

1. Parish: Felixstowe

Meaning: St. Felix's place (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Colneis

Deanery: Colneya

Union: Woodbridge

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Felixstowe & Walton UD (1894-1914),
Felixstowe UD (1914-1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County court District

3. **Area:** 1,921 acres land, 11 acres water, 374 acres of tidal
water, 132 acres foreshore (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Urbanized area. Dune sand and marine shingle around Old Felixstowe.

5. **Types of farming:**

Mainly urbanized development.
Some scattered farms – main crops (1937) wheat, barley and peas.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

Large coastal town development on main Ipswich road. Some
scattered farms (1972).

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 34, 1801 – 41, 1851 – 117, 1871 – 143,
1901 – 525, 1951 – 4,568 (includes Walton), 1981
– 8,035

8. **Communications:**

Road: Main Ipswich Road
1912 Carriers to Ipswich daily

Rail: 1891 Felixstowe station opened (1877), new station built
(1898)
Pier Trams opened (1904), closed (1939)

Water: 1886 up to the present – Felixstowe docks, port and ferry
 Air: 1913 Air station commissioned, closed (1962), occupied by army.

9. Population:

1086 — 72 recorded
 1327 — 47 taxpayers paid £5. 16s. 7¼d. (includes Walton)
 1524 — 59 taxpayers paid £5. 18s. 10d.
 1603 — 225 adults (includes Walton)
 1674 — 40 households
 1676 — Not recorded
 1801 — 259 inhabitants
 1831 — 363 inhabitants
 1851 — 691 inhabitants
 1871 — 760 inhabitants
 1901 — 2,720 inhabitants
 1931 — 12,067 inhabitants (includes Walton)
 1951 — 15,081 inhabitants (includes Walton)
 1971 — 18,750 inhabitants (includes Walton)
 1981 — 20,893 inhabitants (includes Walton)

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
 1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
 1535 Valued £5. 9s. 7d.
 No date United with Walton

Patrons:

1918 (St. John the Baptist) E.G. Pretyman (value £300 p.a.)
 (St. Peter and Paul) Bishop Stratton (value £160 p.a.)

11. Church Saints Peter and Paul

(Apsidal chancel, nave, transepts, south porch, tower)

1086 1 church (burgh) and 12 acres valued 2s.
 12th cent. Traces in doorways
 14th cent. North doorway
 1873 Chancel rebuilt using bricks from Martello Tower
 1871/72 Restorations, 19th cent.

Seats: 650

St. John the Baptist (Orwell Road)
 (Nave, north and south aisles, south porch, chancel, Lady Chapel, west tower)

1894/95 Built by Sir Arthur Blomfield to accommodate increased population and visitors

- 1899 Chancel and side chapels completed
 Seats: 650
St. Andrew (St. Andrew's Road)
 (Nave, chancel, north and south aisles, south porch)
- 1929-31 Built on design by Hilda Mason and Raymond Erith
 Lack of funds prevented construction of tower.

11a. Other religious institutions

Felixstowe/Walton St. Felix

- Priory cell dependant on Rochester (Benedictine Monks)
 Circa 1105 Founded, reputedly by Roger Bigot
 1291 Valued £6. 16s. 1½d. with possessions in nine parishes
 1381 3 monks
 1528 Cell suppressed and given to Cardinal Wolsey for his
 Cardinals College, Ipswich
 1576 Granted to Thomas Seckford

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1813-43 4 houses set aside for worship
 1898 Congregational and Baptist chapel built, seats 350
 1900 Presbyterian church of England built, seats 500
 1912 St. Felix Roman Catholic church built, seats 400
 Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Orwell Road
 Society of Friends meeting house, Ranelagh Road

13. Manorial:

Felixstowe Priory

- 1086 Estate of Roger Bigot
 1105 Given as gift to monastery of St. Andrew at Rochester
 1528 Granted to Cardinal Wolsey
 1530 Linked to Falkenham, Kirton, Hollesley, Snoton Downham
 and Elveden (Thomas, Duke of Norfolk)
 1576 Linked to Bucklesham, Nacton, Boulge, Dallinghoo and
 Gt. Bealings (Thomas Seckford)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

- 1844 £1,670 rental value
 1891 £11,470 rateable value
 1912 £66,847 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Land sub-divided
1891	Capt. E.G. Pretyman and executors of late J.C. Cobbold, main owners
1912	E.G. Pretyman, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1679	John Tasborough
1844	Rev. J.R. Edgar
1912	P.W. Cobbold J.P., D.J. Cowls J.P., C.G. Havell J.P., Sir F.W. Wilson J.P., F.J. Waldo M.A., J.P, Rev. A.E. Stantial M.A., J.P., Hon. D.A. Tollemache J.P., A.J. Walker J.P

18. Occupations:

1500-1549	1 yeoman, 1 husbandman
1550-1599	11 yeomen, 9 husbandmen, 3 sailors, 1 carpenter, 4 mariners, 1 clerk
1600-1649	14 yeomen, 6 husbandmen, 2 carpenters, 1 glover
1650-1699	11 yeomen, 1 carpenter
1831	63 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade/handicrafts, 4 professionals, 21 in labouring, 28 in domestic service
1844	grocer/draper, shoemaker, shopkeeper, lodging houses, blacksmith, 5 victuallers, 9 farmers
1887	Felixstowe Dock and Railway Co. founded
1891	The German Empress and her children visited the town and increased its popularity as a 'spa'. From this time the town expands rapidly together with the corresponding service occupations and industries.

19. Education:

1818	1 school shared with Walton (situated in Walton)
1833	1 daily school (20 attend), 1 Sunday school (30 attend)
1844	1 boarding school
1876	School Board formed Boys school built, average attendance (1912) 255
1891	1 College for boys, Ladies boarding and day school
1893	Infants school built, average attendance (1912) 200
1898	Girls school built, average attendance (1912) 250
1901	School at Felixstowe Ferry built, average attendance 60 Convent of Sisters of Jesus and Mary Boarding and Day school for girls (1912) Eastward House College for Boys (1912) Restormel Ladies College (1912)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£57. 10s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£119. 11s. 4d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£238. 9s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£303. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£319. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£300. 14s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Poors Estate:

1840	2 cottages, blacksmiths shop, farm and land called Town Piece and 2 acres 1R let at £17. 6s. 6d. p.a. distributed among poor widows.
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22. Other institutions:

1868	Suffolk Convalescence Home established, enlarged (1883/84). Golf Club (1880)
1884	Gas works built (in Walton Parish)
1891	Water works belong to private company
1902	Fire station built
1909	Cottage hospital built
1912	Reading Room and Working Men's Institute Nursing Home Grenadier Guards Private Convalescence Home 2 H.M. Coast Guard Stations Telephone Exchange 2 Police stations Electricity Supply co. Young Women's Christian Association Holiday Home and Institute
1914 & 1937	2 Cinemas

23. Recreation:

1844	5 public houses, bathing machine owner
1891	Bath Hotel (built 1839) by John Cobbold (has hot and cold baths and bathing machines) Victoria Hall let for entertainments and meetings 3 restaurants, 5 public houses, 3 hotels, 2 bathing machine owners, 4 pleasure boat owners, 1 library
1912	Golf Club, Croquet Club, Cricket, Lawn Tennis, Corinthian Yacht Club, 12 hotels, Conservative Club, Constitutional

Club, Rifle Club, Felixstowe and Walton Boys Club, Liberal Club, Football Club, Pier Pavilion, Spa Pavilion, Swimming Club, 9 restaurants, 4 public houses

24. Personal:

Col. George Tomline (d.1887) founder of port/dock complex

1847-1925 John Sell Cotman, Norwich water colourist, retired to Felixstowe (1912), dying there in 1925 (he designed Lloyds and Barclays banks in Felixstowe – 1890)

25. Other information:

Walton Castle

Built by Hugh Bigod. Stood on high cliff approximately one mile south of Felixstowe village. Destroyed by royal order (1174). Western foundations remained (1740), since washed away by the sea. Said to have occupied site of a Roman fortification.

Landguard Fort

(Forms S.E. point of Suffolk), name is corruption of Langar Fort, situated on estuary of Orwell and Stour opposite Harwich. 1st fort built during reign of Charles I and contained chapel, consecrated (1628). Present form built 1718. 1806 – Eight towers, each mounting 3 guns, built.

Doomsday vills – Wadgate, Mycelegata, Gurgate and Burgh.

Lighthouse near Landguard Fort burned down (1925)

Early fortifications at Landguard 1534-1588, Landguard 'Bulwarkes' (1588)

'In and Around Victorian Felixstowe' by Charles Corker – collection of photo's.

Official Guides:

'Port of Felixstowe Handbooks' (1975/84)

'History of Landguard Fort' by Major J.H. Leslie (1898)

'Seaplanes – Felixstowe' by Gordon Kinsey (1978) (Story of Air Station 1912-63) Kings Cup Air Race starts at (1924)

'Suffolk Invasion' by Frank Hussay (1983)

Dutch attack Landguard Fort (1667), over 1,00 soldiers/seamen land.

New beach side leisure centre opened (1986)

Severe flooding – water 9 feet deep in places, 32 die (1953).

Felixstowe cut off by land, escape effected via ferry to Harwich.

Harvest House (formerly hotel) converted into Fisons organisation HQ (1950's)

Lobster Boat races (1939)

Spa Pavilion built (1908), destroyed by bomb (1941), re-opened (1950)

Saxon Shore fort (known as Burgh) said to have been located at
Walton/Felixstowe (lost by coastal erosion)

Roman Fort – submerged

Act to build dock and port granted (1879)

Urban District Council formed (1894)

Ecclesiastical boundary change to create Felixstowe St. John the
Baptist (1894)

Civil Parish boundary change (gains Walton) (1914)

Archaeological Sites

Numerous – mainly Roman, some B.A., Neo. and Med.