

1. Parish: Syleham

Meaning: Meadow/enclosure by miry place or in a gulley

2. **Hundred:** Hoxne

Deanery: Hoxne

Union: Hoxne (1835–1907), Hartismere (1901–1930)

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hoxne R.D. (1894–1934), Hartismere R.D. (1934–1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Hoxne Petty Sessional Division
Harleston County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,607 acres land, 8 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, in part very acid, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding near river
- c. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		14 acres meadow, wood for 210 pigs, 2 mills, 1 cob, 2 cattle, 44 pigs, 7 sheep, 3 goats, 1 beehive
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 crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1854 28 acres in Syleham enclosed under General Acts 1845

7. Settlement:

1984 River Waveney forms natural parish and county boundary to north. Associated wetlands restrict development in this area except for factory and house at river crossing. Small well spaced development arranged around areas known as Great and Little Green. Church in isolated position near to river. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 38 , 1801 – 40, 1851 – 81,
1871 – 77, 1901 – 50, 1951 – 60,
1981 – 59

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Hoxne, Weybread, Fressingfield and Brockdish

Rail: 1891 4 miles Harleston station: Waveney Valley line opened
1855/60, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods
1966

Water: River Waveney: Act passed to make Waveney navigable
1670, decline marked by beginning of rail travel 1852

9. Population:

1086 – 35 recorded
1327 – 49 taxpayers paid £2 18s. 4d.
1524 – 31 taxpayers paid £14 13s. 4d.
1603 – 86 adults
1674 – 46 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 257 inhabitants
1831 – 391 inhabitants
1851 – 374 inhabitants
1871 – 337 inhabitants
1901 – 241 inhabitants
1931 – 240 inhabitants
1951 – 204 inhabitants
1971 – 167 inhabitants
1981 – 165 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831), Vicarage (1891)

1254 Valued £12 (with Esham)
1291 Valued with chapel £14 13s. 4d.
Portion of Prior of Hoxne 4s.

£14 17s. 4d.

1535	Valued £15
1603	Curate, stipend £10
1831	Curate, stipend £52 p.a. Glebe house, gross income £88 p.a. Incumbent also holds vicarage of Mendham Great tithes commuted for £245 p.a. 1842
1844	Approximately half parish is tithe-free
1891	Valued £66 Good vicarage house and 14 acres glebe
1912	Nett value £51 p.a., 13 acres glebe and residence
Patrons:	L. Press (1831), Rev. A. Cooper (1844), E.J. Fairbrother (1891), H. Palgrave Raven (1912)

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

Anglo-Saxon	Traces in NW angle
1086	Church + 16 acres, value 2s.
Norman	Tower, upper portion (14 th cent.)
13 th cent.	Chancel
14 th /15 th cent.	Nave
1838	Restoration

Seats: 120 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

Syleham Comitis

1066	Manor of 2½ carucates held by Ulf
1086	Manor of 2½ carucates belonging to Robert of Tosny
1275	Roger de Clifford owns
c.1316	Ralp de Seymour owns
14 th cent.	Sir John Wingfield owns (linked to Fressingfield, Stradbroke and Wingfield)
1389	Inquis p.m. of William de la Pole (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1510	Sir Shomas Howard owns (linked to Linstead Parva, Bedingfield, Fressingfield and Stradbroke)
1554	Sir Henry Jernegan owns (linked to Wingfield and Herringfleet)
16 th /17 th cent.	Sir Michael Stanhope owns (linked to Bromeswell, Hollesley, Culpho and Ufford)
c.1644	Sir Henry Wood owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1785	William Mann owns

1843	Bransby Cooper owns
1885	miss Mary Taylor owns
1909	Capt. Sir Frederick E.S. Adair owns (linked to Fressingfield, Wingfield and Naughton)

Sub-manors:

Syleham, Monks Hall/Tylney's/Syleham Hall

11 th /12 th cent.	Thetford Priory owns
c.1536	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1544	Thomas Tylney owns (linked to Middleton)

Esham

1285	Thomas Charles owns
1316	Thetford Priory owns (annexed to Monks Hall)
1335	Sir Edmund de Seymour owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,951 rental value
1891	£2,543 rateable value
1912	£1,434 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Capt. Sir F.E.S. Adair and H. Palgrave Raven, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Anthony Barrey
1844	Rev. A. Cooper BA
1891	E.J. Fairbrother JP
1912	h. Palgrave Raven JP and Rev. J.M. Tate MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 yeoman, 1 spinster, 1 husbandman
1600–1649	6 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 husbandman, 1 potter, 1 joiner
1650–1699	3 yeomen, 1 spinster, 1 linen weaver
1831	75 in agriculture, 16 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 17 in domestic service
	Syleham Drabbet Co. Established c.1842, water and steam mill. Victoria County History Vol. II p.253 and 275.

1844	Beerhouse keeper, 2 corn millers, wheelwright, victualler, blacksmith, school teacher, cotton/linen manufacturer, 11 farmers
1912	Sub-postmistress, school teacher, beer retailer/coal merchant, 11 farmers, miller, shopkeeper, blacksmith, publican, Syleham Clothing & Manufacturing Co. (linen manufacture)

19. Education:

1833	1 Sunday school (20 attend)
1844	Boarding school run by Caroline Thurtell recorded National school built 1862, used only for meetings 1891, rebuilt 1910, average attendance 1912 30

20. Poor relief:

1776	£70 0s. 10d.
1803	£169 6s.
1818	£387 7s.
1830	£478 7s.
1832	£431 7s.
1834	£344 10s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 1 beerhouse/retailer, The White Horse public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'Pasture of "Frythawe" in Syleham: Chancery Proceedings: Thomas Hearinge v. Lady Fraunces Jerningham 1583' East Anglian Notes & Queries (New Series) Vol.13, p.248.

Syleham Lights: ignitions of marsh gas which caused death to travellers who, on entering the marsh, believed the lights to signify houses.

Published Parish Registers 1538–1837. Suffolk Parish Registers: Marriages Vol.III, p.53.