

# 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

**RDC/UDC:** Blything RD (1894–1934), Lothingland RD (1934–1974), Waveney DC (1974–)

## **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1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming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)

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 4, 1801 – 3, 1851 – 1, 1871 – 1, 1901 – 4, 1951 – 15, 1981 – 6

**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 Shardelowe owns (linked to Chediston)  
 1451 John Hopton owns (linked to Blythburgh)  
 1579 William Roberds owns  
 1596 Robert Smith owns  
 17<sup>th</sup> 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
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**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
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**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.