

1. Parish: Withersdale

Meaning: Valley where wethers were kept (EKWALL)

2. **Hundred:** Hoxne

Deanery: Hoxne

Union: Hoxne

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hoxne RD (1894-1934), Hartismere RD (1934-1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1883)

Abolished as civil parish (1885) losing part to Metfield, part to Mendham and part to Linstead Parva

Hoxne Petty Sessional Division

Harleston County Court District

3. **Area:** Not Recorded (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
 - b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
 - c) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, especially under heath or woodland, risk wind erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640 Thirsk: Wood-pasture region. Mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pigs 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 fertilizing 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, beans, pasture
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1980 Small compact development (now in Mendham parish)

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 10, 1801 – 15, 1851 – 43, 1871 – 46

8. Communications:

Rail: 1891 3 miles Harleston station: Waveney Valley line, opened (1855/60), closed to passengers (1953), closed to goods (1966)

9. Population:

1086 — Not recorded
 1327 — Not recorded
 1524 — 52 taxpayers paid £14. 8s. 8d. (Includes Weybread)
 1603 — 19 adults
 1674 — 14 households
 1676 — Not recorded
 1801 — 115 inhabitants
 1831 — 194 inhabitants
 1851 — 199 inhabitants
 1871 — 220 inhabitants
 1901 — included with Mendham

10. Benefice: RECTORY (with Fressingfield) (1831)

1254 Valued £2
 1291 not recorded
 1535 Valued £6. 16s. 8d.
 1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Joint gross income £613 p.a.
 Valued £597 (1835)
 Tithes commuted for £330 p.a. (1840)
 1912 Joint nett value £437 p.a. 67 acres glebe. Incumbent resides in Fressingfield.

Patrons:

Francis Jermye (1603), Emmanuel College, Cambridge (1831)

11. Church **St. Mary Magdalene**
(Chancel, nave, S.porch, wooden belfry)

Norman	2 windows in nave, doorway to N. of nave
Circa 1300	Chancel
15 th cent.	Main structure
17 th cent	Belfry
18 th cent	W. gallery

Seats: 80 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Primitive Methodist chapel built (1878)

13. Manorial:

Withersdale

1275	Ranulph de Arderne owns
1316	Oliva de Ingham owns (linked to Weybread)
Circa 1385	Sir William Jermy owns
1685	Francis Sancroft owns (linked to Fressingfield and Metfield)
1724	Walter Plumer owns (linked to Metfield, Weybread, Chediston, Cookley and Halesworth)
Circa 1833	William Rayley owns (linked to Metfield)
1885	Chauncy Arthur Taylor owns (linked to Metfield)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,268 rental value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Capt. Sir F.E.S Adair and S.B Portman-Dalton Principal owners.

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 yeoman, 1 barker (1452)
1600–1649	3 yeomen
1650–1699	2 yeomen
1831	25 in agriculture, 4 in manufacturing, 15 in retail trade, 1 professional, 7 in domestic service, 1 others
1844	Butcher, wheelwright/blacksmith, 2 tailors, 2 blacksmiths, confectioner, victualler, shopkeeper, boot/shoemaker, wheelwright, 4 farmers.
1912	Sub-postmaster, shoemaker, 2 farmers, cattle dealer, wheelwright, publican, blacksmith, shopkeeper

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday school (30 attend)
1833	1 daily school established (1826) (15 attend)
1912	Children attend school at Mendham and Metfield.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£59. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1803	£126. 2s. 2¼d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£107. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£135 . 9s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£155. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£102. 17s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Poors Land: 1805, by deed of George Harham: 2 acres let at £3 p.a. distributed among poor in winter.

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly society (41 members)

23. Recreation:

1844/1891 THE CROSS public house
1912 THE GOLDEN CROSS public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Withersdale hall: ancient mansion (dates unknown), remains of moat to the front. Used as farmhouse (1908)
Published parish registers 1660-1837. Suffolk Parish Registers: Marriages Vol.III p.131

Archaeological Sites: None