

1. Parish: Henham

Meaning: High meadow/enclosure.

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:

Hamlet of Wangford, gained separate civil parish status (1866), no separate ecclesiastical identity.
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,798 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a) Deep well drained sandy coarse loam soils, some with slowly permeable sub-soils and slight seasonal waterlogging, risk wind erosion.
b) Some deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding by river.

5. Types of farming:

1086		Wood for 40 pigs, ½ acre meadow, 1 mill, 1 cob, 8 cattle, 14 pigs, 40 sheep, 16 goats, 4 beehives.
1500-1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent 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.
1969	Trist	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1975 River Wang forms natural boundary to north and east. SE corner borders Bulcamp marshes.
Majority of parish covered by Henham Park. Settlement dispersed.
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 11, 1801 – 13, 1851 – 22, 1871 – 28, 1901 – 26, 1951 – 25, 1981 – 22

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Brampton, Sotherton and Blythburgh.

Rail: 1891, 4 miles Brampton station: East Suffolk line, opened (1854), closed for goods (1964), station demolished (1978)
1 mile Blythburgh station: Southwold-Halesworth line, opened (1879), closed (1929)

9. Population:

1086 – 18 recorded
1327 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 1s. 1d.
1524 – not recorded
1603 – not recorded
1674 – 13 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 116 inhabitants
1831 – 156 inhabitants
1851 – 101 inhabitants
1871 – 142 inhabitants
1901 – 140 inhabitants
1931 – 107 inhabitants
1951 – 89 inhabitants
1971 – 68 inhabitants
1981 – 59 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (with Wangford)

1254-1535 Not recorded
1831 No glebe house. Joint gross income £79 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectory of Thorpe-by-Hadiscoe, Norfolk
1912 Consolidated with Raydon and Wangford. Joint net value £175. Incumbent resides in Wangford

Patrons: Earl of Stradbroke (1831)

11. Church

1214-15 Mention is made of church in use.
1650 Chapel at Henham described as 'anciently used for divine worship.' Consolidated with Wangford at about that time.

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

Henham Manor

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Alwin under patronage
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Ralph Baynard and held by Robert of Blythburgh
13th cent Cardo de Fressunvill/Freskenville owns
1213 John Marescall owns
1264 Inquis p.m of Hugh de Vere, Earl of Oxford
1267 William de Kerdeston owns (linked to Lt. Glemham)
Circa 1475 John de la Pole owns (linked to Stratford St. Andrew, Wickham Skeith and Fressingfield)
Circa 1513 Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manor throughout Suffolk)
Circa 1538 Sir Anthony Rous owns (linked to numerous manor throughout Suffolk)
1909 Earl of Stradbroke owns (Linked to Reydon, Sotherton, Stoven, Uggeshall, Dennington, Tannington and Bruisyard)

Sub-manors

Cravens

1267 Sir Thomas Craven died seised
Circa 1430 William Micklefield owns
1441 John Ulverston owns (linked to Frostenden and Gisleham)
1473 Sir John Heveningham owns (linked to Ubbeston, Walpole and Heveningham)
1497 Sir Robert Brandon owns (linked to Saxmundham and Wattisfield)
16th cent. Sir Anthony Rous owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,947 rental value
1891 £1,794 rateable value
1912 £1,381 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Earl of Stradbroke, principal owner
1912 Earl of Stradbroke, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1674 Sir John Rous has house with 31 hearths
1679 Sir John Rous, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1844 Earl of Stradbroke
1891 Rt. Hon. Earl of Stradbroke JP
1912 Earl of Stradbroke

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 Husbandman
1550–1599 1 yeoman, 1 thatcher, 1 labourer, 1 Husbandman
1600–1649 3 yeomen
1650–1699 4 yeomen, 1 husbandman
1831 41 in agriculture, 1 in retail trade, 2 in labouring, 18 in domestic service, 1 other.
1844 3 farmers
1912 Agent/Valuer to Henham park, 2 farm bailiffs, 1 farmer

19. Education:

1891 National school said to be situated within this parish, 140 attend although this may refer to the school in Wangford.
1912 Children said to attend school in Wangford.

20. Poor relief:

1776 £29 11s. 11d.
1803 £68 12s. 9¹/₄d.
1818 £118 5s.
1830 £238 3s.
1832 £202 6s.
1834 £161 16s.

21. Charities:

Dole: 1840 10s p.a. (by will of Matthew Waters 1589)
for the poor – not made since 1783

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

Earls of Stradbroke (Rous family)

25. Other information:

Henham park extends to 850 acres (1844), well wooded. Extended to 1,400 acres (1891)

Henham Hall: Former Elizabethan hall destroyed by fire (1773) rebuilt (1793-79) by James Wyatt. Re-modelled for the Earls of Stradbroke by E.M Barry (no dates)

Earl of Stradbroke maintained kennel of greyhounds, a pack of harriers and a horse racing establishment at Henham. Discontinued (1860)

Hall demolished (1950's). Photograph in 'Guide to Country Houses' Vol. III by Burke and Savill

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Med. Moated sites (CRN 1110, 1260, 1261)

Rectangular enclosure (CRN 1111)

PMed. Great house: documentary evidence (CRN 6864)

Stray finds: Un. Human bone (CRN 9039)

Sax. Pottery (CRN 9083)

I.A. torc (CRN 458)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 1113)

Scatter finds: Rom. Pottery (CRN 1109, 1112, 8866)

PMed. Pottery (CRN 8867)