

1. Parish: Boxford (original name: Koddenham)

Meaning: Ford where box grew

2. **Hundred:** Babergh (part), Cosford (part)

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Western)(1864–1884),
Hadleigh (1884–1972), Sudbury (1972–)

Union: Cosford

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Cosford RD (–1974), Babergh DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil parish boundary changes 1883, 1885, 1935, gains Hadleigh Hamlet 1935

Ecclesiastical boundary change 1946

Boxford Petty Sessional Division

Hadleigh County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,325 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Deep fine loam over clay and clay soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils. Calcareous subsoils in places.
- b. Coarse loam and sandy soil, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region which also had weaving industry to fall back on. 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, barley, beans, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1977 Main compact settlement on northern boundary. Secondary developments at Calais Street, Stone Street, White Street Green and Hagmore Green.

River Box crosses parish NW–SE and the A1071 road crosses W–E.

Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 91, 1801 – 99, 1851 – 257, 1871 – 178, 1901 – 145, 1951 – 258, 1981 – 478

8. Communications:

Roads: To Groton, Kersey Tye, Newton and Polstead
1844 Carrier to Colchester Wednesday and Saturday
1891 Carrier to Colchester Wednesday and Saturday
To Sudbury daily
1891 Carrier to Ipswich Monday and Friday
1912 Carriers to Sudbury, Tuesday, Thursday and daily
to Ipswich Tuesday and Friday
to Stoke and Colchester, Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 6 miles Sudbury station: Sudbury–Shelford line, opened 1854, Sudbury–Marks Tey line opened 1849, Sudbury–Haverhill line opened 1865, station closed for goods 1966, closed for passengers 1967

Water: River Box

9. Population:

1086 – 18 recorded
1327 – 25 taxpayers paid £1 15s. 11d.
1524 – 60 taxpayers paid £23 10s.
1603 – Not recorded
1674 – 123 households
1676 – 434 adults
1801 – 636 inhabitants
1831 – 874 inhabitants
1851 – 898 inhabitants
1871 – 743 inhabitants
1901 – 612 inhabitants
1931 – 524 inhabitants
1951 – 731 inhabitants
1971 – 904 inhabitants
1981 – 1,352 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Portion of the parsons £14 13s. 4d.	
	Portion of the parson of Hadleigh £1	£15 13s. 4d.
1291	Valued £13 6s. 8d.	
	Portion of Rectory of Hadleigh £1 6s. 8d.	
	Portion of Rectory of Polstead £13 4d.	£15 6s. 8d.
1535	Valued £20	
1831	Curate, stipend £125 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £720 p.a. Modus of £658 10s p.a in lieu of tithes 1843	
1844	33 acres glebe	

1912 Nett value £355. 38 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Crown (1831), Lord Chancellor (1873–)

11. Church: **St Mary**
(Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, N & S porches, W tower, modern lantern spire)

1086 Church + 20 acres free land
14th cent. Tower, N Porch – timber (suspected of being earliest timber porch in the county)

15th cent. Main structure
1441 & 1469 Money left for building of S porch

Seats: 250 appropriated, 250 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 10 nonconformists
4 houses set aside for worship 1747–1823
Congregational chapel built 1823

13. Manorial:

Coddenham:

1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Ralph of Limesy
(an outlier of Cavendish)

Boxford Manor

1275 Godfrey de Bellomonte held free warren (linked to Groton
And Assington)

1524 Corbet family owns (linked to Preston, Little Cornard,
Bures, Assington)

1553 William, Lord Howard held

1764 Crown property

Sub-Manors:

Peyton Hall

1135 Reginald FitzWalter (assumed name 'Peyton')(linked to
Peyton Hall Ramsholt)

1485 Said to be worth £14. Thomas Peyton held the manor of
The Abbot of St Edmunds by will directed feoffees

18th cent. Dashwood family of Sudbury own

1859 Peyton Hall, farm and 318 acres offered for sale

1905 Sir Joshua Thellusson Rowley owns (linked to Stoke by
Nayland, Polstead, Nayland and Groton)

Coddenham Hall

1316	Thomas Fitz Eustace owns (linked to Halstead)
	Passes via diverse owners to
15 th C	Robert Clopton owns (linked to Gt Waldingfield, Long Melford and Groton)
1504	William of Forth of Hadleigh owns
1552	William Risbie of Lavenham died seised
1655	Brond or Brand family owns (linked to Polstead, Edwardstone, Gt Cornard and Bures)
1885	C J Grimwade owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

Boweshowse al Bornhouse

1316	Belongs to Abbot of St Edmunds
1349	Leased to Friars of Clare
1553	Sir John Huddlestone owns
1585	Waldegrave family owns (linked to Bures, Acton, Assington, Stoke by Nayland, Preston, Monks Eleigh, and Edwardstone)
1587/88	John Bronde owns (linked to lands in Polstead)
1825	William B. Brand died Lord

Calthorpe Hall

1491	Thomas Peyton died seised (possible links to Peyton Hall)
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Badleys/Badley Hall

1491	Said to be held of Peyton Hall, valued £4
1518	Robert Peyton owns

Georges

1468	Mentioned in Inquis p.m. of John Straunge said to be held as Duchy of Lancaster
1491	Manor and tenement called 'Callys' 30 acres land, 8 acres meadow, valued 4s., held of the Abbot of St Edmunds and settled on Thomas Peyton (possible links to Peyton Hall)

14. Market/Fair:

1844	Fairs on Easter Monday, St Thomas, December 21 st (toys) 1759 Pleasure fair on Easter Monday and December 21 st (Obsolete by 1891)
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15. Real Property:

1844	– £3,102 rental value
1891	– £2,804 rateable value

1912 – £2,176 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1891 Land sub-divided
1912 Sir Joshua Thellusson Rowley, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

Thomas Peyton, High Sheriff of Cambridge and
Huntingdon (1443–1453)
1680 3+ gentlemen
1844 J Lewis
1912 Col. Hon. H.W. Lowry–Corry, MA, JP
Councillor Hodson Mackenzie

18. Occupations:

1442–1497 Yeoman, dyer, rector, barber, painter, farmer
1500–1549 1 yeoman, 37 weavers, 11 clothmakers, 4 dyers,
2 ash burners, 6 shearmen (one who cuts woollen cloth),
2 fullers (additional information for this group from ‘The
Springs of Lavenham’ by B McClenaghan)
1550–1599 10 clothiers, 5 yeomen, 4 weavers, 1 blacksmith,
5 husbandmen, 2 butchers, 2 ash burners, 2 wood
setters, 2 shearmen, 1 tanner
1600–1649 4 clothiers, 1 tallow chandler, 1 cordwainer, 6 yeomen,
4 weavers, 3 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 1 shoemaker,
1 shearman, 1 glover, 1 mason
1650–1899 2 clothiers, 1 cordwainer, 1 miller, 6 yeomen, 4 cloth-
workers, 1 blacksmith, 2 bakers, 2 inn holders, 1 rector,
3 maltsters, 1 carpenter, 1 wheelwright
1831 123 in agriculture, 88 in retail trade, 6 professionals,
2 labourers, 37 in domestic service, 15 others
1844 Corn mills by river, number of malt kilns, 2 curriers,
saddler, 2 surgeons, clothes dealer, 5 teachers, plumber/
glazier, solicitor, master of grammar school, postmaster,
beerhouse keeper, excise officer, 4 innkeepers, 3 bakers,
2 blacksmiths, 4 bricklayers, 2 butchers, 4 corn millers,
10 farmers, 4 grocer/drapers, 3 joiners, 6 maltsters,
6 shoemakers, 2 tailors
1912 Malt house and flour mills
Sub–postmaster, 5 farmers, asst overseer, 3 police
officers, medical officer, teachers, 2 carriers, 4 publicans,
2 bakers, grocer, 2 confectioners, 3 butchers, carpenter,
watchmaker, cycle dealer, boot repairer, head gardener,
builder/maltster, 2 builders, shopkeeper/baker, cycle
agent, chemist, miller, wheelwright, thatcher, boot
repairer, toy dealer, blacksmith, surgeon, saddler,
poultry dealer

Copella fruit juice began production 1969. By 1985
production had increased to millions of bottles/cartons

annually

19. Education:

1818 8 schoolmasters/tutors recorded 1603–1799
1 endowed (free) grammar school (founded 1595),
(attend free)
2 unendowed schools (52 children, 5 men and 12 women
attend), 1 Sunday school (100 attend)
1833 20 boys (8 free) attend the grammar school
7 day schools (124 attend), 1 Sunday school (140 attend)
National school built 1839
Infants school built 1841
Grammar school closed 1887, income applied to Higher
school
1891 National school (130 attend), average attendance 1912 73
Infant school (50 attend), average attendance 1912 35

20. Poor relief:

1776 £310 3s. 2d.
1803 £436 16s. 7d.
1818 £869
1830 £1,312 3s.
1832 £755 17s.
1834 £707 3s.

21. Charities:

Grammar School:

1595 1 messuage, garden and orchard for free grammar school.
Pupils to be assigned 2 from Boxford, 2 from Edwardstone, 2
from Groton and 2 from Assington + 12 paying scholars

Whites Charity:

1713 by will of Robert White: 40s. p.a. to teaching 4 poor children

Bennetts Charity:

1840 2 fields in Polstead let at £9 p.a. to education of 10 poor children

Plumbs Charity:

1623 will of John Plumb: Close (Lynn's Croft) of 4 acres 1R 34P let at
£9 p.a. applied to distribution of bread quarterly

Doggetts Charity:

1840 5 acres 2R 9P in Edwardstone let at £7 p.a. to bread quarterly

Almshouses:

1840 2 cottages. However said to have been sold 1836 to pay for National school

Moore's Charity Land:

1650 by will of William Moore: 14 acres let at £16 p.a. applied equally with Groton with the poor rate

Town Lands:

1840 Rents applied with poor rate

Brands Charity:

1840 £3 p.a. to the poor

22. Other institutions:

 Guilds of St Peter, Holy Trinity and St John 1524
1776 Workhouse (30 inmates)
1803 Friendly Society (20 members)
1891 Foresters Lodge held at White Hart Inn
 Benefit Society held at Independent chapel vestry
 Police station (built 1848) includes 2 cells, compliment of
 1 Superintendent and 2 constables
 Petty Sessions held in parish monthly at the Police Court 1912

23. Recreation:

1650–1699 2 inn holders recorded
1844 1 beerhouse, 4 public houses
1912 1 beer retailer, 4 public houses
 Football team established c.1919
 John Withrop records that 'Brand brak his leg at Footebal'
 1617
 Drama Group established 1927
 Guides and Brownies, etc., established 1928
 Tornado Smith operated a Wall of Death from the White
 Hart Inn c.1920
 Guide and Scout headquarters opened 1985
 Camp site and adventure area situated in 'the spinney'

24. Personal:

Tornado Smith: b.1908, died South Africa 1972. Owned lion which he
 Exercised through the streets of Boxford (believed buried
 In forecourt of White Hart Inn). Known as a dare devil and
 Adventurer
Kingsbury family: Local builders since 1620, bankrupted 1984

25. Other information:

6 merchants/tradesmen minted their own currency (brass farthings) 1648–1672

Boxford clothiers served on governing committee of Bury Corporation of Clothiers, Clothmakers, Weavers and Tailors 17th cent. Cloth industry declined during 1800s peaking in 17th cent.

3 cases of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest. 1 person apprehended 1844

Arson provoked by Swing Riots 1830.

Boxford Mill destroyed in blizzard 1881.

Peyton Hall: Grade II listed Elizabethan building.

Coddenham Hall: converted farmhouse 1905.

Boxford Village Hall built 1926, enlarged 1981/83.

Floods destroyed floodgates ending past-time pleasures of boating and swimming in river above site of mill 1935.

Last water mill burned down.

Village flooded to doorstep level in Butchers Lane 1939 & 1947.

Last magistrates court held 1962.

New housing development at Cox Hill 1967.

Visit of some residents to Boxford Massachusetts 1976. Many local inhabitants had emigrated 200 years previous.

Preservation order placed on trees on Peyton Hall estate 1981. Photographs 1928 and particulars of sale, plan of estate and photo's 1912 contained in

Farrer Collection in RO.

Boxford Gaol became fire station and then bus shelter (no dates). Retains initials 'B.G.' above doorways.

'Notes on History and Development of Boxford 1972' by R. Tugman.

'Boxford Past, Present and Future'. The Boxford Society 1978.

'Boxford from Old Photographs', by J. Mead 1974 – contains photographs from early 1900s.

'Wall painting in Boxford Church', PSIA Vol. XXVII, p.57.

'Two Belgic Cemeteries at Boxford', by E. Owles and N. Smedley, PSIA Vol. 31, p.88.

'A Bronze Age Pin from Boxford', by A.J. Lawson, PSIA Vol. 35, p.61.
'Three old postcards of Boxford', East Anglian Magazine Vol. 31, p.371.