

1. Parish: Rickinghall Superior

Meaning: Halh (valley) of Rica's people (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: 1,414 (1912)

4. Soils:

Fine loam over clay soil, some slowly permeable subsoil.
The whole subject to seasonal waterlogging

5. Types of farming:

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:	4 course system: wheat, barley, clover, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1819 317 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands (1815)

7. Settlement:

1958 Parish has developed along the main Bury St. Edmunds to Norwich road and forms a trio of parishes, i.e. Botesdale, Rickinghall Superior and Rickinghall Inferior.

The northern boundary meanders in an irregular line along this road, sometimes splitting houses. The church is however set outside this development, being nearer the secondary settlement at Candle Street.
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 54, 1801 – 117, 1851 – 159, 1871 – 143, 1901 – 120, 1951 – 131, 1981 – 135

8. Communications:

Road: Road to Bury St. Edmunds and Norwich
1844 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday and Friday
1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds Wednesday and Saturday to Diss Friday
1912 Carriers to Bury. St Edmunds Wednesday to Diss Friday
to Finningham and Mellis station daily

Rail: 1891 5 ½ miles Mellis station: Mellis-Eye line, opened (1867), closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)
Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849), station closed (1966)
6 miles Diss station: Ipswich Norwich line, opened (1849) still operational

9. Population:

1086 — 24 recorded
1327 — 14 taxpayers paid £1. 6s. 1d.
1524 — 52 taxpayers paid £7. 6s. 6d.
1603 — 130 adults
1674 — 84 households
1676 — not recorded
1801 — 565 inhabitants
1831 — 774 inhabitants
1851 — 734 inhabitants
1871 — 656 inhabitants
1901 — 485 inhabitants
1931 — 457 inhabitants
1951 — 412 inhabitants
1971 — 369 inhabitants
1981 — 397 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (with Rickinghall Inferior)

1254	Valued £6. 13s. 4d. Tithe of the Prior of Hatfield £1 Tithe of Prior of Eye £1.	£8. 13s. 4d.
1291	Valued £8. 13s. 4d. Portion to Sacrist of Eye 6s. 8d.	£9.
1535	Valued £9. 13s. 11 ½ d.	

1831 Curate, stipend £154 p.a. Joint gross income £900. Glebe house. Incumbent also holds Perpetual Curacy of Old Buckenham and Rectory of Bracken Ash, Norfolk United with Rickinghall Inferior to create ecclesiastical parish of Rickinghall Superior (1838)
Tithes commuted for £1,052 p.a. of which £472. 2s. is paid by Rickinghall Superior (1840)

1912 Nett value £450. 14 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Sir Nicholas Bacon (1603), G. St. Vincent Wilsion (1831), G. Holt Wilson (1912)

11. Church

St Mary

(Chancel, nave, aisles, S. porches, W. tower)

1086 5th part of church + 5 acres
Remains of mortuary chapel SW corner of nave
Stone seats run along N. & S. walls
Until 14th cent. Knights Templars had chapel in the church

14th cent. Chancel and nave
15th cent. Nave
16th cent. Severely damaged

1868 Toward arch opened, room over S. porch restored

No date Renovations

1977 Made redundant

Seats: 300

12. Nonconformity etc:

Mansion house of John Shelver set aside for worship (1714)
houses set aside for worship (1817 and 1839)
Chapel (Primitive Methodists) (1851)

No Date Church mission rooms at Alwood Green

13. Manorial:

Facon's Hall

13th cent. Talbots of Hintlesham own
1568/69 Anthiny Yaxley owns (linked to Yaxley and Mellis)
1609 Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
19th cent. Holt Wilson family owns

Sub Manors:

St. Johns/Fitz Johns

1428 Bishop of Chichester owns
1566 Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (absorbed by main manor)

Crowe's Hall

1275 John Crowe claims frankpledge
1428 Thomas Harvey owns

14. Markets/Fairs

1679 Referred to as a little market town with a good market on Thursdays

15. Real property:

1844 £1,890 rental value
1891 £2,225 rateable value
1912 £1,772 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 G. St. Vincent Wilson, principle owner
1891-1912 G. Holt Wilson, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844 B. Smith
1912 Rev. W.C. Green MA

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 husbandman
1550-1599 4 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 linen weaver, 1 carpenter, 1 weaver
1600-1649 11 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 miller, 1 spinster, 2 blacksmiths, 1 tailor, 1 weaver, 2 tanners
1650-1699 11 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 5 linen weavers, 1 grocer, 1 baker, 1 barber, 1 wheelwright, 1 blacksmith, 1 labourer, 1 tailor, 1 cordwainer, 1 lime burner, 1 servant, 3 tanners
1831 87 in agriculture, 60 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 12 in domestic service, 9 others
1844 Carrier, beerhousekeeper, grocer/draper, 2 victuallers, cabinet maker, shoemaker, 2 tailors, wheelwright, straw hat maker, carpenter, bricklayer surgeon, blacksmith, butcher, 9 farmers

1912 Blacksmith, 5 farmers, cycle dealer, baker, publican,
bootmaker, jobmaster, shopkeeper, beer retailer, farm
bailiff
No dates Tannery at Low meadows

19. Education:

1818 Dames school (20 attend)
Children mainly attend day and Sunday school in
Rickinghall Inferior
1833 2 daily schools (30 and 12 attend respectively)
1891 1 day school
1912 Children attend school in Rickinghal Inferior

20. Poor relief:

1776	£189. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£356. 5s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£475. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£823. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£891. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£679. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 1 messuage, 2 cottages for the poor and 27 acres 2R
27P let at £23 p.a. applied to the benefit of inhabitants

Rookwoods Charities:

1567 by deed of Francis and Thomasine Rookwood: 12 acres
in Botesdale. Rents and profits for relief of poor of
Walsham le Willows, Rickinghal Inferior and Superior. On
enclosure Superior allotted 2 acres 3R 11P at £8. 16s.
6d. p.a.

Fuel Allotment:

1818 10 acres. Rents expended in coals

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly society

23. Recreation:

1844 1 beerhouse. The Garden House and The White Horse
public houses
1891 3 beerhouses. The White Horse public house

1912 Reading room
1 beer retailer. The White Horse public house

24. Personal:

Basil Brown: Archaeologist, lived at 'Cambria', The Street, Rickinghall Superior (1975)

25. Other information:

Facons Hall: now a farmhouse

Roman kiln found (1958)

Half timbered house from Stowmarket rebuilt in Rickinghall (1958)

Parish relied on fire engine from Walsham le Willows (No dates) Possessed firehook for pulling down burning stacks and thatch. This once hung on a wall at Church Farm – now in Ipswich Museum