

Suffolk Information

Suffolk Population

Suffolk 2018 population estimates indicate that Suffolk has a population of approximately 758,556 people.

Ipswich Population

In 2019, there were approximately 632,000 residents in Ipswich.

Human Features

Football

The county's sole professional football club is Ipswich Town. Formed in 1878, the club were Football League champions in 1961–62, FA Cup winners in 1977–78 and UEFA Cup winners in 1980–81.

Horse racing

The town of Newmarket is the headquarters of British horseracing – home to the largest cluster of training yards in the country and many key horse racing organisations including the National Stud, and Newmarket Racecourse.

Speedway

[Speedway](#) racing has been staged in Suffolk since at least the 1950s, following the construction of the Foxhall Stadium, just outside Ipswich, home of the Ipswich Witches. The Witches are currently members of the Premier League, the UK's second division.

Arts

Founded in 1948 by Benjamin Britten, the annual Aldeburgh Festival is one of the UK's major classical music festivals. Originating in Aldeburgh, it has been held at the nearby Snape Maltings since 1967. Since 2006, Henham Park, has been home to the annual Latitude Festival. This mainly open-air festival, which has grown considerably in size and scope, includes popular music, comedy, poetry and literary events. The FolkEast festival is held at Glemham Hall in August and attracts international acoustic, folk and roots musicians whilst also championing local businesses, heritage and crafts. In 2015 it was also home to the first instrumental festival of musical instruments and makers.

Suffolk in popular culture

Novels set in Suffolk include parts of *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, *The Fourth Protocol*, by Frederick Forsyth, *Unnatural Causes* by P.D. James, Dodie Smith's *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*, *The Rings of Saturn* by W. G. Sebald, and among Arthur Ransome's children's books, *We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea* and *Coot Club*. Roald Dahl's short story *The Mildenhall Treasure* is set in Mildenhall.

A TV series about a British antiques dealer, *Lovejoy*, was filmed in various locations in Suffolk. The reality TV Series *Space Cadets* was filmed in Rendlesham Forest, although the producers fooled participants into believing that they were in Russia. Several towns and villages in the county have been used for location filming of other television programmes and cinema films. These include the BBC Four TV series *Detectorists*, an episode of *Kavanagh QC*, and the films *Iris* and *Drowning by Numbers*.

The Rendlesham Forest Incident is one of the most famous UFO events in England and is sometimes referred to as "Britain's Roswell".

The song "Castle on the Hill" by singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran was referred to by him as "a love letter to Suffolk", with lyrical reference to his hometown of Framlingham and Framlingham Castle.

Physical Features

Located in the East of England, much of Suffolk is low-lying, founded on Pleistocene sand and clays. These rocks are relatively unresistant and the coast is eroding rapidly. Coastal defences have been used to protect several towns, but several cliff-top houses have been lost to coastal erosion and others are under threat.

The coastal strip to the East contains an area of heathland known as "The Sandlings" which runs almost the full length of the coastline. Suffolk is also home to nature reserves, such as the RSPB site at Minsmere, and Trimley Marshes, a wetland under the protection of Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The west of the county lies on more resistant Cretaceous chalk. The highest point in the county is Great Wood Hill, the highest point of the Newmarket Ridge, near the village of Rede, which reaches 128 metres (420 ft).

The county flower is the oxlip.

Settlements

There are several towns in the county with Ipswich being the largest and most populous. At the time of the 2011 census, a population of 730,000 lived in the county with 133,384 living in Ipswich. The table below shows all towns with over 20,000 inhabitants.

Rank	Town	Population	Borough/District council
1	Ipswich	133,384 (2011)	Ipswich Borough Council
2	Lowestoft	71,000 (2011)	Waveney Council
3	Bury St Edmunds	42,000 (2011)	St Edmundsbury Council
4	Haverhill	27,041 (2011)	St Edmundsbury Council
5	Felixstowe	23,689 (2011)	Suffolk Coastal Council
6	Newmarket	20,384 (2011)	Forest Heath District Council