

1. Parish: Homersfield otherwise Homerfield St. Mary or South Elmham St. Mary

Meaning: Hunbeorht's field

2. Hundred: Wangford

Deanery: South Elmham

Union: Wangford

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Wangford RD (1894-1935), Wainford RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Abolished as civil and ecclesiastical parish to create St Cross and Homersfield (1767)

Bungay Petty Sessional Division
Harleston County Court District

3. Area: 992 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

- a) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
- c) Deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils in part very acid, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding near river
- d) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or woodland, risk wind erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086		Wood for 200 pigs, 26 pigs, 1 mill
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region. Mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pigs keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp.

		Carrots and turnips were being grown.. by the more enterprising farmers of the Waveney Valley
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crops and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1961 Small compact development around bridge and at junction road. Distribution probably influenced by route of main Harleston – Bungay road, railway and marsh land around edge of River Waveney. Siting of bridge at this point could also be a contributory factor.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 24, 1801 – 40, 1851 – 57, 1871 – 40, 1901 – 32, 1951 – 37, 1981 – 52

8. Communications:

Road: Main Diss – Bungay road. Roads to Flixton, South Elmham Sandcroft.
Roads unsafe for traveling and practically impassable for several months of the year (18th cent.)

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Tivetshall – Lowestoft line, opened (1860), closed (1964).

Water: River Waveney

9. Population:

1086 — 60 recorded
1327 — 133 taxpayers paid £12. 15s. 4d. (includes South Elmham)
1524 — 22 taxpayers paid £3.3. 1d.
1603 — 82 adults
1674 — 35 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 147 inhabitants
1831 — 233 inhabitants
1851 — 248 inhabitants
1871 — 178 inhabitants
1901 — 139 inhabitants
1931 — 140 inhabitants
1951 — 125 inhabitants
1971 — 165 inhabitants

1981 — 144 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (with Sandcroft)

1254	Not recorded
1291	Valued £5. 6s. 8d.
1535	Valued £5. 6s. 8d.
1737	Consolidated with South Elmham Sandcroft
1831	Curate, stipend £62 p.a. No Glebe house. Gross income £360 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of South Elmham St. James
1846	9 acres glebe
1855	Tithes commuted for £143. £220. 10s. p.a. from Sandcroft
1912	Joint nett value £214. 31 acres glebe

Patrons: Bishop of Norwich (1331/1501), North family (1541-1612), William Lisle (1662), Mary le Grys (1693), William Smith (1722), A. Adair (1831), Sir F.E.S. Adair (1912)

11. Church St. Mary
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086	Church + 12 acres land
	Church + 30 acres land
13 th cent.	Walls
14 th cent.	Gable cross on nave
1865 and 1890	Restoration

Seats: 135 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597	C. Barker (miller) not receiving communion
------	--

13. Manorial:

Homersfield Manor:

1066	Estate of Oliver, Bishop of Thetford
1086	Manor of 5 carucates belonging to Bishop of Thetford
1540	North family owns (linked to South Elmham)

Sub-Manors:

Limbourne/Lumburn called Lymborn Priors

1086	Manor of 40 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Abbot of St. Edmund
circa 1160	In hands of Bungay Nunnery
1537	Granted to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk
1565	Bassingbourne Gawdy owns

18th cent. Annexed to main manor

14. Markets/Fairs

1218 Market and fair granted to Bishop of Norwich, obsolete by (1874)
1226/27 Grant for market and fair, charter granting a fair (1226/27)
1227 Fair in existence

15. Real property:

1844 £809 rental value
1891 £1,199 rateable value
1912 £870 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Closed parish - Adair family sole owners

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 2 yeomen, 1 husbandman
1600-1649 3 yeomen, 1 husbandman
1650-1699 1 yeoman, 2 cordwainers, 1 grocer, 1 miller
1831 42 in agriculture, 15 retail trade, 6 in domestic service, 6 other
1844 2 shoemakers, 2 farmers, 1 victualler, 1 grocer/draper
1912 1 Sub-postmistress, 1 station master, 1 publican, 1 grocer/draper, 1 shopkeeper, 2 millers, 1 market gardener, 1 farm bailiff, 2 farmers

19. Education:

1833 Day school supported by private individuals (25 attend)
 1 fee paying day school (24 attend)
1867 Children attend National School at Flixton
1912 Children attend school at Sandcroft

20. Poor relief:

1776	£54. 12. 0d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£107. 6s. 9 ½ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£180. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£78. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£145. 9s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£130. 3s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1828 Yearly Sum from rents of 18s.

Poor's Land:

1828 2 ½ acres let at £2. 10s. p.a. distributed at Christmas among widows and other poor persons

Adair's Charity:

1782 by will of William Adair: Dividends paid to and for the benefit of the labouring and industrious poor in Flixton, Homersfield and South Elmham Sandcroft.

1828 Used to purchase coals and support of schools

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society (40 members)

1925/27 Barnfield cottages, modern almshouses

23. Recreation:

1844-1912 The Swan public house

1937 The Black Swan public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

3rd cent. Romano British pottery kiln excavated (1959). Complete kiln with last firing destroyed by workmen (1962)

'A Romano-British Pottery kiln at Homersfield' by N. Smedley and E. Owles
PSIA Vol. XXVIII p.168

'A Face Mould from the Romano-British Kiln Site at Homersfield' by N. Smedley and E. Owles. PSIA Vol.XXX p.210

Gibbet at Gallows Hill (circa 1550)

Archaeological Sites

Rom. pottery kilns (CRN 821)

Stray finds:

Rom. pottery (CRN 819)

Rom. quern (CRN 822)

B.A. pottery (CRN 820)

B.A. worked flint (CRN 1976)

I.A. pottery (CRN 1967, 1969, 1975)

Pal. axe (CRN 823)

Scatter finds: Mes. worked flint (CRN 1966)
Med. pottery (CRN 1968, 1970-3)
Burnt flint patch (CRN 1974)