

1. Parish: Worlingham

Meaning: Village of Werel's or Werwulf's people

2. **Hundred:** Wangford

Deanery: Wangford (-1914), Beccles (1914-1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1972-)

Union: Wangford

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Wangford R.D. (1894-1934), Wainford R.D. (1934-1974), Waveney D.C. (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Beccles Petty Sessional Division
Beccles and Bungay County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,672 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- Deep well drained sandy and coarse loam soils, some with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Risk wind erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

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 fertilising agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and 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:**

1797 3,862 acres enclosed in Worlingham with Ellough and

North Cove under Private Act of Lands 1796

7. Settlement:

1961 Development mainly concentrated along main Beccles–Lowestoft road.
Airfield intrudes into SE sector of parish. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 25, 1801 – 24, 1851 – 39,
1871 – 46, 1901 – 41, 1951 – 258,
1981 – 677

8. Communications:

Road: A146 Lowestoft to Beccles road. Road to Hulverstreet.

Rail: 1891 1½ miles Beccles station: Ipswich–Lowestoft line, line to Beccles opened 1854, closed for goods 1966
Tivetshall–Lowestoft line, line to Beccles opened 1863, closed 1965

Air: Air base (USAF) became operational August 1944. Most easterly airfield in U.K. and one of the last to be constructed. Used for air–sea rescue. Closed November 1945.
Most runways broken up, what remains is used by executive aircraft and British Airways helicopters.

9. Population:

1086 – 81 recorded
1327 – 58 taxpayers paid £2 16s. 10d.
(includes North Cove)
1524 – 26 taxpayers paid £4 2s. 2d.
1603 – 67 adults
1674 – 31 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 168 inhabitants
1831 – 202 inhabitants
1851 – 174 inhabitants
1871 – 200 inhabitants
1901 – 181 inhabitants
1931 – 253 inhabitants
1951 – 839 inhabitants
1971 – 1,515 inhabitants
1981 – 1,894 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £12

1535 Valued £12
Parsonage house and barns in ruins 1597
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £260 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectory of Brampton
Rectory house. 47½ acres glebe. Tithes commuted for rent-charge of £335.p.a. 1855
1912 Nett value £234. 47 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Prior and Convent of Butley (1371–1501), Nicholas Arrowsmith (1558)
The Crown (1576–1837), Lord Chancellor (1912)

Worlingham Parva

1254 Valued £2
1492 Consolidated with Worlingham (parish of 114 acres)
1797 Incorporated in North Cove

11. Church All Saints
(Chancel with S. aisle, nave, N. porch, lofty narrow tower, S. chapel with 2 bays)

1086 2 churches + 40 acres
Robert of Vaux holds ½ church with 30 acres
1608 Main structure
1876 Restored

Seats: 180 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Rector believed to stand excommunicated for striking and drawing blood in the churchyard 1594
4 persons not receiving communion 1597
Quaker burial ground acquired in parish c.18th cent.

13. Manorial:

Worlingham Manor:

1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to the King in hands of Ulf under patronage of Gyrth
Manor of 40 acres belonging to the King in hands of Asthelstan under patronage of Wulfsi
Manor of 30 acres belonging to the King in hands of Aethlsi under patronage of Gyrth
1281 Abbot of St. Edmunds owns
1539 Bokenham family owns
17th cent. Playter family owns (linked to Ellough, Willingham and Sotterley)
1755 Robert Sparrow owns (linked to Beccles and North Cove)

1885 Rev. Sir Charles Clarke owns (linked to Willingham)

Sub-manors:

Little Worlingham

1281 Catherine Fitz-Cabert owns
15th cent. John Jernegan owns
Possibly absorbed by or actually is the same as Manor of
Cove's al Jernigham al Worlingham at North Cove

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,641 rental value
1891 £2,156 rateable value
1912 £1,697 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Earl of Gosford, principal owner
1891 Rev. Sir C. Clarke, principal owner
1912 Hon. H. Malholland, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 2 gents recorded
Robert Sparrow, High Sheriff of Suffolk 1777

18. Occupations:

1550–1549 2 yeomen, 1 rowe mason (mason working in flint walling,
a rough mason)
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 1 cooper
1600–1649 1 butcher, 1 labourer, 3 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1
thatcher
1650–1699 1 labourer, 1 husbandman, 1 miller, 1 grocer, 1
blacksmith
1831 45 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 4 professionals, 22 in
domestic service, 1 other
1844 1 gamekeeper, 1 blacksmith, 1 wheelwright, 1 land agent,
1 hoop/hurdle maker, 1 junior shoemaker, 1 shopkeeper,
5 farmers
1912 1 teacher, 1 poultry farmer, 1 gardener, 1 estate
carpenter, 1 marshman, 5 farmers, 1 market gardener, 1
gamekeeper, 1 blacksmith

19. Education:

- 1818 Small day school (10 attend), 1 Sunday school (31 attend)
- 1833 Daily school supported by Countess of Gosford (24 attend)
1 Sunday school (37 attend)
National school built 1845 (40 attend) (also serves Ellough), enlarged 1910, average attendance 1912 65

20. Poor relief:

1776	£30 19s. 3d.
1803	£82 3s. 5d.
1818	£105 2s.
1830	£201 7s.
1832	£239 2s.
1834	£211 7s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

- 1828 Land and property let at £28 10s. 6d. p.a. used for repairs to estate buildings, repairs to church and support of poor. Occasionally for apprenticing, £5 paid to schoolmistress 1827

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St. John Baptist (no dates)
Guildhall used by Town Estate 1844, let for £5
Town House (6 inmates) 1674
Police station 1937

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Valued 10s. 6d. + 1,000 herring 1086

'Whitney and Read: Two Regency Estate Agents with short account of the Worlingham Estate 1755–1851', by N. Scarfe. PSIA Vol.XXVIII, p.185.