

1. Parish: Sotterley

Meaning: First element obscure (possible personal name), Second element ley = clearing

2. **Hundred:** Wangford

Deanery: Wanford (-1914), Saxmundham (1914-1969), Beccles (1969-1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1972-)

Union: Wangford

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

Other administrative details:

Beccles Petty Sessional Division
Beccles and Bungay County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,592 (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
- c) Deep well drained sandy and coarse loam soils, some with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Risk wind erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 10 pigs, 31 pigs
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 Also has similarities with sheep corn-region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variation of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main Crops:	Wheat, barley, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1796 1,553 acres 2R 13P: inclosure of Sotterley parish
1799 620 acres enclosed in Sotterley, Henstead with
Hulverstreet and Wrentham under Private Act of Lands
(1797)

7. Settlement:

1961 Small but diverse development on edge of Sotterley Park
within which stands the church (could suggest displaced
village). Formation of parish probably influenced by the
small river which runs through the parish and the growth
of the park.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 19, 1801 – 29, 1851 – 44, 1871 – 45,
1901 – 52, 1951 – 52, 1981 – 36

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Stoven, Hulverstreet, Ellough, Shadingfield and
Wrentham

Roads unsafe for travelling and practically impassable for
several months of the year (18th cent).

Rail: 1891 4 ½ miles Beccles station: Ipswich – Beccles line opened
(1854), station closed for goods (1966), Tivetshall – Lowestoft
line: opened to Beccles (1863), closed (1965)

9. Population:

1086 — 22 recorded
1327 — 68 taxpayers paid £4. 3s. (includes Willingham and
Shadingfield)
1524 — 23 taxpayers paid £5. 17s. 10d. (include Hulverstreet)
1603 — 105 adults
1674 — 25 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 254 inhabitants
1831 — 243 inhabitants
1851 — 227 inhabitants
1871 — 219 inhabitants
1901 — 221 inhabitants
1931 — 197 inhabitants
1951 — 168 inhabitants
1971 — 105 inhabitants
1981 — 106 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (1831), Discharged Rectory (1855)

1254	Valued £10.
1291	Valued £10.
1535	Valued £10.
1674	Parsonage has 3 hearths
1831	Curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £260. Incumbent also holds rectory of Burgh Rent charge of £295 in lieu of tithes. 23 acres glebe (1840) Consolidated with Willingham St. Mary (1873) Residence built (1910)
1912	Nett value £310 p.a. 23 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: T. Charlton and others (1433), Playters family (1469. 1504-58, 1599-1758), William Clerk (1479, W. Timperley and others (1580), Barne family (1758/1805), M. Barne (1831), Capt. M. Barne (1912)

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

	Stands within Sotterley Park
1086	Church + 7 acres land
circa 13 th cent.	Tower (high, of unusual design (tapers at top))
Norman	Lower walls of nave
1300	Nave and chancel
15 th cent.	S. door (stoups inside and out) W. of S. doorway – banner staff locker
1900	Restored

Seats: 120 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

Henstead Perpounds al Poynings

1066	Estate owned by Berghard
1086	Manor of 1 ½ carucates belonging to Earl Hugh in hands of Mandret
13 th cent.	Held as of the Honor of Chester in hands of Edmund de Sotterley
1479-1740	Playters family owns (linked to Ellough and Uggeshall)
1744	Miles Barne owns

Described in manuscript as ‘one of the best wooded estates in Suffolk’. Manors of Suffolk by Copinger

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,358 rental value
1891	£1,728 rateable value
1912	£1,448 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Capt. Miles Barne, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

	Sir Thomas Playters, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1606)
1680	3 gents recorded
1686	Sir Lionel Playters and John Playters
1728	Sir John Playters, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1790	Miles Barne, High Sheriff of Suffolk

18. Occupations:

1500-1549	1 yeoman
1550-1599	3 husbandmen, 1 blacksmith, 1 carpenter
1600-1649	2 yeomen, 2 labourers, 2 husbandmen, 1 linen weaver
1650-1699	2 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 butcher
1831	69 in agriculture, 1 professional, 8 in domestic service
1844	1 miller, 1 blacksmith, 1 victualler, 1 wheelwright, 1 school-mistress, 1 land agent, 1 brewer/grocer, 5 farmers
1912	1 teacher, 8 farmers, 1 publican, 1 grocer

19. Education:

1833	Day school (20 attend), 1 Sunday school (50 attend)
	School built (1840)
	Public Elementary school built (1873) (70 attend), average attendance (1912) 72. (also attended by children from Willingham)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£42. 12s. 1d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£97. 2s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£289. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£275. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£395. 10s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£203. 4s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Land:

1828 Cottage in 2 tenements occupied by 2 poor persons rent free

Jollye's Charity

1616 by will of Thomas Jollye: £6 p.a. for distribution to the poor

Poors Allotment:

1828 5 acres let at £6. 10s. p.a. distrubted to poor in casual distress

22. Other institutions:

1776 Workhouse (14 inmates)

23. Recreation:

1844 The Board public house and 1 brewer
1891 The Barne Arms public house
1912 The Falcon public house
1937 Sotterley and District Playing Fields Association formed, 8 acres field and clubhouse

24. Personal:

Thomas Sotterley (1477): (exiled Lancastrian) took refuge with Austin Friars at Norwich

'Expenses of Thomas Playters of Sotterley 1459-1460' by C. Richmond. PSIA Vol. XXXV p.41

25. Other information:

Roger de Sotterley claim view of Frankpledge and assize of bread and beer (1275)

Sotterley Manor held of the Honor of Chester by service of own armed horseman to attend Earl of Chester into Wales for 40 days at his own cost during times of war (1314)

Miles Barne had old hall demolished and new one built (circa 1744)

Archaeological Sites:

Un. building (CRN 1430)

Un. mound (CRN 1431)

Stray finds: Pal. axe (CRN 1432)
 Neo. worked flint (CRN 1433)
 Rom. pottery (CRN 1434)