

## 1. Parish: Fressingfield

**Meaning:** Furze covered field (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Hoxne

**Deanery:** Hoxne

**Union:** Hoxne (1835-1907), Hartismere RD (1934-1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974- )

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

Other administrative details:

Hoxne Petty Sessional Division  
Harleston County Court District

3. **Area:** 4,609 acres land, 9 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:** a) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay  
b) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		40 acres meadow, wood for 530 pigs, 4 acres free land, 1 cob, 21 cattle, 34 pigs, 70 goats, 1 beehive
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.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, turnips, pasture
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

Appraisal of agriculture, i.e. analysis of livestock, crops, dairying, farming tools and implements (1377-1798) can be found in 'Looking Back at Fressingfield' (1979)

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1984 Roman road crosses parish in central position from NW-SE (to NE of settlement). Large, yet compact development, Church centrally situated. Secondary settlements at Little Whittingham Green, Hussey Green and Chippenhall Green. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 89 (12 in Whittingham), 1801 – 116, 1851 – 290, 1871 – 296, 1901 – 231, 1951 – 245, 1981 – 297

**8. Communications:**

Road: Roads to Wingfield, Stradbroke, Laxfield, Cratfield, Metfield, Mendham and Weybread.  
1844 Coaches to Ipswich and Norwich daily  
Carriers to Ipswich Monday and Thursday  
Carriers to Norwich Tuesday and Friday  
1891 Carrier passes through to Norwich Friday  
1912 Carrier to Harleston week days  
Rail: 1891 4½ miles Harleston station: Waveney Valley line, opened (1855/60), closed to passengers (1953), closed to goods (1966)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 61 recorded (includes Domesday vills of Chippenhall and Whittingham)  
1327 — 60 taxpayers paid £6. 15s.  
1524 — 68 taxpayers paid £11. 19s. 4d.  
1603 — 312 adults  
1674 — 114 households (includes 12 at Whittingham hamlet)  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 1,044 inhabitants  
1831 — 1,352 inhabitants  
1851 — 1,491 inhabitants  
1871 — 1,319 inhabitants  
1901 — 1,005 inhabitants  
1931 — 881 inhabitants  
1951 — 732 inhabitants  
1971 — 730 inhabitants

1981 — 831 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Withersdale) (1831)**

- 1254 Mediety valued £13. 6s. 8d.  
Other medieties in the same valued £10. 13s. 4d.
- 1291 Valued £20.  
Another portion valued £14. 13s. 4d.  
Portion of Eye 3s.  
£34. 16s. 4d.
- 1535 Valued £17. 17s. 1d.
- 1831 Glebe house. Joint gross income £613 p.a.  
Joint nett value £797 (1835)  
Tithes commuted: vicarial £399. 19s., rectorial £919 p.a. (1840)
- 1912 Joint nett value £437. 67 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Earnist Toppisfield (1603), Emmanuel College, Cambridge (1831- )

**11. Church Saints Peter and Paul**

(Chancel, clerestoried nave, north chapel (former guild chapel), aisles, north and south porches, west tower)

- 1086 1 church and 40 acres land, 1 plough
- 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower and structure of chancel
- 15<sup>th</sup> cent. South porch, clerestory, roofs and both aisles
- 16<sup>th</sup> cent. North chapel (claims to hold original guild bench)
- 1869-70 Aisles restored
- 1887 Further restoration

Seats: 370 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Baptist chapel built (1835) seats 700  
Primitive Methodist chapel built (1873)

**13. Manorial:**

**Manors listed under Domesday Vill of Chippenhall**

- 1066 Manor of 2½ carucates held by 9 free men under patronage
- 1086 Manor of 2½ carucates belonging to Robert Malet

1066/86	Manor of 1½ carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds (said to have been chosen because it abounded in woods)
1066	Possible manor of 60 acres held by 1 free man of Harold's
1086	Possible manor of 60 acres belonging to Hervey of Bourges

### **Veales with Launce's & Thykbrome Veales cum Membris**

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	William de Veel owns
1495	John de la Pole owns (linked to Wickham Skeith)
1509	Thomas Howard owns
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Henry Jernegan owns
1747	Robert Onebye owns
1751	Thomas Willis owns
1792	Thomas Etheridge owns
1885	T. Dring owns

### **Whittingham with Wakelyns**

Domesday Vill of Whittingham

1066	Manor of 1½ carucates held by Wulfric, a thane
1086	Manor of 1½ carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou
1201	Ernold fitz Roger le Rus owns (linked to Stradbroke, Clopton and Hasketon)
Circa 1325	Robert de Brewse owns
1580	Thomas Baker owns
1678	Sir John Hanmer owns passing by inheritance to
Circa 1764	Sir William Bunbury (linked to Gt. Barotn and Mildenhall)
1836	Henry Newton Heale owns

### **Sub-Manors:**

#### **Chepenhall hall/Chevenhall**

Hamlet of Chippenhall entirely owned by Abbot of St. Edmunds	
1200	manor annexed to office of cellarer
1545	anthony Rous owns (linked to Badingham, Bedfield, Brundish, Dennington, Monk Soham, Southolt and Clopton)
1559	George White owns
1695	Francis Sancroft owns (linked to Metfield and Withersdale)
1794	Thomas Etheridge
1827	Alexander Adair owns (linked to Mendham, Depden, Cratfield and Naughton)
1909	Sir Frederick Edward Adair owns (linked to Syleham, Wingfield and Naughton)

### **Fressingfield Hall**

14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir John Wingfield owns (linked to Stradbroke, Syleham and Wingfield)
1389	Michael de la Pole owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1538	Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1557	Sir Richard Freston owns (linked Mendham)
18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir William Bunbury owns (annexed to Whittinghams)
19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Rev. Gervas Holmes Clerk owns

### **Wakelin's (joined to Whittingham Hall)**

1300	Ralph de Hardricheshall owns
Circa 1497	Sir Thomas Hansard owns
15/16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Thomas Brewse owns (linked to Lt. Wenham, Stradishall and Carlton Colville)
17/18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir Thomas Bunbury owns
1836	Henry Newton Heale owns (absorbed by Whittingham Hall)

### **Ufford Hall**

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Robert de Ufford owns
13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Henry de Sancroft owns
18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir John Major owns (linked to Worlingworth)
1909	Lord Henniker owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

### **Fressingfield**

1086	Lands belonging to Robert Malet who gave it to Priory of Eye
1536	Edmund Bedingfield owns (linked to Denham, Knettishall, Kedington, Martlesham, Laxfield and Grundisburgh)

### **Launces**

1275	John Launce owns
1530	Crown property after which time it became absorbed by Veales

## **14. Markets/Fairs**

Grant of market and fair (1267)  
Market held on manor of Launces by John Launce (1275)

## **15. Real property:**

1844	£5,788 rental value
------	---------------------

1891 £6,081 rateable value  
1912 £4,510 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1674 Earl of Norwich  
1844 Rev. T. Alsopp  
1912 Rev. W.R. Raven-Hart MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 2 tailors, 1 weaver, 11 yeomen, 1 shearman, 1 mercer, 3 wheelwrights, 3 husbandmen, 1 butcher, 1 carpenter  
1600–1649 1 linen weaver, 1 cooper, 1 weaver, 32 yeomen, 2 spinsters, 1 wheelwright, 3 husbandmen, 1 butcher, 1 blacksmith  
1650–1699 2 linen weavers, 2 coopers, 18 yeomen, 1 cordwainer, 1 husbandman, 1 blacksmith, 1 fishmonger, 1 grocer, 1 labourer  
1831 209 in agriculture, 2 in manufacturing, 51 in retail trade, 4 professionals, 59 in domestic service, 78 others  
1844 Cooper, printer, 2 dressmakers, baker, saddler, straw hat maker, plumber/glazier, whitesmith, hair cutter/glover, vet, 2 academies, 3 blacksmiths, 2 boot/shoemakers, 3 bricklayers, 2 butchers, 2 corn millers, 45 farmers, timber merchant, 3 grocer/drapers, 3 innkeepers, 3 beerhouse keepers, 2 joiners, 2 tailor/drapers, 2 wheelwrights  
1912 Sub-postmaster, fire brigade (9 men), police officer, 2 schoolteachers, coach builder, 44 farmers, baker, publican/bootmaker, publican/butcher, carrier, 2 grocer/drapers, antique furniture dealer, blacksmith, 2 beer retailers, laundress, 2 carpenters, wheelwright, 2 millers, insurance agent/registrar, plumber/painter, shopkeeper, surgeon, hotel owner, grocer, builder, chimney sweep, tailor, saddler/harness maker, farm bailiff, 2 shoemakers, vet, general dealer

**19. Education:**

1685 Endowed school founded by Archbishop Sancroft  
1818 1 public school held in Guildhall for 5 poor boys  
4 day schools (87 attend), 1 Sunday school (91 attend)  
1833 1 endowed school (24 boys attend, 5 aided places), held 75 boys by (1867)  
1 boarding school (18 girls attend)  
3 daily schools (91 attend), 1 Sunday school (40 attend)

- 1844 Upper room of guildhall used as schoolroom  
2 academies (1 a boarding school)  
National schools built (1846), enlarged (1873 and 1891),  
average attendance (1912) 204
- 1891 Ladies day and boarding school run by the Misses  
Cockburn at Fressingfield House

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£296. 8s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£914. 8s. 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£1,474. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£2,535. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,926. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£2,002. 2s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Feoffment Estate:**

- 1805 Guildhall and 1 acre, Town Close (7 acres 1R 32P) let at  
£25 p.a.  
3 tenements and 'yarde' given by Edward Bohun (1497)  
for occupation by poor rent free  
Rents applied to repairs to houses and church

**Archbishop Sancroft's Charity:**

- 1685 Fee farm rents of £10 p.a. to schoolmaster to teach 5  
boys  
£6. to salary of parish clerk  
£3. 17s. p.a. distributed in bread

**Shepherd's Gift:**

- 1722 by will of Rev. John Shepherd: Interest on £20 applied to  
purchase of Bibles for distribution on Good Friday.

**22. Other institutions:**

- 1844 Guild of St. Margaret of Antioch (1465)  
Guildhall in existence, converted to use as workhouse  
(1615)
- 1776 Workhouse (26 inmates)
- 1803 2 Friendly Societies (46 members)
- 1869 Fressingfield Branch of Loyal Princess of Wales Lodge (8  
officers)
- 1912 Police officer listed  
Fire Brigade (compliment of 9 men)

**23. Recreation:**

1844	3 beerhouses, The Fox and Goose public house housed in lower portion of guildhall
1891	The Angel, The Swan and The Fox and Goose public houses. 1 beerhouse
1912	The Swan Inn, The angel Inn and The Fox and Goose Hotel 2 beer retailers

#### 24. Personal:

Dr. William Sancroft: (1616-93), born at Ufford Hall, educated at Bury St. Edmunds grammar school and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, created Archbishop of Canturbury (1677), imprisoned in Tower of London (1688), refused to take oath of allegiance; deprived and expelled from church (1690), retired to Fressingfield where he remained until his death (1691-93).

'The Sancrofts' by Rev. J.J. Raven. PSIA Vol. VII p.69

'The Life of William Sancroft: Archbishop of Canterbury' by G. D'oyley. Vols. I and II (1821).

'The Life of William Sancroft: Archbishop of Canterbury' by G. D'oyley (1840)

'The family of William Sancroft: Archbishop of Canterbury' by C. Boyce (1929)

Samuel Vince: (1749-1821), native of parish: mathematician, astronomer, Senior Wrangler and Smith's Prizeman, Cambridge (1775), Archdeacon of Bedford (1809)

#### 25. Other information:

Whittingham Hall: built (1653), used as farmhouse (1908)

New Guildhall (circa 1509), south of church. Timber framed. Corner post of St. Margaret. Formerly church house. Occupied by public house (1844).

Stables to Church Farm: 15<sup>th</sup> cent. hall house

Ufford Hall: (circa 17<sup>th</sup> cent.) Timber framed, mullioned windows, former home of Archbishop Sancroft.

'Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Fressingfield' (1912)

'Looking Back at Fressingfield' (1979)

The Old Guildhall: in existence in 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Apparently sold (circa 1510) when situated on line of Cratfeidl Road (to south), Packway leading towards 'le Croche' (Crouch Hill) (to west), land belonging to St. Mary's College (to north) and John Goldwyn's land (to east).

At some time used as workhouse. Suggested site of Bridge Cottage.

Parish formerly contained 7 greens of commons, only Chippenhall Green remains.

Map of 1702 shows position of medieval deer park.



Plague of rats recorded (1937)  
 Fire engine purchased (1823) and engine house built beside Fox and  
 Goose yard. (3s. paid for beer when engine was tested!).  
 Fire Brigade disbanded (1908). New engine bought  
 (1925), withdrawn (1946)  
 Jubilee water pump erected (1887)  
 'Notes of Fressingfield church' PSIA Vol. III p.321 and p.325  
 'Fressingfield Porch and Pews' by Rev. J.J. Raven. PSIA Vol. VIII p.31  
 Published parish registers (1554-1837) in Suffolk Parish Registers:  
 Marriages Vol. IV  
 'A Parish House for church ales and other drynkynggs' by J.J. Raven.  
 East Anglian Notes and Queries (New Series) Vol. VI  
 p.49. It would appear some persons objected to the  
 drinking of church ales within the church (1508).

### **Archaeological Sites**

Med. moated sites (CRN 2834-2843, 2845, 2846, 6801)  
 PMed windmill (CRN 2844)  
 Square enclosure (CRN 2847, 2848)  
 Oval enclosure (CRN 2849)  
 Med. road (CRN 2851)  
 Church of Saints Peter and Paul (CRN 1682)  
 Med. green (CRN 6802, 6803)  
 Stray finds: Neo. axe (CRN 2850)  
                   Worked flint (CRN 2856)  
                   B.A. spearhead (CRN 2852)  
                   Med. coin (CRN 5831)  
 Scatter finds: Med. pottery (CRN 2853, 5830)  
                   Rom. pottery (CRN 2854)  
                   Un. Burnt flint patch (CRN 2855)