

1. Parish: Wetheringsett Cum Brockford

Meaning: People of Wetherden by the Ford over the Brook

2. **Hundred:** Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (–1987), Hartismere (North) (1807–1931), N. Hartismere (1931–1972), Hartismere (1972–)

Union: Hartismere

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Hatismere RD (–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 3, 812 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Fine loam over clay soil with slowly permeable subsoil. Subject to seasonal waterlogging.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 403 pigs, 30 pigs, 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 107 sheep, 18 goats.
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 as preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, sugar beet, roots.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

1849 Wetheringsett Green: 82 acres enclosed under General Acts of 1846
Brockford Green: 64 acres enclosed under General Acts of 1846

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Main development situated to east of Roman road, small and compact. Church and rectory centrally situated. Secondary developments at a. Brockford Green (gospel hall) and b. Brockford Street (malthouse and smithy), c. Blacksmiths Green (group of farms)
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 82, (Wetheringsett), 33 (Brockford), 1801 – 113, 1851 – 230, 1871 – 229, 1901 – 189, 1951 – 194, 1981 – 200

8. Communications:

Road: To Thorndon. Link road to main road to Eye (Roman road)
1844 Ipswich–Norwich turnpike road crossed the Dove river at this point
1891 1 carrier recorded
1912 Carriers to Ipswich, Mickfield and Stonham Tuesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 5½ miles Finningham station: Ipswich–Norwich line, opened 1848, station closed 1966
1904 Mid Suffolk Light railway opened 1904. Railhead at Wetheringsett and Brockford, rather than passenger stop, closed 1952

Air: Mendlesham Air base: operational as RAF fighter base. Handed over to USAF 1944, used for ammunition storage 1945, inactive status 1954. Transferred to industrial use sometime in 1950's. Anglia TV mast raised. Lorry training and Anglia Warehousing Co. occupy site 1977

9. Population:

1086 – Wetheringsett: 49 recorded
Brockford: 17 recorded

1327 – 40 taxpayers paid £3 10s. (includes Brockford)

1524 – 87 taxpayers paid £14 9s. 11d. (includes 31 in Brockford)

1603 – 200 adults

1674 – 116 households (Wetheringsett)
34 households (Brockford)

1676 – 155 adults

1801 – 851 inhabitants

1831 – 1,001 inhabitants

1851 – 1,101 inhabitants

1871 – 1,063 inhabitants

1901 – 812 inhabitants

1931 – 801 inhabitants

1951 – 665 inhabitants

1971 – 606 inhabitants

1981 – 550 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £26 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £33 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £33 9s. 2d.
1831 Curate, stipend £120 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £631 p.a.
Incumbent also holds Prebend in the Cathedral of Norwich and the Rectory of Stonham Aspall.
Rectory house built 1843. 64 acres 2R 34P glebe. Rent charge of £713 9s. in lieu of tithes.
1912 Nett value £440. 119 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Sir Stephen Soham (1603), A. Steward (1831), Rev. Robert Moore (1855), Mrs Brooke (1912)

11. Church All Saints

(Chancel, vestry, aisles, N. & S. porches, W. tower)

1086 Church + 16 acres land, ½ plough
13th cent. S. door, sedilia in chancel, arcades
14th cent. S. aisle
15th cent. Tower
1643/44 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 19 crosses, 16 arches and 1 picture
1857 Thorough restoration

Seats: 500, 272 free

Brockford Church: Mentioned in writings of Joceline de Brakelond 1198. Church has entirely disappeared – dedication and site unknown.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1603 4 nonconformists
1676 5 nonconformists
Mother Benet executed because she refused to attend mass 1557/58.
House set aside for worship 1813 and 1820.
Gospel Hall in existence 1958.

13. Manorial:

Wetheringsett Manor:

1066/1086 Manor of 4 carucates belonging to St. Etheldreda's
1528 Crown held 61 year lease
1575 Lady Dorothy Stafford owns

1600 Sir Stephen Soame owns passing to the Edgar and Jenney families

Brockford Hall:

12th cent. Anciently belonged to Abbey of St. Edmunds by gift of Bishop of Elmham c.963 AD
Linked to Old Hall Braiseworth via Sir Robert de Sackville
An alternative version has the lordship still in the hands of Abbey of St. Edmunds 1286

1553/4 Anne of Cleves owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

late 16th cent. Thomas Gawdy owns
1855 John George Sheppard owns (linked to Rishangles) passing to the Revett family

Sub-manors:

Stoneham's:

Late 16th cent. Sir Thomas Gawdy owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£4,696 rental value
1891	£4,808 rateable value
1912	£3,521 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1667	1 gentleman
1844	Rev. R. Moore BA
1912	Rev. F.R. Smith MA

18. Occupations:

1473	1 chaplain
1500–1549	4 husbandmen, 1 clerk
1550–1599	11 yeomen, 11 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 labourer, 1 timberman, 1 spinster, 1 ploughwright, 1 shoemaker, 2 tanners
1600–1649	13 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 2 tailors, 1 apprentice, 1 linen weaver, 1 felt maker, 1 ploughwright

1650–1699 12 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 linen weaver/yeoman, 1 glover, 2 tailors, 1 spinster, 1 bricklayer, 1 collarmaker, 1 millwright, 1 blacksmith

Brockford:

1550–1599 1 carpenter, 1 yeoman, 1 weaver, 1 wheelwright
 1600–1649 1 carpenter, 4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen
 1650–1699 10 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 1 cooper, 1 husbandman, 1physic physician
 1831 (combined) 177 in agriculture, 34 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 56 in domestic service, 12 others
 1844 Wetheringsett: 4 shoemakers, carpenter, victualler, grocer/tailor, wheelwright, 2 blacksmiths, beerhouse keeper, bricklayer, 13 farmers
 Brockford: grocer/drapery, 2 carpenters, shoemaker, beerhouse keeper, victualler, saddler, 6 farmers
 1912 Wetheringsett: 2 millers, 17 farmers, shoemaker, blacksmith, thatcher, publican, poultry/pig dealer, cooper, 2 beer retailers, 2 shopkeepers, dressmaker, poultry dealer, carrier/egg merchant, wheelwright
 Brockford: 6 farmers, carpenter, 3 surgeons, horse slaughterer, blacksmith, carrier/carpenter, newsagent, shopkeeper, publican, saddler, cattle dealer

19. Education:

1818 Occasional school run by elderly lady
 1 writing school (11 attend)
 1 endowed Sunday school (40–80 attend)
 Some children attend daily school at Mendlesham or Debenham
 1833 1 daily school (19 attend), 1 Sunday school (51 attend)
 Parochial school built 1859 100 attend, enlarged 1911, average attendance 1912 158

20. Poor relief:

1776 £223 11s. 1d.
 1803 £355 11s. 2d.
 1818 £977
 1830 £848 10s.
 1832 £642 19s.
 1834 £782 13s.

21. Charities:

Town Lands:

1840 75 acres 2R 14P let at £113 p.a.
4 tenements occupied by poor
Rents applied to poor relief, fuel, blankets,
pecuniary aid and church repairs

Shepherd's Charity:

1707 by will of Rev. John Shepherd: 40s. p.a. for
food, drinks, prayers. Surplus for distribution
among 20 poor persons

22. Other institutions:

1776 Guild of St. Thomas of Canterbury 1439
Workhouse (25 inmates)

23. Recreation:

Wetheringsett: 1844–1891 The White Horse public house, 1 beerhouse
1912 The White Horse public house

Brockford: 1844 1 beerhouse, and the Griffin public house
1891 1 beer retailer, 1 beerhouse, the Griffin
public house
1912 Horticultural Society, 2 beer retailers, the
Griffin public house

24. Personal:

Mother Benet: religious martyr: denied burial in churchyard. Grave
placed by highway 1557/8.

Richard Hackluyt: Rector of this parish, author of 'English Voyages'
(dates unknown).

'Hakluyt of Wetheringsett'. PSIA Vol.XXII, p.25.

George Quinton: artist (no dates).

Robert Revett: 1657 resident of Brockford, Chief Constable of
Hartismere Hundred .

25. Other information:

Memorial to men of 34th Bomb Group stands on side of A.140 road 20th
cent.