

1. Parish: Cratfield

Meaning: Craeta's field (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (-1868), Dunwich (North) (1868-1914), S. Dunwich (1914-1972), Halesworth (1972-)

Union: Blything

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

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1884)
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,127 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
b) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086		Woodland for 262 pigs, 4½ acres meadow, 1 cob, 14 cattle, 47 pigs, 32 goats
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:

1849 77 acres enclosed (Norwood Green) under General Acts 1846

7. Settlement:

1984 Large well spaced development to NE of Roman road which crosses parish NW-SE, and centred around Bell Green and the Church (southern end of settlement slightly separated to the south). Secondary settlements at North Green and Silvery Green.
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 52, 1801 – 97, 1851 – 146, 1871 – 128,
1901 – 95, 1951 – 97, 1981 – 100

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Fressingfield, Linstead Magna, Huntingfield, Ubberston, Badingham and Laxfield. Line of Roman road
1912 Carrier to Halesworth on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Rail: 1912 7 miles Halesworth station: opened (1879), closed (1929)

Water: River Blyth: Navigable to a point beyond Blythburgh (15th cent.)

9. Population:

1086 — 48 recorded
1327 — 33 taxpayers paid £1. 18s. 2d.
1524 — 51 taxpayers paid £7. 15s. 6d.
1603 — 200 adults
1674 — 69 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 551 inhabitants
1831 — 692 inhabitants
1851 — 673 inhabitants
1871 — 564 inhabitants
1901 — 392 inhabitants
1931 — 372 inhabitants
1951 — 312 inhabitants
1971 — 280 inhabitants
1981 — 306 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Vicarage (Consolidated with Laxfield) (1831)
Discharged Vicarage (1844)**

1254	Valued £12	
1291	Valued £14	
	To the vicar £4. 6s. 8d.	<u>£18. 6s. 8d.</u>
1535	Valued £5. 7s. 11d.	

- John Lany gave rectory house + 2 acres glebe and all small tithes to the vicarage and rent-charge of 20 marks out of the rectory (1635)
- 1831 Joint benefit of 1 curate, stipend £82. p.a. Glebe house. Joint gross income £290 p.a. Joint value £299 (1835)
Tithes commuted. Cratfield: £115 to the vicar. Great tithes of £404 to the impropriator (S. Bignold) (1843)
Vicarage house built (1852)
- 1912 Nett value £95 p.a. + 12 acres glebe and residence. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Ubbeston
- Patrons: Lord Huntingfield (1831), Simeon's Trustees (1891)

11. Church

St. Mary

(Chancel, arcade of 5 bays, nave, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

- 1086 Church + 6 acres valued 6d.
14th cent. Main structure
15th cent. Tower and arcade
New battlements for the steeple paid for by the sale of a "payre of Chalys, a payre of censers and a cross" (1547)
Noted for book 'Cratfield, A Transcript of the Accounts of the Parish from AD 1490 to AD 1642 with notes' by Rev. William Holland and edited by Canon Raven.
- 1879 Restorations
- Seats: 500 91831)

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1597 1 person stands excommunicated because he will not attend church because the Book of Common Prayer is used there.
Independent/Congregational chapel built (1811/12), enlarged (1832), seats 300
1 religious martyr from parish burned at Laxfield (1557)

13. Manorial:

- 1066 Manor of 3½ carucates held by Thored
1086 Manor of 3½ carucates belonging to Ralph Baynard
1066 Manor of 40 acres held by a free man
1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Ralph Baynard

Cratfield

- Circa 1140 The manor appears to have been divided, part of which was granted to St. Neots monastery. There is however much confusion regarding the lines of descent but by 1433 part seems to be in possession of the Dukes of Norfolk
- Circa 1609 Sir Edward Coke owns (linked to Trimley St. Mary and Wherstead)
- Circa 1777 Sir Joshua Vanneck (linked to Aldringham, Cookley and Heveningham)

Sub-Manors:

Cratfield le Roos

- Circa 14th Sir John le Roos owns
 1594 Hugo Claxton died seised
 1809 Alexander Adair owns

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

- 1844 £2,418 rental value
 1891 £2,576 rateable value
 1912 £2,015 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

- 1844/1891 Land sub-divided
 1912 Lord Huntingfield and Noah Creasey, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

- 1680 3 gents

18. Occupations:

- 1550–1599 5 yeomen, 1 turner, 2 husbandmen, 1 sawyer, 1 wheelwright
 1600–1649 23 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 husbandmen, 1 cooper, 1 cordwainer/shoemaker
 1650–1699 12 yeomen, 3 tailors, 1 butcher, 1 tanner, 2 cordwainers/shoemakers
 1831 137 in agriculture, 28 in retail trade, 1 professional, 25 in domestic service, 6 others
 1844 Poulterer, bricklayer, 2 tailors, 3 shoemakers, 2 teachers, butcher/victualler, 4 blacksmiths, 30 farmers, wheelwright, 4 grocer/drapers, miller
 1912 Sub-postmaster, school mistress, police officer, 24 farmers, 2 shopkeepers, blacksmith, surgeon, 2

publicans, 2 bricklayers, 2 farm bailiffs, cattle dealer, carrier, grocer, grocer/drapery, asst. overseer, boot maker, tailor, wheelwright/carpenter, carpenter, wheelwright.

19. Education:

1818 1 endowed school (12 attend), small weekly school (20-30 attend)
 1 Sunday school (20-30 attend)
 1833 1 day and Sunday school (est. (1828) incorporating early endowment (90 day and 64 Sunday pupils)
 1 Dissenters Sunday school (30 attend)
 Schoolmaster recorded (1561)
 1844 Day and boarding school listed + schoolmaster
 1891 National school built by Rev. E. Holland (120 attend), average attendance (1912) 66

20. Poor relief:

1776	£147	spent on poor relief
1803	£282. 10s. 6d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£607. 18s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£633. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£703. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£654. 14s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 Messuage (Town House) = 1/2 acres, 2 farms (116 acres), 4th part of Bucenhams Manor and messuage + 17 acres in Horham
 Town house occupied rent free by poor persons
 Remainder let at £180 p.a. and applied to church repairs, churchwardens accounts and for benefit of poor

Leman's Charity:

1840 £8 p.a. to master of Sunday school for purchase of books

22. Other institutions:

1912 Police officer
 Guild accounts 1534-1540 in Cratfield Parish papers
 Guildhall (known as Town House) erected (1563)

23. Recreation:

1844-1912 THE BELL and THE SWAN public houses

24. Personal:

John Noye: burned at Laxfield – religious martyr (1557)

25. Other information:

'Cratfield Parish Papers' by W. Holland (1895)

Archaeological Sites

Med. moated sites (CRN 6790, 2164, 2167, 2168, 2169)

Site of Green (CRN 6791, 6792, 6793, 6794, 6795)

Church of St. Mary (CRN 6796)

Field System (CRN 2172)

Stray finds: PMed coins (CRN 2165)

Pottery and witch bottle (CRN 2173)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 6170, 2174)

Med. pottery (CRN 2171)

Scatter finds: PMed artefacts (CRN 2166)