

## 1. Parish : Walsham le Willows

**Meaning:** Walh's/Waelses homestead possibly situated at place where willows grew

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

**Deanery:** Blackburne (-1972), Ixworth (1972-)

**Union:** Stow

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Thedwastre RD (-1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974-)

### Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division  
Bury St. Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,817 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Fine loam over clay soils, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils
- b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		19½ acres meadow, wood for 68 pigs, 1 cob, 1 cattle, 29 pigs, 30 sheep
1283		376 quarters to crops (3,008 bushels), 95 head horse, 238 cattle 52 pigs, 337 sheep*
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 in preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Based on four course system
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

\* 'A Suffolk Hundred in 1283', by E. Powell 1910. Concentrates on Blackbourn Hundred. Gives land usage, livestock and the taxes paid.

**6. Enclosure:**

Evidence suggests 15/16<sup>th</sup> cent. Enclosure at Cranmer Green. Believed to have experienced series of enclosures 15<sup>th</sup> cent. 154 acres enclosed at Allwood Green under Act of 1818 although this was not enrolled until 1820 and the accuracy of the aforementioned acreage is not certain.

**7. Settlement:**

1980 Parishes of Walsham, Stanton and Bardwell converge (at junction of trackways) at area known as High Cross (in existence by 1695). Large well spaced development, the centre of which is situated along the main street (Ixworth–Finningham Road) and around the centrally situated church.  
Small stream runs E–W parallel to main street and is crossed at intervals by small bridges. Secondary settlements at Four Ashes, Crowland, West Street and Cranmer Green. Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 71, 1801 – 133, 1851 – 271, 1871 – 275, 1901 – 239, 1951 – 250, 1981 – 355

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Stanton, Ixworth, Finningham, Rickinghall, Wattisfield, Badwell Ash and Westhorpe  
West Street forms part of former 'Thetford Way'  
Pack way to Botesdale Market 1577  
1844 Carriers to Ipswich on Thursday  
to Bury St. Edmunds on  
Wednesday and Saturday  
1891 2 carriers to Bury St Edmunds on  
Wednesday, 1 on Saturday  
to Elmswell daily  
1912 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on  
Wednesday and Saturday  
to Elmswell station daily

**Rail:** 1891 5½ miles Elmswell station: Bury St. Edmunds–Cambridge line opened 1846, closed for goods 1964, became unmanned halt 1967

**9. Population:**

1086 – 61 recorded  
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £2. 6s  
1524 – 67 taxpayers paid £7. 13s. 9d.

1577 – suggested population 400–600 persons (based on Field Survey Book)  
 1603 – 300 adults  
 1662 – 72 householders paid £11 2s.\*  
 1674 – 109 households  
 1676 – 189 adults  
 1801 – 993 inhabitants  
 1831 – 1,167 inhabitants  
 1851 – 1,297 inhabitants  
 1871 – 1,277 inhabitants  
 1901 – 1,038 inhabitants  
 1931 – 791 inhabitants  
 1951 – 798 inhabitants  
 1971 – 809 inhabitants  
 1981 – 990 inhabitants

\* ‘The Hearth Tax Return for the Hundred of Blackbourn 1662’, transcribed by S. Colman. PSIA Vol. XXXII part 2, p.168.

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831), Vicarage (1912)**

1254 Valued £13 6s. 8d.  
 1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d.  
 1341 Valued £15 13s.  
 1535 Altarage in Walsham (Ixworth Priory provides priest) £6 8s. 5d.  
 Parsonage house retains ancient features from period when it was the Priors Lodge pre 1536  
 1603 Stipend to priest £8.  
 1662 Parsonage has 4 hearths  
 1831 1 curate, stipend £50 p.a. No glebe house? Gross income £93 p.a.  
 1887 Rent charge of £747 10s. 3d. in lieu of tithes  
 1891 Living augmented with Queen Anne’s Bounty by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Value £200 plus residence  
 1890 Cemetery opened  
 1912 Nett value £375 p.a. 81 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** S. Golding (1831), T.M. Golding (1873), John Martineau (1891)

**11. Church St. Mary**  
 (Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, N. porch, W. tower)

1086 ½ church plus 10 acres, 1 acre meadow, valued 8d.  
 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure  
 Remains of side chapel at E. end of S. aisle  
 1441 Screen  
 1883 Reredos representing the Last Supper (work of G. Tinworth)

Roof originally held angel terminals all of which have been removed.  
 Photographs taken of wall paintings discovered in 19<sup>th</sup> cent. hang in the vestry  
 S. wall contains 'crant or maidens garland' memorial to Mary Boyce (d. 1685 aged 20)

**Seats:** Majority appropriated, 161 free (1873)

## 11a. Other religious institutions

**Priory:** It is intimated that there was a small priory subordinate to Ixworth Abbey established at Walsham, However, searches showed that whereas there was a temporal manor in the hands of Ixworth and united with the benefice –1536, and that Ixworth supplied priests to officiate in the church and reside in the manor house (still the rectory house) there was never a religious establishment such as a priory in the parish.

## 12. Nonconformity etc:

1593	Alice Lacie indicted at Bury Assizes for recusancy 1 person negligent in receiving communion for 4/5 years
1606	2 members of Lacy family recusant papists
c.1670	John Salkend (having been ejected from Worlington) settled in Walsham and continued to preach for which he was imprisoned. Licensed as Presbyterian teacher 1672 in his own house in Walsham. Likewise Rev. John Wilkinson who settled in Walsham after his ejection from Old Newton
1676	3 nonconformists
1707–1835	8 houses set aside for worship
1817	Wesleyan chapel erected.
c.1844	Wesleyan chapel rebuilt on site of former chapel by Wesleyan Reformists, sold to Congregationalists by 1891
No dates	Baptist and Independent chapels built (believed connected to Wattisfield chapel)
1866	Baptist chapel built near site of previous chapel (no date, possibly c.1817)
1912	An iron chapel at Four Ashes for the Plymouth Brethren
1929	Salvation Army Hall in existence
1968	'Early Nonconformity in Walsham le Willows' by J. Duncan
No date	'Early Congregationalism in Walsham' by Jean and Ray Lock

## 13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Aki
1086	Manor of 4 carucates belonging to Robert Blunt
–13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Held by le Blunt family (linked to Ixworth, Langham, Sapiston, Ixworth Thorpe) passing by inheritance to

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	William Cricketot (linked to Ixworth, Langham, Sapiston, Ixworth Thorpe)
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Rohesia de Pakenham (linked to Ixworth)
c.1359	Robert de Ufford owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
c.1375	Robert Swillington owns (linked to Blythburgh)
1450	William de la Pole owns (linked to Aspall, Cotton, Debenham, Dagworth and Wattisfield)
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	George, Earl of Shrewsbury owns who sold in
1515	to Charles Brandon (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1541	Anne of Cleves owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1559	Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1681	Hunt family owns
1802	James Powell owns
c.1829	George St. Vincent Wilson owns
1835	Samuel Golding owns

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

#### **Church House/Easthouse**

1307	John de Walsham owns Subsequently (at date unknown) passing to Ixworth Priory
1538	Richard Codington owns (linked to Santon Downham, Badwell Ash, Ixworth, Sapiston and Ixworth Thorpe)
1541	George Wright owns
1545	Henry Chittinge owns
c.1559	Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (absorbed by main manor)

#### **High Hall al Wydecattes/Walsham Overhall?**

1293–1351	appears to be in the hands of de Walsham family. It has been suggested that it was possibly absorbed by the main manor c.1359
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#### **Esthouse (uncertain manor)**

No information available suggested integration with Church House Manor

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

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

1844	£3,661 rental value
1891	£4,430 rateable value
1912	£3,571 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1674 Capt. Hunt  
1844 H.J. Wilkinson  
1891 Rev. C.D. Gordon MA and J. Martineau  
1912 Rev. A.G. Lee MA and Rev. C.S. Ward MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 husbandman, 1 tailor, 1 carpenter, 3 yeomen  
1550–1599 41 yeomen, 12 husbandmen, 2 labourers, 2 tailors, 1 cordwainer/shoemaker, 1 butcher, 2 shearmen\*, 1 clerk, 1 woollen weaver, 1 priest, 1 fletcher, 1 tanner  
1600–1649 18 yeomen, 1 driver, 5 husbandmen, 2 blacksmiths, 3 labourers, 3 tailors, 1 cordwainer/shoemaker, 1 wheelwright, 1 linen weaver, 1 glover, 1 weaver, 1 farmer, 1 barker  
1650–1699 21 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 2 wool combers, 1 blacksmith, 1 tailor, 1 cordwainer/shoemaker, 2 spinsters, 2 clerks, 1 baker, 1 grocer, 1 felt maker, 1 linen weaver, 2 carpenters, 1 say weaver  
\* shearmen – one who cuts woollen cloth  
1831 175 in agriculture, 68 in retail trade, 8 professionals, 3 in labouring, 65 in domestic service, 20 others  
1844 Registrar, 2 milliners, tailors, foreman, baker/confectioner, 3 thatchers, plumber/glazier, book-keeper, 3 solicitors, farm bailiff, bricklayer, 2 victuallers, watchmaker/gun maker, cooper, corn merchant/maltster/ale and porter brewer, drillman, hairdresser, cattle dealer, gardener, wheelwright, straw hat maker, vet, attorneys clerk, 3 academies, 3 beerhouse keepers, 3 blacksmiths, 6 boot/shoe makers, 3 butchers, 4 carpenters, 2 corn millers, 22 farmers, 4 grocer/drapers, 2 rope makers, 2 saddlers, 2 surgeons, 3 tailors  
1853 Maltings founded by Lacon's Brewery  
1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, fire brigade (compliment of captain and 8 men)(, public officers, 2 schoolmistresses, 4 tailors, saddler, 3 farm bailiffs, dressmaker, 2 bankers, 2 butchers, marine store dealer, 18 farmers, 5 publicans, blacksmith, grocer/drapper, auctioneer, miller, cycle agent, bookmaker, wheelwright, shopkeeper, painter, seedsman, 2 solicitors, corn dealer/butcher, refreshment rooms, carrier, officers of Industrial Home for Boys, baker, income tax collector, threshing machine owner, general builder, chemist/stationer, 2 surgeons, bootmaker, poultry dealer, grocer, vet, relieving officer

20<sup>th</sup> cent      Walsham Mill Ltd – Sainsbury's flour packing  
Clarke's of Walsham

**19. Education:**

1818            1 Sunday school (60 attend)  
1833            1 day and Sunday school (established 1832) (102 attend)  
                  assisted by Society for Promoting Education of the Poor  
                  and local inhabitants  
                  4 daily schools (80 attend)  
                  1 Baptist Sunday school (52 attend)  
1844            School supported by subscription  
                  3 academies  
1847            Boys Public Elementary School built, average attendance  
                  1912 65  
1848            National School built  
1857            Girls Public Elementary school built and endowed by Miss  
                  D. Wilkinson, average attendance 1912 76  
1871            Infant school built by Mrs and Misses Martineau, average  
                  attendance 1912 54  
No date        Girls Subscription School founded by Capt. Wilkinson  
1891            Commodious and separate schools for boys and girls  
                  supported by subscription (well attended)  
1896            Walsham Hall: restored and improved by Church of  
                  England Society for housing and education of waifs and  
                  strays  
1960's         School in The Street closed and converted to dwelling  
                  house  
                  Primary school built in Wattisfield |Road

**20. Poor relief:**

1776            £299 7s. 3d.  
1803            £794 6s. 9d.  
1818            £1,460 18s.  
1830            £1,535 10s.  
1832            £1,675 8s.  
1834            £1,698 5s.

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate:**

1840            57 acres 1R 14P let at £85 5s. 6d. rents applied to repair  
                  of property occupied by poor, church repairs,  
                  churchwardens expenses, expenses incurred re rent  
                  collection, parish clerk's salary, bridge repairs, provision  
                  of gowns/clothing for widows and poor women, residue  
                  applied to purchase of coals for poor

### **Rookwood's Charity:**

1840 Allotment of 3 acres let at £3 15s. 2d. applied with town estate  
Guildhall/workhouse and Town House occupied rent free by poor

### **Town Farm:**

1840 Formerly part of Allwood Green: 80 acres let as farm at £80 p.a. 1891 applied to aid poor rate

### **22. Other institutions:**

1446 Guilds of St. Trinity and St. John Baptist  
1521 Guild of St. Katherine  
16<sup>th</sup> cent. Guildhall and Town House occupied rent free by poor  
1844  
17<sup>th</sup> cent. Townhouse formerly divided into 4 for occupation of poor  
1755/56 Workhouse in existence, 20 inmates 1776  
1858 Public Hall and Literary Institute built – contains library and reading rooms  
1902 Priory Rooms built by J. Martineau for church use  
1912 Police officer listed  
Fire Brigade (compliment of capt. and 8 men)  
Ancient Order of Foresters  
Barclays Bank and Capital and Counties Bank Ltd.  
Conservative and Unionist Association  
Industrial Home for boys (waifs and strays)  
Lloyds Bank established, closed 1976  
20<sup>th</sup> cent. New police house built 1965 in Wattisfield Road  
Womens Institute  
Local History Group

### **23. Recreation:**

1844 The Blue Boar and The Black Swan public houses, maltster/ale and porter brewer, 3 beerhouses  
1891 The Blue Boar The Four Ashes Inn, The Six Bells, The Cherry Tree and The Swan public houses  
1912 Cricket ground and pavilion let to parish by M.R. Martineau.  
The Six Bells (old established commercial inn and posting house), The Swan, The Four Ashes, The Blue Boar and The Cherry Tree public houses  
Refreshment rooms  
20<sup>th</sup> cent. Sports club, Memorial Hall Entertainments Committee, Badminton, Bowls and Darts Club



## **24. Personal:**

Martineau family estate papers 1564–1926.

'Capt. Raphe Margery: A Suffolk Ironside', by J. & R. Lock. PSIA Vol. 36, p.207 (1592–1653) made his home in the parish, a highly regarded Parliamentarian soldier.

## **25. Other information:**

Game Place: 'a place compassed round with a fayre banke cast up on a good height and houseinge many great trees called populars growinge about the same banke, in the myddeste a fayre round place of earth made of purpose for the use of stage playes' Field Book 1577.

Note: 'a camping close site of 1509 is identifiable with that of an Elizabethan open air theatre of 1577', Suffolk Landscape by N. Scarfe p.201.

'The town holds one parcel of land called Camping Close'.

'Another Elizabethan Theatre in the Round', by K.M. Dodd appeared in the Shakespeare Quarterly Vol.XXI, Spring 1970 – extract is held in parish folder and contains plans of the site.

The above appears to imply that a medieval form of ball game (camping) was played at the same site as the open air theatre either prior to or at the same time as its use as a theatre.

Village lighted by oil lamps, expenses defrayed by subscription 1912.

Walsham Hall: restored and improved 1896 by Church of England Society for housing of waifs and strays. Used as Parents National Education Union establishment (progressive school 1920's/30's), fell into disrepair and demolished. Willow Court built on site 1970's.

The Grove: stands in park in centre of village.

Documents relating to town lands and the Guild or Town Hall extending from 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> cent. found in parish chest (held in Records Office).

Memorial Village Hall.

Maltings in Wattisfield Road converted to nine dwellings 1978/80.

Walsham Mill stands on site of mills dating back approximately 400 years.

The Priory: linked to Abbey of Ixworth. Used as vicarage. Name of Sir Richard Aldrich (a canon of Ixworth) carved on head posts in parlour. Possibly responsible for building part of house.

The Lawn: basically 17<sup>th</sup> cent. 19<sup>th</sup> cent. Mock-Tudor frontage

High Hall: 16<sup>th</sup> cent. moated house.

Village cattle pond restored 1984.

'Youthful Memories of my Life in a Suffolk Village' by B. Harvey – typescript in parish folder (b.1875 at Sunnyside Farm Cottage).

Perambulations of the town: survey of manors of Walsham and Walsham Church House 1695.

Walsham Collection of Manorial Records 1303–1873.

Walsham Observer Village Magazine 1967–83.

Walsham Book of Customs (Walsham manor surveyed for Sir Nicholas Bacon) 1577/78.

Town Wardens account book includes church repair work and House of Correction 1646–1806.

'Pictorial Momento of Walsham le Willows'.

Martineau estate houses: built 1896. Each house provided with garden, walnut tree and pig sty. Each block had communal wash-house, bakehouse and widows room (granny annexe). Each house has different text carved above doors and windows.

Hall Green occupied site in Summer Road.

'The buildings of Walsham le Willows 1967', issued by County Planning Dept.

'The Field Book of Walsham le Willows 1577', edited by K.M. Dodd.

Allwood Green also known as Hallowed Green.

Maps have been constructed by local historians for Walsham based on information from 1577 and 17<sup>th</sup> cent.

'The parish of Walsham le Willows: 2 Elizabethan surveys and their Mediaeval Background', by D.P. Dymond. PSIA Vol.33, p.195.

Period of rebuilding 1577–78.

'Notes on the parish and parish church of Walsham le Willows', by Rev. C.D. Gordon PSIA Vol.X, p.176.

Five cases of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.