

## 1. Parish: South Elmham St Cross

**Meaning:** Village where elms grew

2. **Hundred:** Wangford

**Deanery:** South Elmham ( -1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1972- )

**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  
Bungay Petty Sessional Division  
Harleston County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,310 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

5. **Types of farming:**

1086 South Elmham: Wood for 80 pigs, 30 pigs, 1 mill.  
A community of individualists who depend hardly at all on their neighbours in their day to day farming activities.

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.

1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, peas, beans.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

## 6. Enclosure:

1855      196 acres of Greshaw Green in Sancroft and St. James enclosed under General Acts (1853)  
Greshaw Green had formerly provided common pasture for all of the South Elmhams

## 7. Settlement:

1961      Ribbon type development scattered along the Homersfield to South Elmham St. James road with concentrations of habitation around church and public house. Settlement probably influenced by The Beck which runs through the parish  
Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 24, 1801 – 28, 1851 – 43, 1871 – 48,  
1901 – 44, 1951 – 44, 1981 – 37

## 8. Communications:

**Road:**      Roads to South Elmham St. Margaret, St James, Homersfield, Metford and Mendham  
Roads unsafe for traveling and practically impassable for several months of the year (18<sup>th</sup> cent.)

**Rail:**      1891    1 ½ miles Homersfield station: Tivetshall – Lowestoft line, opened (1860), closed (1964).

## 9. Population:

1086 — South Elmham: 119 recorded  
1327 — South Elmham: 133 taxpayers paid £12. 15s. 4d.  
1524 — 18 taxpayers paid £3. 2s. 2d.  
1603 — 80 adults  
1674 — 27 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 203 inhabitants  
1831 — 234 inhabitants  
1851 — 253 inhabitants  
1871 — 234 inhabitants  
1901 — 189 inhabitants  
1931 — 156 inhabitants

1951 — 155 inhabitants  
 1971 — 105 inhabitants  
 1981 — 99 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (with Homersfield)**

1254 Not recorded  
 1291 Valued £10.  
 1535 Valued £10.  
 1737 Consolidated with Homersfield  
 1831 Curate, stipend £62 p.a. No Glebe house. Gross income £360 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of South Elmham St. James  
 1834 Rectory House built. Tithe rent of £220. 8s. 4d. Dean and Chapter of Norwich take £23. 6s. 8d.  
 1855 Tithes commuted for £197. 10s. 25 acres 1R 7P glebe  
 1912 Joint nett value £214. 31 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Robert de Sancroft (1319/1329), Emericus de Wellyngham (1347), Middleton de Mendham (1389), Bateman family (1414/1585), Sir J. Tasburgh (1616), Earl of Holland (1639), R. Tasburgh (1661), Mary le Grys (1693), William Smith (1722/1776), A. Adair (1767/70 and 1787/1832), Sir F.E.S. Adair (1912)

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

1170 Main construction. Originally contained N. Nave  
 12<sup>th</sup> cent. S.& N. doorways (N. doorway much defaced)  
 circa 13<sup>th</sup> Tower and chancel  
 cent.  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Porch and stoup  
 1841 and Restored and enlarged  
 1887

**Seats:** 133 (1915)

**11a. Other religious information:**

‘South Elmham Deanery’ by V.B. Redstone PSIA Vol. XIV p. 323

**Saxon Minster**

Stone structure believed to be ruin of church (circa 1050)  
 Probably built on site of unknown wooden structure.  
 Specific purpose unknown. Unusual design consisting  
 apse short wide nave without aisles, W. square  
 apartment. In all 101 feet long.

‘The Old Minster, South Elmham’. PSIA Vol.IV p.1

'The Old Minster, South Elmham' by Rev. J.J. Raven. PSIA Vol. X p.1.  
 'The Old Minster at South Elmham' by the late J.T. Micklethwaite. PSIA Vol.XVI p. 29 and 184  
 'References to South Elmham Minster in Medieval Account Rolls of South Elmham Manor' by J. Ridgard. PSIA Vol. 36 p.196  
 'Excavations at the Old Minster South Elmham' by N. Smedley and E. Owles. PSIA Vol. 32 p.1

'South Elmham Deanery' By V.B. Redstone. PSIA Vol.XIV p.323

### **Secular College**

Theory is that the group of churches within the South Elmhams may have formed a religious centre

#### **12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597                      3 persons not receiving communion  
 circa 1670              Minister ejected

#### **13. Manorial:**

##### **South Elmham:**

Manor extended over 9 parishes called the liberty, manor or township of South Elmham.

Circa 680AD Granted to Felix the Burgundian by Sigebert, King of the East Angles.  
 1086                      Manor of 40 acres belonging to Godric the Steward under patronage of Ralph the Constable.  
 1086                      Manor of 40 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford.  
 1086                      Manor of 40 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Alwin.  
 1086                      Manor of 60 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Bondi.  
 1086                      Manor of 30 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford, in the hands of a freeman under patronage of Stigand.  
 1086                      Manor of 30 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Alwy under patronage of Edric of Laxfield.  
 1101                      See of Norwich owns.  
 1535                      Seized by the Crown and granted to Sir Edward North.  
 1613                      Tasburgh family owns (linked to Flixton).  
 1787                      Adair family owns (linked to Cratfield).

##### **Sub-Manors:**

### **St. Cross/St. George**

1086	Manor of 1 ½ carucates in the overlordship of the See of Norwich
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sandcroft family own
15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Bateman family owns (annexed to New Hall)
circa 1536	Granted to Lord North (absorbed by main manor)

### **New Hall**

15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Robert Bateman of Flixton owns.
1583	Tasburgh family owns (absorbed by main manor).

### **Kings Hall**

1558	Alice Wentworth owns.
1599	Berdwell family owns.

#### **14. Markets/Fairs**

#### **15. Real property:**

1844	£1,331 rental value
1891	£1,567 rateable value
1912	£1,041 rateable value

#### **16. Land ownership:**

1844-	Adair family – sole owners
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#### **17. Resident gentry:**

#### **18. Occupations:**

South Elmham Manor:	350,000 Breketylls (bricks) were being made and sent to Hoxne (1464/65), 'Suffolk Landscape' by N. Scarfe p.182.
1550–1599	1 husbandman, 4 yeomen
South Elmham:	4 yeomen, 6 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 1 wheelwright, 2 labourers.
1600-1699	1 carpenter, 1 joiner, 2 husbandmen, 2 blacksmiths, 1 butcher, 6 yeomen, 2 labourers
South Elmham:	22 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 husbandmen, 1 wheelwright, 1 butcher, 1 linen weaver, 1 clerk.

1831	42 in agriculture, 11 retail trade, 1 professional, 3 in labouring, 17 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	1 wheelwright, 1 blacksmith, 1 cow leech/victualler, 1 miller, 8 farmers, 1 land surveyor
1912	1 sub-postmistress, 1 schoolteacher, 1 publican, 7 farmers, 1 gardener, 1 blacksmith/wheelwright

## **19. Education:**

1818/1833	School of Industry supported by A. Adam (70 attend)
1867	Children attend National school at Flixton
1875	Public Elementary school built, enlarged (1895)
	Average attendance (1912) 51

## **20. Poor relief:**

1776	£49. 19s. 3d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£101. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1818	£462. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£366. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£414. 11s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£512. 11s.	spent on poor relief

## **21. Charities:**

### **Town Estate:**

1828	Yearly Sum from rents of £1. 5s.
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### **Adair's Charity:**

1782	by will of William Adair: Dividends paid to and for the benefit of the labouring and industrious poor in Sancroft, Flixton and Homersfield
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## **22. Other institutions:**

## **23. Recreation:**

1844-1912	The Fox and Hounds public house
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## **24. Personal:**

'The Tasburghs of South Elmham: The Rise and Fall of a Suffolk Gentry Family' by N. Evans. PSIA Vol.34 p.269.

## **25. Other information:**

'Present State of Elmham Controversy' by F.S Stevenson. PSIA Vol. III p.110.

'On the site of the Bishopric of Elmham'. PSIA Vol. IV p.7.

Bishop of Norwich had palace in the area, suggested that moated ruins in St. Margarets parish could be remains of this.

Elmham Hall much decayed (1651).

### **Archaeological Sites**

Rom. excavation/pottery (CRN 972)

Sax. minster (CRN 7490, 837)

Med. moated site (CRN 838, 839, 840, 863)

Med. toft (CRN 842, 844)

Pal. fossil remains (CRN 843)

Med. Church of St. George (CRN 847)

Un. pond (CRN 850)

Rom. iron working site (CRN 716)

I.A. iron working site (CRN 7648)

Med. house (CRN 862)

PMed. house (CRN 7507, 1528)

PMed. building (CRN 7508)

Med. house platform (CRN 478)

Field Boundary (CRN 4279)

Med. Green (CRN 5079)

Stray finds: I.A. pottery (CRN 7649)

Neo. axe (CRN 841)

Scatter finds: Burnt flint patch (CRN 848, 851, 854-856, 7506, 860, 720)

Med. pottery (CRN 849, 852-3, 857-9, 861, 318, 479, 717, 719, 1219, 1220, 1222-5, 1227, 944)

PMed. pottery (CRN 7505, 7523-5)

Rom. pottery (CRN 480, 695, 721, 1221, 1527, 1529)

Neo. worked flint (CRN 718, 1530)

PMed. brick (CRN 1226)

I.A. pottery (CRN 1526)