

1. Parish: Martlesham

Meaning: Marten meadow/enclosure

2. Hundred: Carlford

Deanery: Carlford (–1972), Colneys (1972–)

Union: Woodbridge

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Woodbridge RD (1894–1934), Deben RD (1934–1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and Country Court District.

3. Area:

2,628 acres, 3 acres water, 21 acres tidal water, 137 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed a. Deep well drained sand, often ferruginous soils. Risk of wind erosion.

b. Deep stoneless calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils. Flat lands. Slight risk of flooding.

c. Deep well drained sandy soils. Some very acid soils with bleached subsurface especially under heath or woodland. Risk of wind erosion.

5. Types of farming:

1086		18 acres meadow, 1 mill, wood for 16 pigs, 5 cobs, 20 cattle, 27 pigs, 218 sheep, 12 beehives.
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1804	Young:	‘This corner of Suffolk practices better husbandry than elsewhere’...identified as carrot growing region.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barely, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, turnip, large quantity of heath.

1969 Trist: Barley and sugar beet are main crops, some rye grown on poorer lands, little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1972/80 Large well spaced development along line of Ipswich Road. Church and hall situated separately to east. Development in eastern sector restricted by wet lands near Martlesham Creek and River Deben. Suburbs of Woodbridge intrude in parish at NE corner. Railway crosses parish in northern sector from E–W. River Deben forms natural boundary to east. Disused airfield occupies area in western sector on boundary with Kesgrave and Brightwell. Part of NE boundary formed by Martlesham Creek. Some scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 29, 1801 – 43, 1851 – 104, 1871 – 111, 1901 – 106, 1951 – 253, 1981 – 1,052.

8. Communications:

Road: To Great Bealings, Woodbridge, Waldringfield, Kesgrave (Ipswich Road) and Little Bealings. 1891 Carrier to Ipswich daily.

Rail: 1891 1½ miles Woodbridge station: Ipswich–Lowestoft line opened 1859.

Air: Martlesham Heath Airfield, established 1917 as experimental unit, closed c.1963.

Water: River Deben

9. Population:

1086 – 29 recorded
1327 – 31 taxpayers paid £2 4s. 7d. (includes Waldringfield and Newbourn)
1524 – 28 taxpayers paid £5 13s. 4d.
1603 – 83 adults
1674 – 29 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 269 inhabitants
1831 – 440 inhabitants
1851 – 477 inhabitants
1871 – 454 inhabitants
1901 – 459 inhabitants
1931 – 975 inhabitants

1951 – 1,199 inhabitants
1971 – 1,829 inhabitants
1981 – 2,819 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued (with Chapel of Newbourn) £10 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £10 18s. 9d.
Rectory very small 1674.
1831 1 curate, stipend £70 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £370 p.a. Tithes commuted for £423 10s. p.a. 1835. New rectory house built 1885.
1891 13 acres glebe and residence.
1912 Net value £320 p.a. 13 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: F.G. Doughty (1831), Rev. F.E. Doughty (1912).

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

1086 Church and 36 acres land, value 3s.
14th cent. Main structure.
1836 Chancel rebuilt, remodeled 1905.

Seats: not recorded

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 2 ½ carucates held by Edwold.
1086 Manor of 2 ½ carucates belonging to Ranolf brother of Ilgar.
Domesday Vill: Barkestone.
1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Teekin a free man under patronage of Harold.
1086 Manor of 1 carucates belonging to Robert son of Corbocion.

Martlesham Hall

1316 Richard Brewse owns (linked to Hasketon, Newbourn and Wenham Parva).
1328 Sir John de Verdon owns (linked to Newbourn).
c.1391 Sir Imbert Noon owns (linked to Newbourn).
c.1639 William Goodwin owns.
c.1787 George Doughty owns.
19th cent. Col. George Tomline owns (linked to Brightwell, Bacton, Falkenham and Levington).

1909 Capt. E.G. Pretyman owns (linkd to numerous manors through Suffolk).

Sub-manors:
Scots

16th cent. Edmund Bedingfield owns (linked to Grundisburgh, Knettishall and Kedington).

Hethe's

15th cent. Sir Robert Wingfield owns (linked to Kersey, Waldringfield, Dallinghoo, Shottisham and Brantham).

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£1,975 rental value
1891	£2,730 rateable value
1912	£3,276 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1891 Land sub-divided.

17. Resident gentry:

1679	John Crofts
1844	Rev. T. D'Eye Betts and E.S. Gooch
1912	Rev. E.G. Doughty MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	4 yeoman, 5 husbandman, 1 wheelwright, 1 servant.
1600–1649	1 sailor, 6 yeoman, 1 rector, 1 joiner, 1 cooper
1650–1699	6 yeoman, 1 butcher, 1 can maker, 1 clerk.
1831	88 in agriculture, 17 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 22 in domestic service.
1844	Blacksmith, carpenter, bricklayer, butcher, victualler, brewers, 2 cattle drivers, 2 shoemakers, wheelwright, shopkeeper, 13 farmers, corn miller.
1912	Sub-postmaster, school mistress/master, 5 farmers, gamekeeper, blacksmith, 2 market gardeners, shopkeeper, publican, 2 farm bailiffs, fowl dealer, wheelwright asst., overseer.

Martlesham Heath Industrial Estate c.1978

19. Education:

1818 3 days schools (18 attend), some children attend school at Woodbridge.

1833 1 daily school established 1826 (30 attend)
1 Sunday school established 1826 (46 attend)
Parochial school built 1870/1871, 60 attend 1891, average attendance 1912 (90)

20. Poor relief:

1776 £39 9s. 10d.
1803 £78 19s. 8d.
1818 £650 16s.
1830 £392 16s.
1832 £335 4s.
1834 £342 19s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

New police headquarters built c.1978
Post Office Research Centre opened 1975

23. Recreation:

1844 The Red Lion public house. Groom & Brothers brewers.
1891/1912 The Red Lion public house.

The Red Lion timber-framed. Features Red Lion figurehead from Dutch boat captured at battle of Sole Bay 1672. This however is disputed as has also been suggested the figurehead came from vessel wrecked off Benacre c.1740.

24. Personal:

Robert Cook: Incumbent 1429–1446, appears frequently in Borough Records of Ipswich and Court Rolls of Martlesham Hall for being a gamester, assaulting another man's wife and generally causing considerable trouble within the Parish.

25. Other information:

Beacon Hill: Brick mansion in park of approximately 24 acres 19th cent. 9th Earle of Albemarle moved to this house after disposing of Quidenham Hall Norfolk.

Troops said to have marched from Ipswich and assembled in the parish where they were joined Woodbridge men under command of Major General Lord Charles Fitzroy, Lord Paget and Major General Smith. Assembly recorded as being of 10,000 men.

Fire at air base caused extreme damage i.e. hanger, its aircraft and equipment completely destroyed 1922.

Aeroplane Experimental Establishment in parish 1917–1979.

'Martlesham Heath: The Story of R.A.F. station 1917–1973' by G. Kinsey 1975.

'Rectors of Martlesham', by H.R. Lingwood. PSIA Vol. XXV, p.193.

'Report on the removal of a Tumulus on Martlesham Heath' May–June 1942, by G. Maynard and H.E.P. Spencer. PSIA Vol. XXIV, p.36.

New Martlesham Village established on Martlesham Heath (early 1970s)