

# 1. Parish: Swefling

**Meaning:** Swiftel's people

**2. Hundred:** Plomesgate

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

**Union:** Plomesgate

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Plomesgate R.D. (1894-1934), Blyth R.D. (1934-1974), Suffolk Coastal D.C. (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Framlingham Petty Sessional Division  
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,136 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Some permeable, seasonally waterlogged, some calcareous, clay and fine loams over clay soils.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		23 acres meadow, 2 cattle, 10 pigs, 15 sheep
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:	Wheat, roots, barley, beans, peas, some pasture
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1978 River Alde forms natural boundary to NE.

Small dispersed settlement. Church centrally situated.  
Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 39, 1801 – 43, 1851 – 70,  
1871 – 68, 1901 – 65, 1951 – 71,  
1981 – 69

## 8. Communications:

Road: To Rendham, Framlingham, Gt. Glenham, Benhall and  
Bruisyard  
1891 Carrier passes through to Aldeburgh and Saxmundham  
Thursday, to Woodbridge Saturday

Rail: 1891 3 miles Saxmundham station: Saxmundham–  
Aldeburgh line opened 1859, line to Aldeburgh closed  
for goods 1959, closed for passengers 1966. Spur from  
Saxmundham–Leiston still operational.  
Ipswich–Lowestoft line opened 1859, still operational.

Water: River Alde: Navigable to Snape Bridge. 'Alde Estuary' by  
W.G. Arnott

## 9. Population:

1086 – 47 recorded  
1327 – 27 taxpayers paid £2 14s.  
(includes Cransford)  
1524 – 19 taxpayers paid £2 10s.  
1603 – 76 adults  
1674 – 50 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 333 inhabitants  
1831 – 336 inhabitants  
1851 – 333 inhabitants  
1871 – 279 inhabitants  
1901 – 271 inhabitants  
1931 – 213 inhabitants  
1951 – 227 inhabitants  
1971 – 192 inhabitants  
1981 – 198 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice:

1254 Valued £5 6s. 8d.  
1291 Valued £6 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £9 2s. 8½d.  
1831 Curate, stipend £70 p.a. Glebe house unfit for  
occupation. Gross income £263 p.a.  
Incumbent also holds Prebend in Cathedral of Lincoln  
and Vicarage of Ormsby, Norfolk

1844 New residence built 1831 by Rev. W. Collett  
 Tithes commuted for approximately £300 p.a. 9½ acres  
 glebe  
 1891 8 acres glebe and neat residence  
 1912 Nett value £250. 8 acres glebe and residence.  
 Incumbent also holds Bruisyard.

Patrons: John Leigh (1603), W. Collett (1831), T. William (1844), Rev.  
 W.M. Hobson (1891), Rev. G.C. Rivett-Carmac (1912)

**11. Church** St. Mary  
 (Chancel, nave, N. vestry, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 15 acres  
 Norman N. and S. doorways  
 c.1300 Chancel  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower  
 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>  
 cent. Main structure

**Seats:** 220 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Independent Congregationalist group formed and chapel built 1650  
 Chapel removed to Rendham 1750

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Osmund under patronage  
 1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Count Alan  
 1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Osbern under patronage of  
 Edric  
 1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Robert Malet and held by  
 Robert of Claville  
 1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Aethelwy under patronage  
 1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Robert Malet  
 1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Wulfric a free man of Harolds  
 1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Roger Bigot

**Swefling, Sparkes al Leighs**

1316 William de Dalizone owns  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Wingfield family own (linked to Dallinghoo, Shottisham,  
 Brantham, Clopton, Kersey, Martlesham and  
 Waldringfield)  
 c.1629 Peter Leigh owns  
 1658 Henry Stebbing owns  
 1748 Richard Jenkinson owns

**Sub-manors:**

### **Derneford Hall**

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Robert de Dernesford owns, subsequently vested in Prior of Leighs, Essex
1536	Richard Cavendish owns (linked to Wenham Parva, Belton, Bradwell, Corton, Lound, Somerleyton, Flixton and Athelington)
1622	Thomas Freston owns
1657	Thomas Edgar owns (linked to Witnesham)
1792	Thomas Ives owns
1841	John Moseley owns (linked to Drinkstone, Rattlesden, Badwell Ash and Gt. Glenham)

### **Swafling Campsey cum Snape Campsey**

1640	Vested in Thomas Cutler
1693	George Monson owns
c.1725	Walter Plumer owns (linked to Chediston, Cookley, Halesworth, Metfield, Weybread and Withersdale)
c.1834	James Cuddon owns (linked to Nettlestead and Offton)
c.1842	John Moseley owns (absorbed by main manor)

#### **14. Markets/Fairs**

#### **15. Real property:**

1844	£1,529 rental value
1891	£1,534 rateable value
1912	£1,006 rateable value

#### **16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

#### **17. Resident gentry:**

1844	Rev. R. Skinner MA
1891	Rev. H. Ruxton MA
1912	Rev. G.C. Rivett–Carmac BA

#### **18. Occupations:**

1550–1599	3 husbandmen
1600–1649	2 husbandmen, 7 yeomen, 2 weavers, 1 carpenter, 1 miller
1650–1699	3 husbandmen, 9 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 hooper
1831	53 in agriculture, 33 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 7 in labouring, 14 in domestic service, 4 others

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1844 | 2 corn millers, shoemaker/victualler, tailor/grocer/drapery, blacksmith, vet, agricultural machine maker/wheelwright, hurdle maker/wood dealer, tailor/grocer, 6 farmers |
| 1912 | Sub-postmaster, police officer, thatcher, 7 farmers, farm bailiff, insurance agent, miller, grocer/drapery, bootmaker, carpenter, general dealer, publican               |

**19. Education:**

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|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1597 | Schoolmaster teaches school       |
| 1912 | Children attend school at Rendham |

**20. Poor relief:**

- |      |                |
|------|----------------|
| 1776 | £78 10s. 9d.   |
| 1803 | £166 17s. 3½d. |
| 1818 | £408 17s.      |
| 1830 | £186 12s.      |
| 1832 | £259 6s.       |
| 1834 | £268 4s.       |

**21. Charities:**

**Feoffee's Estate:**

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|------|--|
| 1840 | 2 houses, 6 acres land (by Deed of Ezra Crisp 1699) for Church repairs. Rents of £13 2s. |
|------|--|

**Leggett's Gift**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1568 | by will of Henry Leggett: 40s. p.a. from Limekiln Close distributed among poor. |
| 1784 | Parish coal shed built from donation of £46                                     |

**22. Other institutions:**

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|------|-------------------------------|
| 1803 | Friendly Society (60 members) |
| 1912 | Police officer listed         |

**23. Recreation:**

- |           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1844–1912 | The White Horse public house |
|-----------|------------------------------|

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Monumental Inscriptions in Church and Churchyard, Swefling: Register of English Monumental Inscriptions Vol. I, p.47.  
 'Roman Finds at Swefling', by P. Clark. PSIA Vol.XIII, p.367.  
 'Note on an Ancient Leather Case from Swefling Church', (with photo) by Col.

Rivett-Carmac. PSIA Vol.X, p.366.  
'Leather Case at Swefling', by Rev. E Farrer. PSIA Vol.X, p.369.