

# 1. Parish: Redgrave

**Meaning:** Reed ditch (Ekwall)

**2. Hundred:** Hartismere

**Deanery:** Hartismere (-1897), Hartismere (North)(1897-1931), N. Hartismere (1931-1972), Hartismere (1972-)

**Union:** Hartismere

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Hartismere R.D. (-1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974-)

## Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division  
Eye County Court District

**3. Area:** 2,123 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a) Deep well drained sandy soil, some very acid with bleached sub-surface especially under heath and woodland, risk wind erosion
- b) Fine loam over clay soil with slowly permeable sub-soil, some gravel, subject to seasonal waterlogging

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 120 pigs, 2 cobs, 12 cattle, 60 sheep, 30 goats, 30 pigs
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig keeping
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:	4 course system: wheat, barley, clover, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

1818 386 acres enclosed (Redgrave Common) under Private Act of Lands (1808)

## 7. Settlement:

1958 River Waveney forms natural boundary to the north. The fenland along its banks probably influenced development of this long scattered community which opens out into Redgrave Green at its Southern end. Secondary development at Redgrave Common.  
Redgrave Park covers wide area of south-eastern sector

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 56, 1801 – 73, 1851 – 159, 1871 – 148,  
1901 – 123, 1951 – 134, 1981 – 146

## 8. Communications:

**Road:** Roads to Wortham, Botesdale and South Lopham  
1891 Carriers to Diss occasionally. To Ipswich pass through on Saturday

1912 Carrier to Diss Friday

**Rail:** 1891 6 miles Diss station: Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849) still operational

5 miles Mellis station: Mellis – Eye line, opened (1867), closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)

Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849), station closed for goods (1964), closed for passengers (1966)

**Water:** River Waveney: Act passed to make Waveney navigable (1670), decline marked by beginning of rail travel

Little Ouse: Made navigable by Acts designed to improve Navigation (1760) although there is some evidence to suggest The river was used for trade purposes earlier than this.

Decline due to rail transport and general silting of the river circa 1850's

## 9. Population:

1086 — 60 recorded

1327 — 38 taxpayers paid £4. 0s. 6d

1524 — 58 taxpayers paid £9. 2s. 2d. (Includes Botesdale)

1603 — Not recorded

1674 — 82 households

1676 — 517 adults

1801 — 530 inhabitants

1831 — 712 inhabitants

1851 — 756 inhabitants

1871 — 578 inhabitants

1901 — 501 inhabitants

1931 — 465 inhabitants

1951 — 451 inhabitants

1971 — 389 inhabitants

1981 — 413 inhabitants

- 10. Benefice: Rectory (with Botesdale)**
- 1254 Valued £21. 6s. 8d.  
Tithe of the Almoner of St. Edmunds £2.  
Tithe of the Hospitaler of St. Saviours 5s.  
£23. 11s. 8d.
- 1291 Valued £26. 13s. 4d.  
Portion to the Almoner of St Edmunds. £2.  
£28. 13s. 4d.
- 1535 Valued £25. 7s. 1d.  
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £777 p.a. Incumbant also holds rectories of Nowton and Little Whelnhem  
Joint value £899 (1855)  
Tithes commuted. 45 acres 3R 10P glebe. Large rectory house (1846)
- 1912 Nett value £520. 42 acres glebe and residence
- Patrons:** G. St. Vincent Wilson (1831), George Holt Wilson (1912)

**11. Church St Mary the Virgin**  
(Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, W. tower)

- 1086 Church + 30 acres free land, ½ plough  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Windows and buttresses to chancel, S. porch  
14/15<sup>th</sup> cent. S. aisle, nave roof  
16<sup>h</sup> cent. Vestry roof  
18<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower  
1850 Restoration

**Seats:** 330 (1855)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

- 1972 Independent chapel  
1676 3 papists, 3 nonconformists  
Dwelling house set aside for worship (1725)  
Church mission room used for services in winter (1897)  
Seats 200  
Wesleyan Methodist chapel (no dates)

**13. Manorial:**

**Redgrave Manor**

- 1066/1086 Manor of 6 carucates, belonging to Abbey of St. Edmunds  
Line of ownership uncertain – 2 possibilities  
a)  
1547 Sir Thomas D’Arcy owns passing to the Bacon family  
b)

1544	Granted to Sir Nicholas Bacon
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Customs – MSS British Museum. Gavelkind said to prevail
19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Holt Wilson family owns

**14. Markets/Fairs**

Grants of market and fair (1219/20 and 1226/27)

**15. Real property:**

1844	£2,740 rental value
1891	£2,676 rateable value
1912	£2,220 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1673	Sir Edmund Bacon
1674	1 knight
1844	G. St. Vincent Wilson and Rev. M. Wilkinson
1912	Rev. L.H. Wilson MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500-1549	1 maid
1550-1599	3 yeomen, 1 woollen draper, 3 weavers, 1 bladesmith, 1 carpenter, 1 labourer, 6 husbandmen
1600-1649	2 linen weavers, 13 yeomen, 5 weavers, 1 carpenter, 1 wheelwright, 1 metalman (worker/dealer in metal), 2 labourers, 3 husbandmen, 3 tailors, 1 spinster, 1 mason, 1 gardener, 1 cook.
1650-1699	5 linen weavers, 11 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 1 husbandman, 1 oatmeal maker, 1 tailor, 1 spinster, 1 bricklayer, 1 teacher, 1 apothecary, 1 cordwainer, 1 clerk, 1 butcher, 1 whitener (one employed in bleaching cloth or skins), 2 millers
1831	101 in agriculture, 62 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 2 in labouring, 46 in domestic service, 8 others
1844	Wheelwright/machine maker, blacksmith, 2 millers, tailor, saddler, 2 carpenters, gardener, 3 shoemakers, 2 grocer/draper/tailors, wine/spirit merchant, 2 victuallers, organ builders, 2 butchers, bricklayer, vet, tea dealer, 11 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, dress maker, 2 publicans, laundry, 3 shopkeepers, 11 farmers, teacher, 2 thatchers, grocer, threshing machine owner, 2 bakers, gamekeeper,

carpenter, farm bailiff, blacksmith, coach  
 builder/wheelwright, 2 boot repairers, beer retailer,  
 gardener, butcher, plumber, miller  
 1923 Poultry Processing Plant  
 1983 Shetland Cruisers Ltd. Began production

**19. Education:**

Licence to erect grammar school (1560/61)  
 1 school teacher recorded (1650-1699)  
 1818 Endowment to educate 3 poor children (1686)  
 1 endowed school (4 poor children attend)  
 2 Boarding schools  
 2/3 day schools  
 1845 National school established (1845), enlarged (1871 and  
 1909). Average attendance (1912) 140

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£142. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1803	£346. 1s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£548. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£672. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£615. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£715. 12s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Church Lands:**

1840 2 Acres 4R let at £6 p.a. to church members

**Poors Allotment:**

1814 80 acres for provision of fuel

**Grammar School:**

1560 by letters patent – licence to Sir Nicholas Bacon to  
 erect said school

**Brundish Charity:**

1840 1 acre 2R given by John Brundish, let at £3 p.a.  
 distributed among 4 poor persons

**Fosters Charity:**

1686 by will of Mary Foster: 1 acre let at £1. 10s. p.a.  
 paid to educate 3 poor children

### **Hubbards Charity:**

1727 by will of John Hubbard: 6 acres profits of which contribute £3. 5s. p.a. for bread

### **22. Other institutions:**

1776 Workhouse (30 inmates)  
House for 2 poor widows (1840)

### **23. Recreation:**

1844 2 public houses The Cross Keys and The Fox  
1891 1 beerhouse, The Grapes, The Greyhound, Cross  
Keys and The Fox and Hounds public houses  
Reading room  
1912 The Cross Keys and The Greyhound public  
houses  
1 beer retailer  
Variety group 'The Raqueteers' formed (1974)

### **24. Personal:**

Thomas Wolsey (later Cardinal) said to have been rector of Redgrave (1506)  
Sir Edmund Bacon of Redgrave Hall (1644): said to be one of the wealthiest men in Suffolk at this period  
Sir John Holt: Recorder of London (1663)  
George St. Vincent Wilson, High Sherriff of Suffolk (1841)

### **25. Other information:**

Article mentioned Half Moon public house, said to be 'centuries old' in Half Moon Lane, believed to been bakery and brewed its own beer.

Redgrave Hall: originally built as hunting lodge for Abbots of St. Edmunds. Rebuilt (1545) on same site,

'the building of Redgrave Hall (1545-1554)' by E.R. Sandon. PSIA Vol. XXIX p.1 (Built on U shape plan)

'Summery of the expenses of building Redgrave Hall' PSIA Vol. XXIX p.31

Remodelled (1763) by Rowland Hot using Woolpit brick. Park designed by Capability Brown

Mostly destroyed (1958) and subsequently demolished

Deer Park: Approx. 200 acres enclosed by oak pailing. Shown on map (1575)  
Deer Park of 450 acres sold (1970)

Nature reserve established at Redgrave and Lopham Fens (1985)

Bishop Sampson built stone house as country retreat for monks (1211)  
(possibly this refers to Redgrave Hall)

Village sign erected \*1983)

Translation of Manor Rent account in parish folder, also Raimes Deeds from  
Redgrave Hall muniments

'Early Suffolk Heraldry: Redgrave' by Rev. E. Farrer. PSIA Vol. XXI p.1.

'An Ancient Deed Box: Redgrave'. PSIA Vol. XVIII p.235

### **Archaeological Sites:**

Sax. pottery (documentary evidence) (CRN 8246)

Un. barrow (CRN 8248, 8177)

I.A. excavation/pottery (CRN 8180)

Un. soilmark (CRN 8182)

Med. building (Redgrave Hall) (CRN 8183)

PMed. deer park (CRN 8245)

Church of St. Mary (CRN 8187)

PMed. brick kiln (documentary evidence) (CRN 8191)

PMed. windmill (CRN 8208)

Stray finds:

I.A. pottery (CRN 8171)

I.A. quern (CRN 8172)

I.A. coin (CRN 8204)

Rom. coin (CRN 8173)

Rom. pottery (CRN 8179)

Rom. brooch (CRN 8206)

Med. pottery (CRN 8247)

Med. pin (CRN 8174)

Med. key (CRN 8188)

Sax. pottery (CRN 8249)

Mes. worked flint (CRN 8175)

Mes. mace head (CRN 8184)

Un. pottery (CRN 8178)

Un. vessel (CRN 8207)

Preh. artefact (CRN 8190)

Neo. knife (CRN 8186)

Neo. axe (CRN 8185)

PMed. spur (CRN 8189)

Scatter finds:

PMed. clay pipe production site (CRN 8176)

Neo. axe (CRN 8181)

Rom. coin (CRN 8205)