

1. Parish: Occold

Meaning: Oak copse

2. **Hundred:** Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (–1897), Hartismere (North) (1897–1931), N.Hartismere (1931–1972), Hartismere (1972–)

Union: Hartismere

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Hartismere RD (1974), Mid Suffolk DC(1974–)

Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,508 acres including hamlet of Benningham Green (1912)

4. **Soils:** Fine loam over clay soil. Subject to seasonal waterlogging

5. Types of farming:

1086	Wood- 50 pigs, 13 pigs, 8 cattle, 28 sheep, 21 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: 4 course system: wheat, barley, clover and roots
1969	Trist: more intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Small compact settlement along line of Eye–Bedingfield road. Church centrally situated. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 44, 1801 – 56, 1851 – 121, 1871 – 124, 1901 –102, 1951 –108, 1981 – 119

8. **Communications:**

Road: Roads to Eye, Bedingfield and Thorndon

Rail: 1891 2.25 miles Eye station: Mellis–Eye line, opened 1867, closed for passengers 1931, closed for goods 1964.

9. Population:

1086 – 47 recorded
1327 – 34 taxpayers paid £1 12s. 9d.
1524 – 34 taxpayers paid £3 15s. 9d.
1603 – 76 adults
1674 – 59 households
1676 – 174 adults
1801 – 397 inhabitants
1831 – 518 inhabitants
1851 – 620 inhabitants
1871 – 558 inhabitants
1901 – 435 inhabitants
1931 – 380 inhabitants
1951 – 332 inhabitants
1971 – 260 inhabitants
1981 – 318 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued with Chapel of Benningham £17 6s. 8d.
Goods of the Abbey of Colchester £3 6s. 8d. £20 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued with the Chapel of Benningham £20
Anciently required to find curate to preach in the now extinct chapel at Benningham
1535 Valued £19 1s. 5.5d.
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £377p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Stoke Ash
47 acres glebe. Rent charge of £404 4s.1d. in lieu of tithes 1839
Rectory house built 1846
1912 Nett value £270. 46 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Mr. Dasset (1603), Incumbent (1855), Rev. H.E.C. Marshall (1912)

11. Church St Michael

(Chancel, sacristy, N. & S. doorways, nave, tower)

1086 Church + 8 acres land, 0.5 plough
Church + 12 acres land
Nothing remains of original Norman church
13th cent. N. & S. doorways and nave
1426 Tower built
1643/44 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed pictures
1854 Restoration

Seats: 150 (1855)

Chapelfield at Benningham Green: reputed site of ancient chapel— no trace.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1603	1 recusant, 3 nonconformists
1676	4 papists

Baptist church built 1832, seats 300

13. Manorial:

Occold/Occold Hall

1066	Manor of 40 acres held by Guthmund from Wulfric, Abbot of Ely
1086	Manor of 40 acres belonging to Hugh de Montfort
12 th cent.	Monastery of Eye owns
1536	Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1540	Anne of Cleves owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1764	Miles Edgar owns (linked to Witnesham)

Sub-manors:

Bedingham/Benningham

1086	Manor of 33 acres belonging to the King and held by one free man
12 th cent.	Philip de Columbers owns
1275	Enfeoffed to St. Johns, Colchester
1700	The Hackett family own

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£2,093 rental value
1891	£2,055 rateable value
1912	£1,593 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Trustees of Rev. C. Chapman and Trustees of Douglas Miller, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 butcher
1550–1599	3 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 ploughwright, 1 shoemaker, 2 butchers, 1 pewterer
1600–1649	8 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 1 cooper
1650–1699	11 yeomen, 1 clerk, 2 cordwainers
1831	77 in agriculture, 21 in retail trade, 11 in domestic service, 28 others
1844	Beerhouse keeper/wheelwright, brick/tile maker/miller, blacksmith shopkeeper, edgetool makers, beerhouse keeper, victualler, carpenter, grocer/draper, 15 farmers
1912	Sub-postmistress, 8 farmers, carpenter, bricklayer, maltster, newsagent, shopkeeper, 2 blacksmiths, grocer/draper, threshing machine owner, beer retailer, boot/shoemaker, wheelwright, tailor, publican

19. Education:

1818	Sunday school had contained 50 children but had been discontinued.
1833	Sunday school (35 attend) Parish school 1849 School Board established for Occold and Rishangles 1879 School built to accommodate 120, average attendance 1912 101

20. Poor relief:

1776	£110 3s. 1d.
1803	£360 14s. 2d.
1818	£718 13s.
1830	£426 4s.
1832	£641 11s.
1834	£437 17s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840	(Part dating from 1449) by will of John Henman to aid tenths and fifteenths, poor relief and highway repairs
1813	Messuage, 3 crofts, 3 tenements, 10 acres 1R + miscellaneous property. Rents and profits to church maintenance
1840	Town house for use of paupers, House, farmhouse, messuage, outbuildings + 50.5 acres let at £62 p.a. applied to repair/upkeep of town houses, church repairs, yearly salary to surgeon to attend poor.

Lees Charity:

- 1720 by will of William Lee: 5s. per week for bread and 40s.
p.a. for distribution to poor
- 1840 Estate comprised of 28 acres 2R 34P and 2 cottages let
at £50p.a.

Denny's Charity:

- 1724 by will of Robert Denny: 20s. p.a. for distribution of bread
on Monday prior to Ash Wednesday

22. Other institutions:

Town House in existence 1840

23. Recreation:

- 1844 2 beerhouses and The Bottles public house
1891 1 beerhouse and The Bottles Inn public house
1912 1 beer retailer and The Bottles Inn public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information: