

1. Parish: Wortham

Meaning: Enclosed homestead (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (-1897), Hartismere (North)(1897-1931), N. Hartismere (1931-1972), Hartismere (1972-)

Union: Hartismere

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hartismere R.D. (-1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. Area: 2,740 acres including 6 acres inland water and 270 acres common (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a) Deep permeable sand and coarse loam, some affected by groundwater
b) Fine loam over clay soil. Subject to seasonal waterlogging
Some brickearth and sand and gravel

5. Types of farming:

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Hemp and flax grown in parish (1555-59) 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 Similarities with sheep corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley, main cash crop
1818	Marshall:	Wide variation of crop and management techniques, including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.
1937 1969	Trist:	Poultry farming. Specialist Suffolk House More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Diversified development at four centers: a) Long Green (Methodist church and school), b) Wortham Ling, c) Magpie Green and d) The Marsh Church situated separately near Wortham Hall.
River Waveney forms northern boundary and may have influenced development in this area
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 61, 1801 – 142, 1851 – 190, 1871 – 195, 1901 – 173, 1951 – 189, 1981 – 185

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Palgrave, Redgrave and Botesdale
1912 Carriers from Botesdale to Mellis daily
To Diss on Friday

Rail: 1891 2 ½ miles Mellis station: Mellis-Eye line, opened (1867), closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)
Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849), station closed (1966)

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

9. Population:

1086 — 107 ½ recorded
1327 — 49 taxpayers paid £4. 3d
1524 — 40 taxpayers paid £3. 12s. 4d..
1603 — 186 adults
1674 — 81 households
1676 — 252 adults
1801 — 784 inhabitants
1831 — 1,016 inhabitants
1851 — 1,086 inhabitants
1871 — 1,015 inhabitants
1901 — 776 inhabitants
1931 — 695 inhabitants
1951 — 597 inhabitants
1971 — 480 inhabitants
1981 — 526 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

Formerly Ecclesiastical parishes of Wortham Everard and Wortham Jervis

1254 Valued £20
1291 Valued £26. 13s. 4d.
1535 2 medieties: Wortham Everard: valued £13. 2s. 8 ½ d.

Wortham Jervis: valued £13. 2s. 1 ½ d.
 Consolidated (1789)
 Large rectory house built (1828)
 1831 Glebe house. Gross income £540 p.a. 40 acres glebe.
 Tithes commuted for £860 p.a. (1839)
 1912 Nett value £470. 40 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Sir Anthony Felton (1603), R. Cobbold (1831), Kings College, Cambridge (1912).

11. Church **St Mary (otherwise St. Thomas and St Mary)**
 (Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, S. porches, round tower)

1086 Norman 2 churches + 40 acres land, valued 7s.
 Largest round tower in England being 29' in diameter and approx. 60' high – top collapsed (1780) (said to have been one of the watch towers for the Abbot of St. Edmunds)
 Walls 4'3" thick. Toward now disused with wooden belfry

Circa 1360 Aisles
 14th cent. Parts of chancel, arcades of 3 bays
 1430 Clerestory
 15th cent. Main structure
 1893/1904 Restoration
 1908 S. porch rebuilt

Seats: 450

Church of Wortham Everard: St Thomas

Site not known

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 1 papist, 9 nonconformists
 Dwelling house set apart for worship (1706)
 Primitive Methodist chapel build (circa 1898)

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Godiva under patronage of St. Edmunds
 1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Ralph of Beaufour
 1066 2 manors of 60 acres held by 2 free men
 1086 2 manors of 60 acres belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds
 1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Alfheah under patronage of St Edmunds
 1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Abbot of St Edmunds

Wortham Hall

1066	Manor of 1 ½ carucates held by Modgeva under patronage of St Edmunds.
1086	Manor of 1 ½ carucates belonging to Ralph of Beaufour and held by Richard of Saint-Clair
1182	Abbot of St. Edmunds owns
1247	de Wachesham held manor for the Abbot by service of 12d. and ¼ of a knights fee
1384	Sir George Felbrigg was granted free warren
1613	Sir Henry Felton owns (linked to Playford)
1764	Edmund Jenney owns (linked to Wetheringsett)
1790	Betts family owns

Sub Manors:

Woerham Abbots

11 th cent.	Abbey lands
1545	Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
19 th cent.	George Holt Wilson owns (linked to Redgrave)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£3,874 rental value
1891	£3,577 rateable value
1912	£2,780 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680	2 gentlemen
1844	J.J. Tuck and Rev. R. Cobbold
1912	T.E. Cracknell JP, REV. J.F.E. Fanning MA and Rev. E.T. Frere MA

18. Occupations:

1550-1549	1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 parson
1550-1599	9 yeomen, 1 labourer, 6 husbandmen, 1 cooper, 1 servant to Sir Nicholas Bacon
1600-1649	10 yeomen, 2 labourers, 2 linen weavers, 8 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 saddler, 2 butchers

1650-1699	14 yeomen, 3 linen weavers, 1 labourer, 1 glover, 1 husbandman, 1 pail maker, 1 spinster, 1 tailor, 1 physician
1831	155 in agriculture, 3 in manufacturing, 44 in retail trade, 11 professionals, 10 in labouring, 43 in domestic service, 22 others
1844	Grocer/draper, wheelwright, governor of workhouse, beerhouse keeper, 4 victuallers, 3 teachers, 2 blacksmiths, 2 bricklayers, 3 millers, 3 shoemakers, 17 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, 14 farmers, 4 publicans, 2 pork butchers, 3 carpenters, 3 farm bailiffs, fowl dealer, 2 blacksmiths, bricklayer, pig dealer, 2 grocers, shoe maker, shopkeeper, 2 millers, beer retailer Youngman's steam roller mills (1891)

19. Education:

1833	3 daily schools (14, 30 and 12 attend respectively) Rector supports day and Sunday schools (1855). Hartismere Union school (84 inmates)
1891	National school enlarged to accommodate 200 Girls and Infants school on the Ling Public elementary school built (1870) at Long Green and enlarged. Average attendance (1912) 144 Ling Girls and infants school built (1878), average attendance (1912) 32 School Board formed (1881)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£244. 17s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£832. 8 ¾ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£2,088. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£1,173. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,349. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£1,188. 1s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Poor Lands: 1840 4 acres bequeathed by T. Churche (1623)
let at £7 p.a. applied to distribution of bread soon after Christmas

Goodrich Bequest: 1904 £1,000 income from which coals are distribution

22. Other institutions:

1 guild (1524)

1776	Hartismere Union Workhouse on Ling Common (30 inmates) Hartismere Union Childrens Workhouse on Ling Common (1868)
1803	Friendly Society (21 members)
1912	Police officer

23. Recreation:

1844/1891	4 public houses and 1 beerhouse
1912	Village Club and Reading room 4 public houses and 1 beerhouse

24. Personal:

Richard Cobboldt (circa 1877) vicar of the parish, painter, novelist and writer of critical notes on parishioners. Author of 'Margaret Catchpole'. Mrs Cobbold is said to have ruled the parish with a rod of iron.

Richard (solider) Smith: (1860) veteran of Waterloo/Peninsular Campaign died in his wheelbarrow the Common leaving his wife to claim parish relief. Rev. Cobbold wrote small poem to commemorate the event

25. Other information:

Wortham servants 'stept between sheets made of hemp cloth' (1784) Suffolk Review Vol.2

Wortham House: (16th cent.) rectory and home of Rev. Richard Cobbold, sold by the church (mid 1960's)

Tumble-down-Dick public house: name refers to the death of Oliver Cromwell and the succession of his son Richard. Verse under the pub sign read: 'Now the far famed Diogenes is dead. The tumble down Dick is come in his stead'.

'Biography of a Victorian Village' by Richard Cobbold and edited by Ronald Fletcher (1860)

Tithe war between farmers and church caused great agitation (1933), 18 arrests by approx. 150 policemen

Archaeological Sites:

Un. long barrow (CRN 8200)
Med. moated site (CRN 8192)
Rom. tomb (Documentary evidence) (CRN 8193)
I.A. excavation/pottery (CRN 8196, 8194)
Preh. excavation/pottery (CRN 8271)
Rom. excavation/pottery/ditch (CRN 8272)
Med. building (CRN 8273)

Rom. road (CRN 8274, 8197)
I.A. feature (CRN 8275)
Sax. feature (CRN 8276)
Church of St. Mary (CRN 8199)
Med. inhumation (CRN 8277)
PMed. windmill (CRN 8244)

Stray finds: Neo. axe (CRN 8201, 8282, 8283)
 Med. pottery (CRN 8278)
 Rom. coin (CRN 8279, 8280, 8281)
 Un. brick (CRN 8285)
 Un. animal bone (CRN 8286)
 Un. pottery (CRN 8287)

Un. boat (circumstantial evidence) (CRN 8284)