1. **Parish: Covehithe**

   **Meaning:** Original name possibly meant ‘northern neck of land’ (now lost). Current name means ‘cove harbour’ (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Blything

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

   **Union:** Blything

   **RDC/UDC:** Blything RD (1894-1934), Lothingland RD (134-1974), Waveney DC (1974 -)

**Other administrative details:**

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:**

   1,367 acres land, 3 acres water, 12 acres foreshore (1912)

4. **Soils:**

   **Mixed:**
   
   a) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk of wind erosion
   
   b) Small amount deep peat soils associated with clay over sand, in part very acid. High groundwater levels, risk of flooding

5. **Types of farming:**

   **1086**  
   2 acres meadow, 1 cob, 8 pigs, 105 sheep  
   This area has problems of acidity and trace element deficiencies.

   **1500–1640 Thirsk:**  
   Sheep-corn region, where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.

   **1804 Young:**  
   “This corner of Suffolk practices better husbandry than elsewhere”. He identifies this area as a carrot growing region.

   **1818 Marshall:**  
   Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.

   **1937 Main crops:**  
   Mainly arable/dairying region. Wheat, barley, oats, turnips

   **1969 Trist:**  
   Dairying has been replaced by arable farming.
6. **Enclosure:**

1788 383/591 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1787 (lands in Kessingland and Covehithe)

7. **Settlement:**


8. **Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to South Cove and Wrentham

**Rail:** 1891 4½ miles Southwold station: Southwold – Halesworth line opened (1879), closed (1929)

**Water:** 13th cent. Hithe or quay for loading/unloading vessels

9. **Population:**

1086 — 30 recorded

1327 — 72 taxpayers paid £6. 4s.

1524 — 61 taxpayers paid £8. 9s. 6d.

1603 — 130 adults

1674 — 36 households

1676 — Not recorded

1801 — 180 inhabitants

1831 — 182 inhabitants

1851 — 195 inhabitants

1871 — 182 inhabitants

1901 — 189 inhabitants

1931 — 114 inhabitants

1951 — 98 inhabitants

1971 — 55 inhabitants

1981 — 41 inhabitants

10. **Benefice:** **Vicarage** (consolidated with Benacre and Easton Bavents) (1831) **Discharged Vicarage** (1912)

1254 Valued £10. 13s. 4d.

1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.

To the vicar £5. 6s. 8d. £18. 13s. 4d.

1535 Valued £5. 6s. 8d.

Vicarage houses are in decay. Incumbent also holds parsonage of Ellough (1597)
1912 Joint nett value £290 p.a. + 22 acres glebe

Patrons: Prior and monks of Wangford (‘301), The King (1349), Prior and Convent of Thetford (1402-1536), Thomas Rowse (1551), Sir Edward Cleer (1604), Sir William Playters (1628), Sir T. Gooch (1831), Sir A.S. Gooch (1891), Sir T.V.S. Gooch (1912)

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

Cautley suggests that judging by the scale of the windows etc., this was a particularly fine 14/15th cent. church

1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 200 pictures, ordered steps leveled and inscription removed. Some pictures in windows were beyond reach – help to raise ladders was withheld.

1672 All dismantled except for the tower and the materials sold (Pevsner suggests church was ruined during Civil War (1643)). Small thatched building erected in western sector of nave arcade

1974 Tower made redundant

**Seats:** 50 (1831)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 1 person excommunicated for 1 year (no reason given)

13. Manorial:

**Northales Called Oulstede Manor**

1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Edric, a free man
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to William of Warenne
Circa 1286 John de Vallibus owns (linked to Shottisham, Bramfield and Wenham Parva)
1298 John de Cove owns
Circa 1324 Simon de Pierpont owns
Circa 15th C. Thomas, Lord Dacre owns
1577 Robert Payne owns
1707/08 Thomas Carthew owns (linked to Easton Bavents)
1742 Sir Thomas Gooch owns (linked to Benace and Easton Bavents)
14. **Markets/Fairs**
   - 1298: Grant of market and fair
   - 1844: Formerly a fair held on St. Andrews day (disused)

15. **Real property**:
   - 1844: £808 rental value
   - 1891: £887 rateable value
   - 1912: £781 rateable value

16. **Land ownership**:
   - 1844: Sir Thomas Gooch, sole owner
   - 1891: Sir A.S. Gooch, sole owner
   - 1912: Sir Thomas Vere S. Gooch, sole owner

17. **Resident gentry**:
   - 1680: 1 gent

18. **Occupations**:
   - 1500-1549: 1 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 2 sailor/mariners, 1 roper
   - 1550-1599: 1 yeoman, 3 husbandmen, sailor/mariner, 1 cooper, 2 bricklayers
   - 1600-1649: 9 yeomen, 1 glover, 11 husbandmen, 2 sailors/mariners, 1 labourer, 2 tailors, 1 smith, 1 weaver
   - 1650-1699: 3 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 sailor/mariner, 1 thatcher, 1 brewer, 1 linen weaver
   - 1831: 40 in agriculture, 8 in domestic service, 4 others
   - 1844: Victualler, 4 farmers
   - 1912: Shopkeeper/threshing machine owner, 3 farmers

19. **Education**:
   - 1833: 1 day school and Sunday school established (1825), 36-40 attend
   - 1891: Parochial Infant school supported by voluntary contributions (20 attend)
   - 1912: Children attend school at Wrentham

20. **Poor relief**:
   - 1776: £21. 3s. 8d.  spent on poor relief
   - 1803: £51. 10s. 0¼d. spent on poor relief
   - 1818: £67. 9s. spent on poor relief
   - 1830: £139.1s. spent on poor relief
   - 1832: £122. 8s. spent on poor relief
   - 1834: £137 spent on poor relief
21. **Charities:**

**Poors Allotment/Poors Land:**

1840 40 acres set aside at enclosure let at £25 p.a.
7 acres used as covert for game let at £2. 12s. 6d. p.a.
Rents applied to coals for the poor.

22. **Other institutions:**

Guild of St. George (1491)
1891 Coastguard station attached to Kessingland

23. **Recreation:**

1650-1699 1 brewer recorded
1844 THE ANCHOR public house

24. **Personal:**

**John Bale:** (b.1495 – d.1563) native of parish. Carmelite friar of Norwich, author of ‘De Scriptibus Britannicus’. Subjected to persecution of Catholic clergy after embracing Reformation doctrines. His beliefs eventually led him into exile in Holland and Switzerland.

25. **Other information:**

‘The History of Antiquities of Covehithe’ by J. Browne (1874)

John de Cove held a hythe or quay on his estate in the parish from which vessels could load/unload (1308)

82 persons died of plague (1603)

**Archaeological Sites**

Numerous sites all periods