

1. Parish : Felsham

Meaning: Faela (pleasant) enclosure (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (- 1972), Lavenham (1972 -)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: Thedwastre RD (– 1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1884)
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,654 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a) Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils
b) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Slight risk water erosion

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 in preparation for corn products.

1937 Main crops: Wheat, oats, barley, sugar beet

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1978 Small relatively compact development around junction of Gedding/Cockfield Roads. Church centrally situated.

Disused airfield (Rattlesden) occupies S.E corner of parish. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 30, 1801 – 63, 1851 – 79, 1871 – 76,
1901 – 78, 1951 – 100, 1981 – 141

8. Communications:

Roads: Roads to Cockfield, Gedding and Thorpe Morieux
1891/1912 Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on
Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 3 miles Cockfield station: Bury St. Edmunds
– Long Melford line opened (1865), closed
passengers (1961) closed goods (1965)

Air: Rattlesden airfield. Allotted to U.S.A.F. (1942),
Returned to R.A.F. (1945). Land returned to
agriculture (1960*s) Part used by Rattlesden
Gliding Group on Saturdays and Sundays (1978)

9. Population:

1086 — 40 recorded
1327 — 23 taxpayers paid £3. 11s. 11¼d. (includes Gedding)
1524 — 32 taxpayers paid £3. 0s. 10d.
1603 — 130 adults
1674 — 42 households
1676 — 133 adults
1801 — 301 inhabitants
1831 — 401 inhabitants
1851 — 402 inhabitants
1871 — 358 inhabitants
1901 — 363 inhabitants
1931 — 289 inhabitants
1951 — 288 inhabitants
1971 — 337 inhabitants
1981 — 386 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Portion of Rectory £4. 13s. 4d.	
	Portion – Peche £4	£8. 13s. 4d.
1291	Value £8. 13s. 4d.	
1535	Value £8. 4s. 7d.	
1841	Modus of £367 p.a. in lieu of tithes	
1874	1 curate	
1887	4 acres glebe, gross rent £1. 10s. p.a.	
1891	Good residence, 8 acres glebe	
1912	Value £197 p.a.	

Patrons: William Risbye (1603), Rev. T. Anderson (1844),
Incumbent (1891)

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

1086 Church plus 10 acres free land as alms
14th cent. Tower
14/15th cent. Main structure
1873 Chancel rebuilt
1878 General restoration
1899 Nave restored and resealed

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 13 nonconformists
18th cent. Joseph Nichol Scott said to have predicted his death -
 being of corpulent build the hearse broke down on way to
 Old or Independent Meeting house at night.
1815-1834 6 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

Felsham Hall/Capels

1086 Estate of 3 carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds
1268 Held by William Peche - granted market, fair and free
 warren
circa 1344 Morieux family owns passing by marriage and inheritance
 to Sir John le Strange (links with Gedding and
 Pakenham)
18th cent. John Reynolds owns
1827 John Haynes Harrison owns
1910 Haynes Thomas Harrison owns

Sub-Manors

Brook Hall/al Lovaynes

13th cent. Matthew de Lovaine (d. 1262) owns (links with
 Drinkstone)
14th cent. Disputed - Copinger - William de Ufford owns (links with
 many other Suffolk manors)
 Davy - Thomas de Morieux owns
 (absorbed by main manor)

Maiden Hall

1234 Hugh de Morieux owns (some time absorbed by main
 manor)
1608 Licence to William Risby to keep market and 2 yearly fairs
 at Maydenhall in Felsham

14. Markets/Fairs

1268	Grant of market and fair
1608	Licence to William Risby to keep market and 2 yearly fairs at Maydenhall in Felsham
1792	Fair held on August 16 th
1805	Fair on August 16 th for sheep, lambs, toys
1844	Fair for lambs held on August 16 th - abolished 1871

15. Real property:

1844	£1,930 rental value
1891	£2,115 rateable value
1912	£1,600 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1912	Land always sub-divided
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17. Resident gentry:

1912	Rev. J. Hind, M.A., Lt. Col. S.E.M. Lloyd, A.J. Oxborough
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18. Occupations:

1500-1549	3 husbandmen
1550-1599	5 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 carpenter, 1 blacksmith, 1 clothier, 1 dyer
1600-1649	10 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 blacksmith, 1 tailor
1650-1699	6 yeomen, 1 spinster, 1 hoop maker, 1 carpenter, 1 grocer, 1 glover, 1 alehouse keeper
1844	Corn miller, baker, wheelwright, bricklayer/beerhouse keeper, schoolmaster, 2 grocer/drapers, thatcher, blacksmith, 2 farm stewards, victualler, shopman, 3 boot/shoemakers, 12 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, police officer, 2 carriers, 12 farmers, carpenter, cowkeeper, publican, baker, cycle agent, blacksmith, grocer, shoemaker, beer retailer, assistant overseer

19. Education:

1818	1 day school, 1 Sunday school
1833	1 daily school (20-30 attend), 1 Sunday school (40 attend)
1844	Schoolmaster listed
1891	National school built (1854) (80 attend) Rebuilt (1897). Average attendance (1912) 88. Used as Village Hall (1951)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£131. 12s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£315. 9s	spent on poor relief
1818	£328. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£718. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£577. 10s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£543.14s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town And Poor's Estate

1840	Message called Church-house used as poorhouse 29 acres let at £50 p.a. Message (bakers shop) and garden in Brackland, Bury St. Edmunds let at £10 p.a. £10 laid out in bread, distributed on Sunday to poor, residue to church repairs and churchwardens accounts
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22. Other institutions:

1538	Guild of St. Peter
1674	Town house built
1844	Church house - occupied by paupers (said to have been rebuilt (1629))
1906	Reading Room presented to Felsham and Gedding by Mrs. Anderson
1912	Police officer listed.

23. Recreation:

1650-1699	Alehouse keeper listed
1844	Beerhouse (possibly called The Live and Let Live) The Six Bells public house (dates at least from 18 th cent, possibly earlier origin) (these two houses remain unchanged in 1891 and 1912)
1958 20 th cent.	Good Companions of Felsham and Gedding formed W.I. and Over Sixties Club.

24. Personal:

Qaboos bin Said al Said, Sultan of Oman, studied in Felsham as a teenager.
Made considerable donations to Felsham and Gedding churches (1986)

25. Other information:

Mausoleum: remains of in field to rear of Mausoleum House. Built for only
child of Mr. Reynolds (circa 1755)

Felsham wood forms part of Bradfield Woods which are under the protection

of The Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation

Mansion called 'The Castle' pulled down and materials sold (circa 1791)

However it is listed as divided into 4 tenements (1844)

Title of Lord of the Manor offered in exchange for trading stamps (1967)

Stocks were situated in churchyard, believed still to be in use (1857)