

1. Parish: South Elmham St. Peter

Meaning: Village where elms grew (Ekwall)

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:

Bungay Petty Sessional Division
Harleston County Court District

3. Area: 595 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, beans.

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1961 Small compact settlement developed around church and along road to South Elmham St. Michael. Development probably influenced by the Beck to south of parish. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 15, 1801 – 18, 1851 – 20, 1871 – 19, 1901 – 16, 1951 – 12, 1981 – 11

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to South Elmham St. Michael and Ilketshall St. Margaret.
Roads unsafe for traveling and practically impassable for several months of the year (18th cent.).

9. Population:

1086 — South Elmham: 119 recorded
1327 — South Elmham: 133 taxpayers paid £12. 15s. 9d.
1524 — 18 taxpayers paid £2. 18s. 10d.
1603 — 47 adults
1674 — 24 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 129 inhabitants
1831 — 122 inhabitants
1851 — 97 inhabitants
1871 — 76 inhabitants
1901 — 93 inhabitants
1931 — 64 inhabitants
1951 — 44 inhabitants
1971 — 30 inhabitants
1981 — 31 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (with South Elmham St. Margaret)

1254 Value not recorded.
1291 Valued £8
1535 Valued £8
Consolidated with South Elmham St. Margaret (1734)
1831 2 curates, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.

Gross income £296 p.a.
 25 acres glebe (1831)
 Tithes commuted for £145 p.a. Yearly payments as for
 South Elmham St. Margarets (1855).
 1912 Joint nett value £210. 93 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Bishop of Norwich (1328/1525), Lord North (1554-1566), Sir J. Tasburgh (1625), Robert Woolmar (1677), Thomas Baxter (1684), William and Jane Clayton (1717), Danial Sayer (1732), Grace Britten (1753), Alexander Adair (1802-1833), Sir F.E.S. Adair (1912).

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

Norman S. doorway
 Circa 1375 Nave and tower
 Chancel mainly rebuilt (no dates), N. chancel held chapel
 dedicated to Our Lady.
 Churchyard: base of cross (no dates)

Seats:

12. Nonconformity etc:

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:

New Hall

15 th 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	£626 rental value
1891	£620 rateable value
1912	£467 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Adair family sole owners
1891	H. Adair and H.C. Freestone, principle owners
1912	Sir F.E.S. Adair, principle owner

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	South Elmham: 4 yeomen, 6 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 1 wheelwright, 2 labourers.
1600-1699	1 linen weaver, 2 husbandmen, 4 yeomen South Elmham: 22 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 husbandmen, 1 wheelwright, 1 butcher, 1 linen weaver, 1 clerk.
1831	31 in agriculture, 1 in retail trade
1844	1 victualler/shopkeeper, 5 farmers
1912	4 farmers, 1 asst. overseer, 1 publican

19. Education:

1912 Children attend school at South Elmham All Saints

20. Poor relief:

1776	£19. 15s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£41. 19s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£186. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£185. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£209. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£234. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

<u>Town Estate:</u>	1828	Yearly sum from rates – 18s.
<u>Henry Smith Charity:</u>	1626	Yearly sum made to churchwardens
	1828	£9. 6s. 8d. distributed among 16 poor persons

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844-1912 The Hawk public house

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).

'St. Peters Hall, South Elmham' by Rev. E. Farrer. PSIA Vol.XX p.48
Main Part of hall used as farm buildings (1968).

Archaeological Sites

Med. house (CRN 895)

Church of St. Peter (CRN 7989)

PMed building (CRN 7989)

Scatter finds: Med. Pottery (CRN 7618, 7620, 7622, 7623, 7624, 7626, 7629, 7630, 7985, 7986, 7988, 7990)

PMed Pottery (CRN 7619, 7627, 7987)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 7621, 7984)
Neo. Worked flint (CRN 7628)
Un. Burnt flint patch (CRN 7631)