

# 1. Parish: Rendlesham

**Meaning:** Rendel's meadow/enclosure

2. **Hundred:** Loes

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

**Union:** Plomesgate

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

Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change 1934  
Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,036 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Mixed:

- a. Deep fine loam soils, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging, fine loams over clay or with sandy soils
- b. Deep well drained sandy, often ferruginous soils, risk wind and water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		10½ acres meadow, 1 mill, 2 cattle, 8 pigs, 10 sheep
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, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass
1937		Main crops: Wheat, barley, turnips, peas. Mainly arable/dairying region
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. **Enclosure:**

## 7. Settlement:

1958 Bentwaters airbase intrudes into large portion of eastern sector of parish.  
Rendlesham Forest/Staverton Park occupies large portion of southern sector.  
Large areas of plantation scattered throughout parish.  
Small diverse settlement in western sector, with Church situated in same general area, close to boundary with Eyke.  
New village based on redundant airbase accommodation since 1993.  
Few scattered farms.  
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 11, 1801 – 27, 1851 – 66, 1871 – 74, 1901 – 67, 1951 – 60, 1981 – 119

## 8. Communications:

Roads: To Campsey Ash, Eyke and Tunstall  
1891 Carriers pass through to Woodbridge Monday, Thursday and Saturday.  
1912 Carriers to Ipswich Saturday, to Woodbridge Monday and Thursday.

Rail: 1891 2.5/3 miles Wickham Market station: Wickham Market –Framlingham line, opened 1859, closed for passengers 1952, closed for goods 1965; Ipswich–Lowestoft line, opened 1859, still operational.

Air: Bentwaters airbase: built 1942, as USAF base opened 1944. Closed 1993

## 9. Population:

1086 – 47 recorded  
1327 – 35 taxpayers paid £2 11s. 1d.  
1524 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 4s. 6d.  
1603 – 64 adults  
1674 – 16 households  
1676 – not recorded  
1801 – 216 inhabitants  
1831 – 261 inhabitants  
1851 – 359 inhabitants  
1871 – 345 inhabitants  
1901 – 283 inhabitants  
1931 – 266 inhabitants  
1951 – 458 inhabitants  
1971 – 1,365 inhabitants

1981 – 998 inhabitants  
2011 – 3276 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1245 valued £17 6s. 8d.  
1291 valued £24 13s. 4d.  
1535 valued £4 13s. 4d.  
1603 Incumbent also holds Blaxhall. Valued £24 13s. 4d.  
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £96 pa. Incumbent also holds rectory of Wattisfield.  
1891 50 acres glebe. Rent-harge of £420 pa  
1912 Nett value £254. 53 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: The King (1603)

**11. Church: St Gregory the Great  
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W tower)**

c.655–644 Church is thought to have been in existence. Bishop Cedd being involved. PSIA Vol XXIV p.230  
1086 Church plus 20 acres, valued 40d.  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure including tower  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. S. porch with chamber above  
15/16<sup>th</sup> cent Windows to nave and chancel  
1783 E .window made of wood.

Seats: 175 (1915)

St Felix: Airbase chapel turned into new church for village after 1993.

**12. Nonconformity etc.**

1606 2 persons did not receive communion at Easter

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 34 acres held by a free man under patronage  
1086 Manor of 34 acres belonging to Count Alan

Naunton Hall

1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Godiva, a free woman under patronage  
1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Hervey of Bourges  
13<sup>th</sup> cent. Henry de Naunton owns  
1532 John Harman owns

1552 James Spencer owns  
1786 Peter Isaac Thellusson owns  
1909 Lord F W Brook Thellusson, Lond Rendlesham, owns (linked to  
Butley, Campsey Ash, Hacheston, Boyton, Ramsholt, Capel St  
Andrew)

**Sub Manors:**

**Colvilles**

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Ulfketel under patronage of Edric of  
Laxfield  
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert Malet and held by Gilbert  
of Colville  
1204 William de Colville owns  
1290 Sir John de Holbroke owns (linked to Bucklesham, Brantham,  
Burstall, Rushmere, Cholmondistron, Woolverstone, Kesgrave and  
Playford)  
1406 George Fastolf owns  
1543 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors  
throughout Suffolk)  
1557 John Lane owns  
c.1644 John Corrance owns (linked to Hacheston)  
17/18<sup>th</sup> cent. Edward Spencer owns (absorbed by main manor)

**Bavents/Bavents Hall**

1212 Adam de Bavent owns  
1355 Robert de Rendenhale owns, who gave it to Chantry of Eyke.  
1533 Thomas Alverd owns (linked to Falkenham, Sutton, and  
Helmingham)  
1549 Michael Stanhope owns (linked to numerous manors throughout  
Suffolk)  
c.1557 John Lane owns (absorbed by Colvilles)

**Caketon's**

16<sup>th</sup> cent. Christopher Harman owns  
1552 James Spencer owns (absorbed into main manor)

**14. Market/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844 – £2,151 rental value  
1891 – £2,297 rateable value

1912 – £1,860 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Lord Rendlesham, sole owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679 John Brooke, John Corrance and John Spencer  
1844 Lord Rendlesham  
1891 Lord Rendlesham, DL, JP, and Rev. W. West, BA  
1912 Lord Rendlesham and Rev. G. Lombard MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 1 twill weaver, 1 husbandman  
1600–1649 6 yeomen, 1 labourer  
1650–1699 3 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 2 clerks  
1831 59 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 1 professional, 12 in domestic service, 8 others  
1844 School teacher, gardener, house steward, 3 farmers  
1912 School teacher, farm bailiff, head gamekeeper, head gardener, 2 farmers, breeder/exporter of Suffolk horses, grocer, estate agent, forester, clerk of works.

**19. Education**

1818 1 day school (21 attend)  
1833 1 Sunday school (70 attend)  
School built 1840 by Lord Rendlesham, Restored 1872, enlarged and repaired 1879, approx. 90 attend in 1891. Average attendance 36 in 1912. Converted to private house 1939–45  
Primary school opened 2006

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £36 12s. 8d.  
1803 £80 9s.  
1818 £306 5s.  
1830 £354 17s.  
1832 £395 4s.  
1834 £397 8s.

**21. Charities**

Town Estate: 1840 14 acres 1R 19P in Rendlesham and Snape first at £13 2s. 6d. applied with poor rate  
4 tenements occupied by paupers

**22 Other institutions:**

1844 4 cottages occupied by poor  
Ministry of Labour Instruction Centre established c.1937  
Norwood Sanatorium for drug and alcohol abuse established at the Hall 1920s

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

Leonare Mawe/Maw: (d. 1629) born in the parish. Master of Peterhouse 1617, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University 1621 Chaplain to Prince of Wales and Bishop of Bath and Wells 1628  
Peter Isaac Thellusson: born in Paris 1735–1797, London merchant, naturalised 1762  
Peter Isaac Thellusson (son of the above) raised to Irish peerage 1806 titled Lord Rendlesham  
Molly Leppell: Molly's mother, Mary Brooke, born at High House Farm. Molly became Maid of Honour to Princess Caroline and reputed mistress of George II, before marrying John, Lord Hervey, of Ickworth.

**25. Other information**

Rendlesham White House: early 17<sup>th</sup> cent. destroyed by fire c.1830. Tower and front doorway remained 1891, site occupied by estate offices. House replaced by:

Rendlesham Hall: built c.1868–71 for 5th Lord Rendlesham in Jacobean style approx. ¼ mile from site of old Hall. Stands in park land of 300 acres 1891. Prince of Wales entertained at the Hall 1881.

Photograph in "East Suffolk Illustrated" by W. Barker 1908

Extensive damage by fire 1898. Norwood Sanatorium for drug and alcohol abuse established at the Hall 1920s, demolished 1949.

2 lodges survive: Woodbridge Lodge – single storey cement structure with pinnacles and flying buttresses with hexagonal central room, and Ivy Lodge: a sham ruin. Both date from 1790.

Grounds of the Hall were laid out by Humphrey Repton c.1803.

Parish said to have anciently held the palace in which Raedwald, King of the East Angles, kept his court c.624. "History of Suffolk" by D. Dymond and P. Northeast, p 30.

"The Reckoning of King Raedwald", by Sam Newton, 2003.

Legend states that Raedwald, having accepted conversion to Christianity, was seduced by his wife and arranged for 2 altars to be erected in the church, one Christian and one pagan.

Sudhelm, King of the East Saxons, supposedly baptised here.

Thistly Belt: Ring of trees defined by shallow ditch. Origin and purpose unknown. Surmised to have been seat of the Saxon Wuffingas although this has no supportive evidence. However map of 18/19<sup>th</sup> cent., survey executed by Isaac Johnson, gives the old name for Bush Covert as Woodenhall Grove. This stands to the east of Thistley Belt and is suggested as a more likely site for the royal residence.

Ancient silver crown found c.1791 believed melted down.

'Early Medieval Occupation site at Rendlesham' PSIA Vol. XXIV, p.308  
'Saxon Rendlesham' by R.L.S. Bruce-Mitford. PSIA Vol. XXIV, p.228. This appears to give authority to the parish having a royal residence c.655–664. This article also suggests the connection between the royal residence at Rendlesham and the royal burial at Sutton Hoo.

Area between the church and Naunton Hall: former green area.

'The Effigy of John Caperon, Rector of Rendlesham 1349–1375', by C. Smith. 'East Anglian Miscellany', 1911, p.44.

'Rendlesham: Deben Valley Place Names' 1977.

Records of: Camp field next to water tower.

The name Friday Street occurs – has been suggested as ancient green lane. Comprises track across heath.

Hop and hemp lands.

Lime burning/brick making kilns.

Water Tower erected 1939–45, still in existence 2012.

High House farm: part of former 17<sup>th</sup> cent. house.

The Folly: two brick pillars built by Lord Rendlesham c.1800, destroyed 1955–59.

Rogues Lane: possible former green lane