

1. Parish: Rumburgh

Meaning: Clearing with a fort or fortified site of council

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (North)(1868–1957), S. Elmham (1957–1972), Beccles and S. Elmham (1972–)

Union: Blything

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

Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change 1931
Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,538 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils.

5. Types of farming:

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 crop:	Wheat, barley, beans, turnips.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

1851 164 acres of Rumburgh Common in Rumburgh and Wissett enclosed under General Acts 1849.

7. Settlement:

1982: Ribbon type development (well spaced). Church situated separately to the north at site of former priory on the border with S. Elmham All Saints. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 32, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 92, 1871 – 89, 1901 – 79, 1951 – 88, 1981 – 91

8. Communications:

Road: To S. Elmham All Saints, Ilkestshall St Margaret, Redisham and Wissett.

Rail: 1891 5 miles Homersfield station: Tivetshall–Beccles–Lowestoft line opened to Beccles 1863, closed 1965.

9. Population:

1086 – Entry omitted, possibly included with Wissett

1327 – 48 taxpayers paid £4 11s. 7d. (includes Holton, Wissett and Spexhall)

1524 – 21 taxpayers paid £3 5s. 1d.

1603 – 100 adults

1674 – 35 households

1676 – not recorded

1801 – 358 inhabitants

1831 – 421 inhabitants

1851 – 432 inhabitants

1871 – 391 inhabitants

1901 – 316 inhabitants

1931 – 248 inhabitants

1951 – 277 inhabitants

1971 – 262 inhabitants

1981 – 279 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual curacy (with S. Elmham St Michael 1831)
Vicarage 1891**

1254 Not recorded

1291 Valued £24 (includes Wissett)

1535 Not recorded

1603 Curate, stipend £6

1831 No glebe house. Gross income £130 p.a.

1891 Valued £63. Incumbent resides in S. Elmham All Saints

1912 Joint nett value £65. 66 acres glebe. Incumbent resides in the part of village which intrudes into S. Elmham All Saints.

Patrons: L. Atthill (1831), Mrs P. Frost (1891)

11. Church St Michael

(Chancel, nave, south porch, lower stage of broad west tower)

c.1065 This was the priory church for the cell of Benedictine Monks, founded at Rumburgh.

- 1086 40 acres in S Elmham belonging to the church of Rumburgh.
Note: Rumburgh fails to appear as a parish in Domesday survey therefore no further information is available.
- c.1250 Tower. Upper section altered at later date. Cloisters stood centrally with, and on north side of, the church. East of cloisters, next to chancel, stood small chapel with dorter over.
- 14/15th cent. Window in chancel
- 15th cent. Porch
- 1597 Chancel is decayed in the roof and windows – in urgent need of attention.
- 1878 Restoration
- Seats:** 130 (1915)

11a. Other religious institutions:

**Priory St Michael and St Felix
for Benedictine monks**

- c.1047/70 Founded by Aethelmar, Bishop of Elmham and by Abbot Thurstan as Cell of St Benets Abbey of Holme, Norfolk.
- c.1100/35 given by Stephen, Duke of Brittany to St Marys Abbey, York.
- 1291 Valued £10 12s. 11¹/₄d. with possessions in 11 parishes. Granted, prior to dissolution, to Cardinal Wolsey for his College in Ipswich.
Note: Domesday survey records 12 monks at Wissett (ie Rumburgh) which may have been dependent on St Melaine, Rennes.
Note: 1258 4 monks and 2 in 1286. Mentioned in Chronicles of St Marys Abbey.
1525 Income from rents £30.
1528 Dissolved
Parish church used by Priory, the buildings of which were situated to the north and east of it. Site partly occupied by farmhouse. Foundations visible.

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1597 Curate does not say divine service on weekdays, does not catechise and does not wear the surplice.
- 1836 Wesleyan chapel built

13. Manorial:

- 1086 Mention is made of a manor of Rumburgh belonging to Count Ian although there is no actual mention of the parish of Rumburgh.

1286	Sir John de Vallibus owns (linked to Parham, Spexhall, Walpole, Wenhaston, Wissett, Shottisham, Bramfield, Wenham Parva and Covehithe).
1364	John de Nerford owns.
No dates	Priory of Rumburgh
1528	Cardinal Wolsey owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk).
1530	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk).
1585	John Holland owns (linked to Carlton, Kelsale and Mendham).
1611	Paul Bayning owns (linked to Spexhall and Laxfield).
1731	William Cobbold owns
1747	Samuel Jessup owns
1877	Charles Henry Capon owns (linked to Earl Soham, Old Newton and Westleton).
1887	Joseph Beaumont owns
1889	George Frederick Beaumont owns

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£1,661 rental value
1891	£1,898 rateable value
1912	£1,484 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Sir F.E.S. Adair and F. Ling principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Samuel Chandler and Mr Faifax
1891	Rev. J. Clarke MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 yeoman, 1 husbandman
1550–1599	4 yeomen, 1 cooper
1600–1649	12 yeomen, 1 cooper, 1 husbandman, 1 spinster, 1 carpenter
1650–1699	8 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 2 spinsters, 1 clerk, 1 linen weaver
1831	82 in agriculture, 22 in retail trade, 1 professional, 14 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	Butcher, bricklayer, 2 shoemakers, victualler, schoolmaster, tailor/shopkeeper, tailor, maltster, joiner, wheelwright, coach builder, 2 blacksmiths, beerhouse keeper, corn miller, 15 farmers.

1912 Sub-postmistress, school mistress, publican, blacksmith, 16 farmers, 2 tailors, thatcher, 2 shopkeepers, coach builder, assistant overseer, 2 farm bailiffs, threshing machine owner, shoemaker, carpenter.

19. Education:

1818 1 endowed school (6 attend free)
1 Sunday school (30 attend)
1833 1 daily school (14 attend), 1 Sunday school (35 attend).
1873 School Board formed
1874 Old parish school (no dates) enlarged and opened as Board School.
1867 Public Elementary school built, enlarged in 1894 and 1906. Average attendance of 78 in 1912.

20. Poor relief:

1776 £54 7s. 8d.
1803 £132 1s. 7¹/₂d.
1818 £186 13s.
1830 £570 2s.
1832 £495 9s.
1834 £592 11s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate

1826 Premises called 'Bears', S Elmham St Michael + 18 acres and Close called 'Warpullocks' let at £30 pa.
7 acres let at £7 pa
Town Close, Spexhall let at £6 pa
Applied to church repairs, singers, bell ringers, education, coals, bread, clothing and poor relief.

22. Other institutions:

1844 Town House cottage let at £8 15s. 6d.

23. Recreation:

1844 The Buck Inn public house and 1 beerhouse
1891/1912 The Buck Inn public house

24. Personal:

David E. Davy, 1769–1851, born in Rumburgh, later lived in Yoxford. Spent 50 years collecting material for a history of Suffolk. This was purchased by British Museum after his death.

25. Other information:

Abbey farmhouse: timber framed. Details of late 17th cent. Stands on the site of the Prior refectory.

Cloisters existed (14' square) central to and on the north side of the church.

Parish contains common/green of 100 acres (portion intrudes into Wessett 1844). It is possible that this area was also used as a camping ground (for medieval game of football). 'Suffolk Landscape', by N. Scarfe, p.201.

It is believed that the Abbot of York deposited valuables at Rumburgh

Priory which were seized by Cardinal Wolsey when he was granted the Priory in 1528. He refused to return them despite protest from York. PSIA Vol XXII, p.159.

'Rumburgh', by Rev. J.J. Raven. PSIA Vol IX, p.256.

'Site of Rumburgh Priory', by V.B. Redstone. PSIA Vol XIV, p.319. Site of Priory covered 11 acres.

'Rumburgh Priory Church', by L.B. Cane. PSIA Vol XXII, p.155. Includes lists of Priors and vicars.