

# 1. Parish: Rendham

**Meaning:** Cleared meadow/enclosure

**2. Hundred:** Plomesgate

**Deanery:** Orford (-1914), Saxmundham (1914 -)

**Union:** Plomesgate

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Plomesgate R.D. (1894-1934), Blyth R.D. (1934-1974)

**Other administrative details:**

Framlingham Petty Sessional Division  
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,736 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

Mixed: a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion  
b. Some permeable seasonally waterlogged, some calcareous clay and fine loam over clay soils.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		14 acres meadow, wood for 40 pigs, 1 cob, pigs, 18 sheep, 30 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, beans, peas, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1978 River Alde forms natural boundary to SW.  
Small well spaced development. Church situated at

eastern extremity.  
Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 59, 1801 – 39, 1851 – 92,  
1871 – 93, 1901 – 67, 1951 – 80,  
1981 – 105

## 8. Communications:

- Road: To Bruisyard, Kelsale, Saxmundham, Swefling and Cransford
- Rail: 1891 3 miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham–Aldeburgh line opened 1859, line to Aldeburgh closed for goods 1959, closed for passengers 1966. Spur from Saxmundham–Leiston still operational Ipswich–Lowestoft line opened 1859 still operational
- River: River Alde: navigable river to Snape Bridge 'Alde Estuary' by W.G. Arnott 1952

## 9. Population:

- 1086 – 44½ recorded  
1327 – 46 taxpayers paid £3 4s. 6d.  
(includes Bruisyard)  
1524 – 25 taxpayers paid £3 17s. 2d.  
1603 – 116 adults  
1674 – 60 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 367 inhabitants  
1831 – 449 inhabitants  
1851 – 453 inhabitants  
1871 – 368 inhabitants  
1901 – 284 inhabitants  
1931 – 255 inhabitants  
1951 – 316 inhabitants  
1971 – 292 inhabitants  
1981 – 306 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Vicarage

- 1254 Valued £10 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £6 13s. 2d. Church appropriated to Sibton  
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £96 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Wattisfield  
Improprate rectory sold to landowners c.1814  
1844 Modus of £101 p.a. in lieu of small tithes  
1891 15 acres glebe  
1912 Nett value £102. 14 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Feoffees of Duke of Norfolk (1603), W. Marsh (1831), Trustees of Rev. C. Simeon (1844)

**11. Church** **St. Michael**  
(Chancel, nave, N. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 24 acres land and 1 plough  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure  
14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower  
c.1600 E. window of chancel  
1852/1865 Restoration

**Seats:** 200 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597 1 person had not attended church for 12 months  
Independent (Congregational) chapel built 1750  
replacing a smaller chapel at Swefling which had been  
built 1650. Enlarged 1834, seats 500 1912  
'Rendham': History of Congregationalism in Suffolk', by  
T.J. Hosken 1920, p.219

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Ostula a free man under  
patronage  
1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Count Alan  
1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Huna a free man under  
patronage of Ralph the Constable  
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Count Alan  
1066/1086 Manor of 91 acres held by 9 free men belonging to Count  
Alan  
1066 Manor of 1 carucate 69 acres held by an outlier of this  
manor  
1086 Manor of 1 carucate 69 acres belonging to Robert Malet  
1066 Manor of 66 acres held by Clackson a free man under  
patronage of Edric  
1086 Manor of 66 acres belonging to Roger Bigot

**Rendham Manor**

1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Ulf a free man under  
patronage of Norman  
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Roger Bigot  
1316 John de Brusiard/Bruseyard owns (linked to Bruisyard)  
1355 Acquired by Sibton Abbey; held by service 'ad wardam'  
of Richmond Honor  
1547 Sir Arthur Denny owns

1805 Thomas Trusson owns  
 c.1838 Rev. Anthony Collett owns  
 1847 Frederick White Corrance owns (linked to Framlingham)

**Sub-manors:**

**Barnes/Barnes**

early  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent. John Berney owns  
 1481 Abbot of Sibton owns (annexed to main manor)  
 1609 Philip, Earl of Arundel owns  
 18<sup>th</sup> cent. Seth Powell owns  
 c.1787 William Turton owns  
 1855 J. Crabtree owns (linked to Halesworth)  
 1885 Missess Crabtree own (linked to Laxfield)

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £2,247 rental value  
 1891 £1,713 rateable value  
 1912 £1,392 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1891 Rev. G. Ensor MA  
 1912 Col. R.R.B. Elias. Rev. T. McClelland MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 3 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 millwright  
 1600–1649 15 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 tailor  
 1650–1699 1 brick striker, 12 yeomen, 1 linen weaver  
 1831 69 in agriculture, 2 in manufacturing 19 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 1 in labouring, 11 in domestic service, 12 others  
 1844 Bricklayer, butcher, blacksmith, 2 shoemakers, wheelwright, cooper, 2 gardeners, schoolmaster, and mistress, victualler, farrier, joiner, 11 farmers, 3 shopkeepers  
 1912 Sub-postmaster, 2 school teachers, market gardener, cycle dealer, carpenter/wheelwright, shopkeeper, 2 cowkeepers, publican, 6 farmers, blacksmith, matron of Girls Home, 2 farm bailiffs, grocer/pork butcher/draper,

fruit grower, stone mason, gardener, dairy farmer,  
nurseryman

**19. Education:**

Free school supported by rents form land in Bramfield (1704) by will of Thomas Neal.

1818 1 endowed school (5 attend), 1 day school (56 attend), 2 Sunday schools (152 attend)

1833 1 endowed daily school (6 attend), 1 daily school (26 attend), 1 established church Sunday school (50 attend), 1 Dissenters Sunday school (100 attend)

National school built (1841) aided by the Neal charity, approx. 100 attend (1891), enlarged (1879 and 1907), used as Parish room (1912)

Public Elementary School built (1912), average attendance 100

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £85 8s. 8d.  
1803 £187 2s. 10d.  
1818 £519 3s.  
1830 £618 13s.  
1832 £715 19s.  
1834 £621 16s.

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate:**

1646 3 cottages occupied by poor, 3 acres let at £4 10s. p.a.  
1840 applied with poor rate

**Neal's Charity:**

1704 by Will of Thomas Neal: £2 10s. for support of school + 10s. for books

**22. Other institutions:**

Guild of St. John Baptist 1461

1844 The poor occupy 3 cottages rent free. Pulled down 1860

1891 Small library in existence

1912 Parish rooms established in former school  
Girls Home in existence

**23. Recreation:**

1844–1912 The White Horse public house

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Manse built c.1750 of red brick.

Bronze head of Emperor Claudius found in River Alde 1907. Now in British Museum.

'Rendham: Unique Roman Find', by C. Ganz. PSIA Vol.XIII, p.225.