

1. Parish: Mendlesham

Meaning: Mydels enclosure

2. **Hundred:** Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (–1897), Hartismere South (1897–1931), S. Hartismere (1931–1972), Stowmarket (1972)

Union: Hartismere

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

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1883
Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,955 acres land, 5 acres water (1912)

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

5. **Types of farming:**

1066	1,000 pigs.
1086	Wood – 800 pigs, 90 pigs, 2 cobs, 11 cattle, 35 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, peas, roots, oats, beans.
1969	Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Main settlement is situated SW of church with secondary sites at Mendlesham Green and Tan Office Green. SE boundary follows line of Roman road. Railway crosses parish SW–NE. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 110, 1801 – 179, 1851 – 296, 1871 – 295, 1901 – 221, 1951 – 273, 1981 – 402

8. Communications:

- Road: To Brockford station and Cotton, "all roads leading into it are full of slaughts, that there is little resort to it, especially in winter", in "Britannia", by R. Blome, 1673.
Ipswich–Scole turnpike 1793
1844 Carriers to Stowmarket Monday and Thursday
to Ipswich and Stowmarket Tuesday and Thursday
1891 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday
to Stowmarket and Norwich Saturday
1912 Carriers to Eye Monday
to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday
to Stowmarket Thursday
- Rail: 1891 3½ miles Finningham station: Ipswich to Norwich line,
opened 1848, station closed 1966.

9. Population:

- 1086 – 46 recorded
1327 – 67 taxpayers paid £5 3s.
1524 – 52 taxpayers paid £7 5s. 4d.
1603 – 160 adults
1674 – 132 households
1676 – 347 adults
1801 – 1,051 inhabitants
1831 – 1,233 inhabitants
1851 – 1,442 inhabitants
1871 – 1,243 inhabitants
1901 – 961 inhabitants
1931 – 862 inhabitants
1951 – 862 inhabitants
1971 – 965 inhabitants
1981 – 1,080 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

- 1254 valued £26 13s. 4d.
of which mater of Fernig has £20
1291 valued £22
vicar of the same £ 12 £34 0s. 0d.
appropriated by William Rufus to Battle Abbey
two-thirds of the great tithes granted by bishop of Norwich to
Dean and Chapter of Chichester 1254 with whom it remains
1535 values £14 9s. 2½d.
1831 Curate, stipend £150. p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £400 p.a.
Incumbent also holds vicarage of Sutton and perpetual curacy of
Ramsholt.

Rent-charge of £544 13s. in lieu of two-thirds of rectorial tithes
1839. Remainder and vicarial tithes commuted for £583 12s.
p.a. 20 acres glebe.

1912 Nett value £370. 20 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Mr Knyvett (1603), incumbent (1831), Rev. R. Field (1855), Rev.
E.R. Manwaring-White (1912)

11. Church St. Mary

(Chancel, nave, aisles, N & S. porches, embattled tower)

1086 Church + 40 acres land, 1 plough
Given to Battle Abbey by William Rufus 1095.

13th cent. S & N doorways of nave, arcade of 6 bays, chancel arch. N
porch has chamber above used as town armoury since 1593
– considerable collection of Tudor and Stuart armour which
formed accoutrements of town trained soldiers
(picture/details in parish folder).
Mustering order 1627 still exists.

1864-66 Restoration

1864 Chancel re-opened

Seats: 479 (1855)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1603 4 recusants

1676 7 nonconformists

1546/57 7 persons burned for their religious convictions

Dwelling house set apart for worship 1709, 1814, 1816, 1818, 1822,
1835 and 1839

Baptist chapel on Green 1839

Congregational chapel 1848

13. Manorial

Mendlesham Manor

1086 Manor of 7 carucates 42 acres belonging to the king and
held by Burghard

12th cent. Manasser/Mansey de Danmartin owns

1314 Sir John de Botetourt owns (linked to Buckenham Castle
Norfolk) passing by marriage to the Knyvet family

15th cent. Said to have been valued £20 and held of the king as of
the Duchy of Lancaster by fealty and 1d. rent

c.1611 John Eldred owns (linked to Saxham)

1740 Tyrell family owns (linked to Gipping)

Sub-Manors

Winchesters

1285 Roger de Winchester owns
early 16th cent. Richard Garneys owns

Cordeboeuf/Freetent, Corbornes

12th cent. John de Cordeboef owns
1281 Consists of 1 messuage, 60 acres land, 10 acres wood, 9
acres pasture + appurtenances in the parish
1566 William Atwood owns followed in 1609 by Sir Stephen
Soame

Busshes/Buces al Busses

1303 Simon Busshe or Busch owns
c.14th cent. Consists of 1 messuage, 120 acres of land, 4 acres
meadow and 3 acres wood
16/17th cent. Edgar family owns (linked to Eye)
1834 Consists of 163 acres

Flede Hall/ Fledd's Hall/Walkames

1448 Sentlowe family owns although Robert Crane is said to
have died seised of this manor 1447
No further information

14. Markets/Fairs:

Grant of market and fair (Meneshol) 1238/39
Grant of market and fair to Hugh Fitz Ortho 1280/81
Fair for cattle on Holy Thursday 1759
Market held on Tuesday 1792
1891 Tuesday market and October fair obsolete

15. Real property:

1844 £5,747 rental value
1891 £5,282 rateable value
1912 £4,220 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 – 1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

Thomas Winchester knight 1393
1673 Thomas Butts gent, Edmund Sheppard gent and William
Smith DD
1680 1 Gentleman
1844 Rev. H.D. Day LL.D
1912 Rev. E. Manwaring-White BA

18. Occupations:

1494	1 stainer
1500–1549	1 clothier
1550–1599	7 yeoman, 8 husbandmen, 1 servant, 1 carpenter, 1 linen weaver, 1 thatcher, 3 butchers, 1 cordwainer, 1 tanner
1600–1649	23 yeomen, 8 husbandmen, 1 teacher, 1 labourer, 1 draper
1650 –1699	27 yeomen, 8 husbandmen, 1 Joiner, 1 spinster, 1 grocer, 2 cordwainers, 1 innholder, 1 blacksmith, 1 shoemaker
1831	215 in agriculture, 70 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 35 in domestic service
1844	dyer, 2 plumbers, glover, surgeon, gardener, cooper, ironmonger, watchmaker, butcher, 2 victuallers, machine-maker/millwright, 2 bakers, 6 beerhouse keepers, 4 blacksmith, 10 shoemakers, 2 bricklayers, 3 millers, 26 farmers, 3 grocers/drapers, 2 tailors, 7 millwrights
1912	2 sub-postmasters, police officer, station master, corn Chandler, carpenter/wheelwright, wheelwright, grocer, 31 farmers, 2 builders, 2 millers, shop-keeper, 2 surgeons, 3 boot/shoemakers, 2 beer retailers, 3 grocers, 2 blacksmiths, saddler, chimney-sweep, 3 carriers, 3 publicans, farm bailiff, poultry dealer, coal merchant, asst. overseer, watchmaker, butcher, baker, jeweller, photographer, cycle repairs

19. Education:

	Will of Robert Cake 1473. Rents from land and property to be applied to education of children in the free school. Endowed school founded (1491) 3 schoolmasters/tutors recorded 1614–1790 1 schoolhouse 1674
1818	Endowed boys school (15 attend) Endowed Sunday school (120 attend)
1833	Endowed day school (30 attend, 15 fee paying) 3 infants schools (66 attend) 1 Sunday school (130 attend) New school built 1863, enlarged (1884), average attendance 1912 135

20. Poor relief:

1776	£356 8s. 8d.
1803	£637 13s. 7d.
1818	£1,570 17s.
1830	£1,112 17s.
1832	£1,196 8s.
1834	£831 1s.

21. Charities:

Charity Estates:

1840 1 messuage used by workhouse and school for poor persons and schoolmaster rent free. 12 tenements occupied rent free by poor. Various lands and premises let at £350. 13s. p.a. applied to church repairs, education and poor relief

22. Other institutions:

1776 Guild of Holy Trinity 1458
Workhouse (30 inmates)
1803 2 Friendly Societies (56 members)
Foresters Hall built 1889
1912 Police officer recorded
Village hall opened 1927

23. Recreation:

1844 1 innholder recorded 1685
6 beerhouses, The Oak and the Kings Head public houses
1891 2 beerhouses, The Green Man and the Oak Inn public houses
Carpenters shop band 1890s
1912 Ancient Order of Foresters
2 beer retailers, The Kings Head, The Oak Inn and the Green Man public houses

24. Personal:

Martyrs: Roger Clarke and Kerby 1546
John Denny, Edmund Poole, Adam Foster and Robert Lawson 1556
William Seaman 1557
Mr. Arthur Mayfield: 1927 author of 2 booklets on Mendlesham Church

25. Other information:

T.V. mast erected by I.T.A. (1000` high) 1959.
Boyland Hall: said to have been built by Richard Garneys 1571.
Exhibition of church treasure 1969.
Parish is said to hold suggested site of palace of Kings of East Anglia 1927.
Elizabethan wall paintings found at Elms Farm 1981/84.
Elms Farm 15th cent. house. Wall painting also include texts from 130th psalm
Village sign erected 1978.
Turnpike Road: 1711 described as "so very ruinous deep and full of holes that the same has become dangerous for any person or persons, coach or waggon that pass these ways" (article in parish folder 1981). A toll was

inaugurated to supply funds for repairs. Tollgate cottage beside A140 road collapsed 1981.
"Mendlesham Brewing Day in the Nineties". Suffolk Review Vol 1 p.156