

1. Parish: Wrentham

Meaning: Wrenta's meadow/enclosure (EKWALL)

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (-1868), Dunwich (North) (1868-1914), Beccles (1914-1974), Beccles and South Elmham (1972-)

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: Blything RD (1894-1934), Lothingland RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. Area:

2,334 acres land (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained sandy soils. Some very acidic, risk wind erosion.
 - b) Slow permeable, seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils
 - c) Some deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils, high groundwater levels, risk of flooding by river.

5. Types of farming:

1086		Wood for 104 pigs, 9½ acres meadow, 5 cobs, 30 cattle, 54 pigs, 183 sheep, 77 goats, 5 beehives
1500–1640	Thirsk:	sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agents, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig keeping.
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	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, turnips.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

1799 620 acres in Sotterley, Henstead with Hulverstead and Wrentham enclosed under Private Act of Lands (1797)

7. Settlement:

1958 Well spaced development around crossroads and scattered along the roads forming the junction. Church situated separately at secondary settlement of Church Street. Further small settlements at Cuckolds Green and West End.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 46, 1801 – 100, 1851 – 229, 1871 – 246, 1901 – 233, 1951 – 273, 1981 – 367

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Sotterley, Covehithe, Benacre, Frostenden and South Cove Main Yarmouth road – Ipswich.
1844 Coaches to Yarmouth and Ipswich daily
Carriers to Norwich Tuesday and Friday, to Southwold Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
1891 Carrier to Lowestoft daily
1912 Carrier to Lowestoft daily
From Southwold passes through daily
Rail: 1891 5 miles Southwold Station, Southwold – Halesworth line, opened (1879), closed (1929)

9. Population:

1086 — 107 recorded
1327 — 44 taxpayers paid £2. 17s. 6d.
1524 — 32 taxpayers paid £4. 4s. 2d.
1603 — 100 adults
1674 — 53 households
1676 — Not listed
1801 — 822 inhabitants
1831 — 1,022 inhabitants
1851 — 1,026 inhabitants
1871 — 1,019 inhabitants
1901 — 1,019 inhabitants
1931 — 894 inhabitants
1951 — 873 inhabitants
1971 — 701 inhabitants
1981 — 898 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Valued £12
1291	Valued £21. 6s 8d Portion of Lewes £1. 10s. Portion of Bromholm £4
1535	Valued £21. 6s. 8d.
1650	Valued £60 Rectory House (18 th cent.) close to church, remodeled (circa 1830)
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £513 p.a. Modus of £578. 1s. 11d. in lieu of tithes (1839) New rectory house built (1842)
1891	Rent-charge of £580 p.a. in lieu of tithes
1912	Nett value £370. 23 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

Ffrancis Brewster (1603), Robert Bronsten (1650), Sir T. Gooch (1831), Sir A.S. Gooch (1891) T.V.S Gooch (1912)

11. Church St. Michael

(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, N. aisle, tower, S. porch)

1086	Church + 40 acres land, church + 8 acres land
Circa 1260	chancel extended
15 th cent.	Main structure including tower
1643/44	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 12 superstitious pictures
1853	N.aisle
1937	Piscina (14 th cent) and stave/ banner locker discovered

NOTE: tower was used as a signal station during the Napoleonic wars
Font found in rectory garden.

Seats: 400 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597	Rector sequestered for not instructing the youth in points of religion 1 person fails to attend church Independent/ Congregational group formed (1647), chapel built (1778) seats 300 'Wrentham: History of congregationalism in Suffolk' by T.J. Hosken (1920) p.155 Primitive Methodist chapel built (1841) Wesleyan chapel built (circa 1841)
------	---

'History of the Congregational Church at Wrentham, Suffolk' by John Browne (1854)

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Thorkell a free man.
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to William of Warenne and held by Robert of Pierrepont
1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Wulfric a free man
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to William of Warenne.
1066	Manor of ½ carucate held by a free man
1086	Manor of ½ carucate belonging to William of Warenne and held by William, son of Reginald.
1066	Manor of 50 acres held by Aelfric of Sanford
1086	Manor of 50 acres belonging to William of Warenne and held by William, son of Reginald.

WRENTHAM, PERPOUNDS at SOUTH HALL

1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Edric a free man
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to William of Warenne and held by Robert of Pierrepont.
Circa 1486	Sir Richard Fienes, Lord Dacre owns
1553	George, Lord Abergavenny owns
Circa 1576	Humphrey Brewster owns
1810	Sir Thomas Gooch owns, in which family it remained (1909)

SUB-MANORS:

WRENTHAM, NORTHALL/POININGS

1066	Manor of 3 carucates held by Haldane a free man
1086	Manor of 3 carucates belonging to William Of Warenne and held by William, son of Reginald.
1292	Luke/Lucas de Poinings owns
Circa 1527	Earl of Northumberland owns
1529	Robert Ratcliffe, viscount FitzWalter owns
1577	Humphrey Brewster owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£3,114 rental value
1891	£3,547 rateable value
1912	£3,208 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Dean and chapter of Westminster, principal owners
1891	Sir A.S Gooch, Dean and Chapter of Norwich and Col. Taylor, principle owners
1912	Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1674/79	Francis Brewster has house with 18 hearths Thomas Maynard, high sheriff of Suffolk (1773)
1844	Rev. S. Clissold MA
1891	Rev. J. Abbott BA and Col. F.H Taylor
1912	Rev. H.A.W Buss B.A., Rev. E.R. Yerburgh BA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	4 husbandmen, 11 yeomen
1600–1649	8 husbandmen, 14 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 apothecary, 1 brick-layers, 1 glover.
1650-1699	3 husbandmen, 14 yeomen, 1 wheelwright, 1 miller, 1 farmer, 1 grocer, 1 labourer, 3 spinsters, 1 joiner, 2 tailors, 1 timber sawyer, 2 butchers, 1 blacksmith, 1 inn holder, 1 wheelwright.
1831	129 in agriculture, 77 in retail/handicrafts, 6 professionals, 23 in domestic service, 8 others
1844	2 bricklayers, baker, 2 watchmakers, 3 beerhouse keepers, 2 tailor/drapers, beerhouse keeper/butcher, shopkeeper, Vet, 2 corn millers, 2 surgeons, druggist, butcher, 4 school teachers, 2 land agents, plumber/glazier, cooper/shopkeeper, wood turner, ironmonger/joiner, sawyer, victualler, farrier saddler, stationer, tailor, 4 blacksmiths, 5 boot/shoemakers, 14 farmers, 4 grocer/drapers, 2 joiners, wheelwright.
1912	Postmaster, police officer, volunteer fire brigade, 2 schoolmasters, surgeon, 10 farmers, gardner, bankers, 2 shoemakers, shopkeeper, pork butcher, outfitter, market gardener, miller, 3 butchers, insurance agent, ironmonger/stationer, blacksmith, saddler, 2 carpenters, hotel owner, thatcher, 2 beer retailers, watchmekr, grocer, draper, builder, coal merchant, apartment house owner, wheelwright, carrier, 2 laundry, wood hoop merchant, baker, chemist/photographer, agent to Sir T.V.S Gooch, grocer/drapper, motor engineer/cycle agent, agricultural implement maker, vet, bricklayer.

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday school on Dr. Bells system (100 attend) 1 Sunday school (dissenters) (110 attend)
------	---

1833 4 daily schools (91 attend, 12 payed for by Rev. and lady Gooch)
 1 established church Sunday school (109 attend)
 1 independent Sunday school (80 attend)
 National school built (1843), 100 attend (1844), 150 attend (1891), enlarged (1905), average attendance (1912) 137.
 School connected to British and foreign school society built (1837) 50 attend, enlarged (1870) 150 attend (1891) enlarged (1909), average attendance (1912) 120
 Day and boarding school run by E. Kemball (1844)
 Day and Boarding School run by M. Perry (1844)
 School council formed (1875)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£77. 7s. 1d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£157, 1s, 3d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£334. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£526. 10s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£550. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£508. 18s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

TOWN ESTATE: 1840 Land and property let at £6 p.a. to general poor relief

POOR'S ALLOTMENT: 1840 25 acres 1R 18P awarded at enclosure let at £45 p.a. applied to coals

EDGAR'S DOLE: 1840 rent-charge of £1 p.a. (given by Robert Edgar) distributed among poor. Paid irregularly

22. Other institutions:

1844 Town House: (2 apartments occupied rent free, a third let at £3)
 Mutual Improvement society established (1854)
 Reading room built (1858) seats 130
 New library begun (1890)
 Town hall built (1860) seats 400
 Home for domestic service training (for working class girls aged 12-13) opened (1882) at prospect cottage.

1891 Police officer listed

1912 Volunteer fire brigade
 Shipwrecked fishermen and mariners royal benevolent society

Oddfellows meet at Eagle hotel
Horticultural society
Nursing association.

23. Recreation:

Inn holder recorded (1693)
1844 4 beerhouses, The Eagle public house
1891 2 beerhouses, The Spread Eagle public house
1912 2 beer retailers, The Eagle Hotel

24. Personal:

Brewster family, resident at Wrentham hall (circa 1576-1797)

25. Other information:

Wrentham Hall: 'E' plan manor house, originally built by the Brewster family (circa 1550) taken down (1810), reproduction of drawings of hall in 'History of the congregational chapel at Wrentham' by J. Browne (opposite p.8)

27 oil lamps provided to light the streets during winter (1886)

Church tower used as signalling post (1804), wooden signal house for sentinals was built in the churchyard at this time. Seats 370

Field Names: Wrentham (1839), east Anglian notes and queries new series Vol.III p.288

'Pyes hall, Wrentham'. East Anglian miscellany (1927) p.60

'petition from Wrentham (1672) East Anglian miscellany (1918) p.75

Archaeological Sites

Med. Moated site (CRN 1415)

Un. Cropmark (CRN 1417)

Ring Ditch (CRN 1419)

Med. Hollow way (CRN1269)

Stray finds: neo. Axe (CRN 1418)

Pal. Worked flint (CRN 1416)

Scatter finds: med. Pottery (CRN 1416)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 1420)