chancel, N chapel, nave, N aisle, S porch, W tower)

1086	1 church, 2 churches + 18 acres and 3 acres meadow in Sibton. Domesday vill of Wrebatuna: church + 6 acres
1146–1174	Rights of chapel/churchyard at Peasonhall preserved to mother church of Sibton.
12 th cent.	S doorway and N doorway
1234	Chapel of Peasenhall annexed to church at Sibton.
c.1400	Tower (originally with spire)
13 th cent.	N arcade with circular piers (possibility these came from the abbey).
14 th /15 th cent.	Main structure
1825/1872	Restoration. Chancel rebuilt

Seats: 250 (1915)

Chapel God and St Nicholas

1201 Situated within Hamon's house, Sibton. Served by its own chaplain. The households of Hamon, however, were expected to attend the mother church on major church festivals.

11a Other religious institutions

Abbey Blessed Virgin Mary
for Cistercian Monks (the only Cistercian Abbey in Suffolk)

1149/50	Founded by William de Cheney. Abbot and 12 monks transferred here from Warden Abbey, Beds, increasing at date unknown to 20+ monks and lay brothers. List of benefactors is one of the longest in East Anglia.
1291	Valued £154
1369/70	Abbey held 44 servants.
1381	11 monks
1536	'Sibton Abbey Cartularies' Vol I–IV, edited by P. Brown Dissolved. Valued £279 2s. 11d. Held Lord Abbot and 7 monks. Some remains visible. PSIA Vol VIII, p.54 S wall of aisle, N of cloisters, refectory walls S of cloisters (contains large Norman arch) W of refectory stands ruins of kitchen.
1892	Drawings made
Hospital	
c.1264	Stood by Abbey gate, probably founded by the Abbey.
c.1536	Dissolved
16 th cent.	Fell into disuse and disrepair. Has been totally demolished.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597	3 persons do not attend church or receive communion. Vicar dismissed for not performing catachism.
1836	Primitive Methodist chapel built.
c.19 th cent.	Private house licenced for worship (Congregational)

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 25 acres held by a free man
1066	Manor of 20 acres held by a free man
1066	Manor of 60 acres held by Aelfrio
1066	Manor of 50 acres held by Blackman, a free man
1086	Manor of 25 acres belonging to Robert Malet
1086	Manor of 20 acres belonging to Robert Malet
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Robert Malet
1086	Manor of 50 acres belonging to Robert Malet

Domesday vill of Wrabetuna:

1066	Manor of 100 acres held by a free woman under patronage of Norman
1086	Manor of 100 acres belonging to Roger Bigot with 30 acres held by Robert Malet and 70 acres by Norman.

Sibton Manor

This was made up from the manors held by Robert Malet above.

11/12th cent. Robert fitz Walter owns
 c.1149 William de Canisto/Cheney owns, gave the manor to
 Sibton Abbey (linked to Linstead Parva)
 1536 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous
 manors throught Suffolk)
 1610 John Scrivener owns
 1909 Egerton B.B. Levett-Scrivener owns (linked to
 Peasenhall)

Sub-manors

Sibton Hall

1066 Manor of 1 curacate 20 acres held by Alwin, a free man.
 1086 Manor of 1 caruate 20 acres belonging to Count Alan and
 held by Maynard
 1499 Thomas Heveningham owns
 1909 Lord Huntingfield owns (linked to Walpole and Westleton)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £3,039 rental value
 1891 £2,676 rateable value
 1912 £2,347 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
 1912 Commander E.B.B. Levett-Scrivener and J.K. Brooke,
 principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1674 Sir Edmund Barker has house with 11 hearths.
 Capt. Wingfield has house with 19 hearths.
 1679 Sir Edward Barker and Matthew Scrivener
 1771 John F. Scrivener, High Sheriff of Suffolk
 1796 John Clayton, High Sheriff of Suffolk
 1835 Robert Sayer, High Sheriff of Suffolk
 1844 Robert Sayer, J.E.E. Spink and Rev. S.M. Westhorpe MA
 1891 J.K. Brooke JP
 1912 J.K. Brooke BA JP, Capt. R.P. Crawley, Commander E.B.
 B. Levett-Scrivener RN JP, Rev. R.C. Scrimgeour MA
 and Capt. J. White-Hopkins

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 carpenter

1550–1599	1 yeoman, 3 husbandmen, 1 brick maker, 1 Sergeant at Arms to the King
1600–1649	10 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 carpenter, 1 bricklayer, 1 tanner, 1 mason, 1 joiner.
1650–1699	17 yeomen, 1 linen weaver, 2 husbandmen, 2 spinsters, 1 surgeon, 2 tailors.
1831	100 in agriculture, 1 in manufacturing, 13 in retail trade, 6 professionals, 3 in labouring, 37 in domestic service, 7 others.
1844	2 shopkeepers, 2 joiners, victualler, corn miller, blacksmith, 18 farmers.
1912	Schoolmaster, miller, grocer, 11 farmers, head gamekeeper, publican, wheelwright/blacksmith, builder.

19. Education:

1719	Endowment by Dorothea Scrivener allows for incumbent to teach poor children
1833	Sunday school established 1822 (65 attend)
1840	School built by L.F.P. Scrivener. 24 attend in 1840, 120 attend in 1891, in 1912 average attendance is 91
1844	Schoolmaster and mistress teach 12 boys and 12 girls under endowment

20. Poor relief:

1776	£124 16s. 9d.
1803	£248 2s. 5 ¹ / ₄ d.
1818	£516 8s.
1830	£620 15s.
1832	£651 19s.
1834	£849 14s.

21. Charities:

Louffe's Charity

1580	by will of Robert Louffe: 1s. pa for distribution of bread (discontinued)
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Town Estate/Cuttings Charity Estate

1639	by will of Edmund Cutting: town house with 4 tenements let at £12 pa 1 acre 1R 7P let at £1 15s. 11 acres 1R 30P let at £17 Property + 3 acres 3R 24P let at £7 applied to general purposes
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Scrivener Charity

1866 by will of John Pike Scrivener: interest on £1000 to be spent on upkeep of school; interest on a further £1000 to be applied to benefit the poor

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The White Horse public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

c.1201 Existence of grange owned by the Abbey is referred to, with mill situated nearby.

1325 The Abbey owned at least 5+ granges in Suffolk. North and South Grange were in Sibton, while the others were in Cookley, Wenhaston, Rendham and Linstead, with one site unknown. 'Sibton Abbey Cartularies', Vol I, p.116.

1520 60 acres called Courte Grene Close in Sibton. 'Sibton Abbey Cartularies', Vol IV, p.72.

c.1610–1655 Abbey House: said to be constructed from the Abbey ruins. John Scrivener built large house adjoining the Abbey ruins.

c.1817 Sibton Park: dwelling built, stood in park of 1000 acres including gardens and lake. Reduced to 200 acres by 1912. Extends into neighbouring parish of Yoxford.

1925 Sibton mill in existence.

1960 'The Sibton Abbey Estates', Select Documents 1325–1509', edited by A.H. Denney.

1971 'Worth a Mention' by A.A. Attmere.

'Sibton Abbey', by W.H. St John Hope, PSIA Vol VIII, p.54.

'Sibton Church', by Rev. J.L.M. Moore, PSIA Vol Ciii, p.60.

Domesday vill of Wrabetuna: Rotten End formerly Rapton End. DMV near Sibton South Grange may relate to Sibton White House, formerly Rapton Hall 1826.

Wrabeton Strete recorded in 1493.