

# 1. Parish: Bedingfield

**Meaning:** The field of Beada's people (Ekwall)

**2. Hundred:** Hoxne

**Deanery:** Honxe

**Union:** Hoxne (1835-1907), Hartismere (1907-1974)

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

Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Bedingfield and Southolt (1951)  
Hoxne Petty Sessional Division  
Eye County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,805 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:** a) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay  
b) Fine loam over clay, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging, some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 164 pigs, 4 acres meadow, 12 pigs, 20 sheep
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, peas, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

1869 26 acres at (Bucks Green and Bedingfield Green)  
Bedingfield enclosed under General Acts 1864

**7. Settlement:**

1958            Railway clips southern boundary and crossed parish from E-S  
Small compact development clustered around crossroads, central church and school. Secondary settlements at Bedingfield Street, Bucks Green and Bedingfield Green  
Few scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 34, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 63, 1871 – 71, 1901 – 61, 1951 – 55, 1981 – 74

**8. Communications:**

Road:            Roads to Rishangles, Thorndon, Aspall, Kenton, Monk Soham and Southolt  
1912    Carrier to Eye on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Rail:            1891    4 miles Eye station: Mellis-Eye line opened (1865), closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)  
1912    1 mile Kenton station: Haughley – Laxfield line (Mid Suffolk Light), opened (1904), opened for passengers (1908), closed for goods (1912), closed completely (1952)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 64 recorded  
1327 — 37 taxpayers paid £3. 4s. 5d. (includes Southolt)  
1524 — 23 taxpayers paid £1. 16s. 4d.  
1603 — 100 adults  
1674 — 44 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 252 inhabitants  
1831 — 332 inhabitants  
1851 — 312 inhabitants  
1871 — 353 inhabitants  
1901 — 298 inhabitants  
1931 — 227 inhabitants  
1951 — 175 inhabitants  
1971 — 220 inhabitants  
1981 — 216 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254            Valued £6. 13s. 4d.  
1291            Valued £5. 6s. 8d.  
1535            Valued £8  
1831            Curate, stipend £70 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation

Gross income £276 p.a.  
 Modus of £400. 10s. p.a. awarded (1839)  
 1844 3 acres glebe, neat rectory house  
 1912 Nett value £200. 4 acres glebe and residence  
 1951 United with Southolt

Patrons:

Thomas Bedingfield (1603), J.J. Bedingfield (1831), F.A.O.E. Bedingfield (1915)

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

1086 4<sup>th</sup> part of church + 6 acres (two identical entries)  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure  
 Upper stages of tower (14/15<sup>th</sup> cent.)  
 1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 14  
 superstitious pictures and ordered removal of 3 stoneing  
 crosses on porch and in chancel  
 1951 Restoration of roof and S. porch

**Seats:** 150 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 92 acres held by Aelfric, a free man of Harold's  
 1086 Manor 92 acres belonging to Ralph of Limesey

**Bedingfield Hall**

1099 William Martel gave to Abbot of St. Johns, Colchester to  
 found priory of Snape  
 1524 Cardinal Wolsey owns (linked to numerous manors  
 throughout Suffolk)  
 1532 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous  
 manors throughout Suffolk)  
 1553 Thomas and George Golding owns  
 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir Henry Bedingfield owns  
 20<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir Henry Edward Bedingfield, 8<sup>th</sup> Bart. owns

**Sub-Manors:**

**Fleming's/Buck's Hall**

Circa 1156 Peter de Bedingfield owns  
 13<sup>th</sup> cent. William le Fleming owns

1309	Peter de Bedyngfield owns, in whose family it remained until
1812	James Barker owns, passing by marriage and inheritance to
1909	Augustus Noel Cambell Hemworth

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£2,062 rental value
1891	£2,058 rateable value
1912	£1,609 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Rev. T.S. Shaw MA JP

**17. Resident gentry:**

1891	Lt. J. Bedingfield RN JP, and Rev. T.S. Shaw MA
1912	Rev. T.S. Shaw MA JP

**18. Occupations:**

1500-1549	1 yeoman, 1 husbandmen
1550-1599	6 yeomen, 5 husbandmen
1600-1649	12 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 tailor, 1 cordwainer, 1 maid, 1 weaver
1650-1699	3 yeomen, 1 husbandman
1831	71 in agriculture, 6 in retail trade, 1 professional, 20 in domestic service, 5 others
1844	Corn miller, blacksmith, victualler, wheelwright, 11 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolteacher, 10 farmers, blacksmith, wheelwright/carpenter, miller, asst. overseer, publican, bricklayer, carrier, carpenter, grocer/drapery

**19. Education:**

1597	1 person teaches school
1833	1 school established 1829 (20 attend) 1 Sunday school established 1831 (50-60 attend) National school built (1861), 50 attend (1891), enlarged (1880), average attendance (1912) 80

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£78. 4s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£131. 4s. 11½d.	spent on poor relief

1818	£226. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£397. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£297. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£361. 7s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate:**

1811 23 acres 1R 30P let at £35 p.a. applied repairs of church, poor house and fences + constables and churchwardens expenses, any surplus applied with poor rate

**Pake's Charity:**

1547 by will of Stephen Pake: Pightle and pasture called Dentons (4½acres) let at £10 p.a. distributed annually among poor families according to size

**Bedingfield's Gift:**

1673 by will of Philip Bedingfield: from his lands and tenements in Bedingfield – £50 p.a. used to benefit the poor + £3 p.a. distributed to the poor on Christmas day

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1844 THE LION public house  
1891/1912 THE RED LION public house

**24. Personal:**

The Bedingfield family of Norfolk took their name from this parish

**25. Other information:**

Bedingfield Hall: moated, crossed by drawbridge ( -1834)  
Flemings Hall: Hall believed to date from (1346) although present building dates (circa 1550). Brick ground floor, timber framed upper floor, 2 storey brick porch. Stripped of its ornate decorations, panelling and fireplaces (1930's). Restoration (1950's). Home of Bedingfield family for circa 600 years  
'Moated yards': Oblong moated area covered by wood. Victoria County History Vol. I, p.605  
'Destruction of parish vermin in 16<sup>th</sup> cent. at Bedingfield' by J.W. Millard. East Anglian Notes and Queries (New Series) Vol. II p. 328. The vermin included crows, mice,

hedgehogs, moles, weasels, jay and polecats, only 1 rat  
is recorded

**Archaeological Sites**

Med. moated site (CRN 4077, 4078, 4079, 4080)