

## 1. Parish: Elmsett

**Meaning:** House or fold by an elm grove

2. **Hundred:** Cosford

**Deanery:** Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Eastern) (1864–1884),  
Hadleigh (1884–)

**Union:** Cosford

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

### **Other administrative details:**

Civil boundary change 1885, 1935, gains part of Aldham 1935  
Cosford Petty Sessional Division Hadleigh County Court District

3. **Area:** 1992 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

#### **Mixed:**

- a. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay, some calcareous clay soils on sloping ground
- b. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640 Thirsk: 2 cobs, 4 cattle, 20 pigs, 200 sheep  
Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow engaged in  
roaring and dairying with some pig-keeping, horse  
breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some  
wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp.

1804 Young:

1818 Marshall: Course of crops varies usually including  
summer fallow as preparation for corn products

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, beans, peas, green crops

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

Moderate sized relatively compact development concentrated around chapel and main street with extensions to west along Hadleigh Road and towards Whatfield. Church situated separately (near to Hall) to NE of main development. Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 32, 1801 – 46, 1851 – 96, 1871 – 103,  
1901 – 76, 1951 – 101, 1981 – 227

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Whatfield, Aldham, Hintlesham, Somersham and Burstall  
1844 Carrier to Ipswich  
1891 Carrier to Ipswich on Tuesday and Saturday  
1912 Carrier to Ipswich on Tuesday and Friday

**Rail:** 1891 4 miles Hadleigh station: Bentley–Hadleigh line, opened 1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for goods 1965 and track taken up.  
2 miles Bramford station: Ipswich–Bury St. Edmunds line, opened 1846, line to Norwich opened 1849, closed 1955.

**9. Population:**

1086 – 15 recorded  
1031 – 437 inhabitants  
1327 – 25 taxpayers paid £2 2s. 4d.  
1524 – 32 taxpayers paid £2 19s. 4d.  
1603 – 120 adults  
1674 – 46 households  
1676 – not recorded  
1801 – 324 inhabitants  
1851 – 433  
1871 – 425  
1901 – 361  
1931 – 282  
1951 – 337  
1971 – 532

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Portion of the rector £12  
Portion of the Abbot of St. John of Colchester £4  
£16.

1291 Value £16  
Portion of Abbot of Colchester £5  
£21.

1535 Value £13. 7s. 1d.

Incumbent also holds Whitfield 1599–1644. Incumbent also holds parsonage of Whatfield 1603. Rectory house built 1814

1831 Glebe house, gross income .2601 p.a.

Modus of £630 p.a. in lieu of tithes, 50 acres 3R glebe 1842

1912 Rectory house described as ancient mated residence?

Nett value £332 p.a., 50 acres glebe.

**Patrons:** Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster (1603), Clare Hall, Cambridge (1831–)

**11. Church: St. Peter**  
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 15 acres, ½ plough

13<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure including nave and chancel

1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed hood  
and

surplice

1900 Restoration

**Seats:** 200 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1606 1 person refuses to attend parish church (attends elsewhere)

1674 quaker burial ground 'adjoining the Green and Cow Lane'

1836 1 house set aside for worship

Primitive Methodist chapel built 1858

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 6 carucates 40 acres hold by Tovi, a thane

1066 Manor of 6 carucatea 40 acres belonging to Roger of Auberville

13<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir John de Bathun/Bathonia owns

1316 John de Sohun owns

16<sup>th</sup> cent. Crown property

1609 Ralph Cecil, Earl of Salisbury owns

1632 John Cooke owns

1649 Rev. Richard Glanville owns

1764 John Alderson owns

1782 Abraham Reeve owns (linked to Kersey)

1347 James Cuddon owns

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

Fair for toys etc., held on Whit Monday 1885  
Fair for toys held on Whit Tuesday 1759  
Fair on Whit Tuesday 1891

**15. Real property:**

1844 £2,489 rental value  
1891 £ 2,414 rateable value  
1912 £1,685 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 Land sub-divided  
1912 Trustees of Bishop Andrewes Charity and Robert Edwin Turner principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1844 Rev. James Speare MA  
1912 Rev. C.E. Scratchley MA and R.E. Turner

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 1 yeoman, 1 carpenter, 1 tailor, 2 husbandman  
1600–1649 6 yeoman, 1 tailor, 1 spinster  
1650–1699 4 yeomen, 1 tailor  
1831 86 in agriculture, 2 in manufacturing, 17 in retail trade, 4 in professional trade, 12 in domestic: service, 4 others  
1844 Wheelwright, maltster, victualler, shoemaker, blacksmith, thatcher, carrier, 13 farmers  
1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmistress, wheelwright, thatcher, 9 farmers, shopkeeper, baker/pork butcher/carrier, miller, beer retailer/carrier, publican, threshing machine owner, steward

**19. Education:**

1618 Endowment for apprenticing  
Day school discontinued due to low attendance, 1 Sunday school (40 attend)  
1833 1 daily school (28 attend), 1 Sunday school (established 1831) (36 attend)  
National school built 1870, average attendance 1891 60, enlarged 1874, average attendance 1912 70

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £95 6s. 3d.  
1803 £161 19s. 0¼d.  
1818 £569 11s.  
1850 446 14s.

1832 £310 4s.  
1834 £603

## **21. Charities:**

### **Glanvill's Gift:**

1840 by gift of Rev. Richard Glanvill: 3s. p.a. from glebe land called The Grove, applied to bread distributed among 6 aged poor persons

### **Coe's Gift:**

1726 Bequest of Rev. Moses Coe: Interest on £15 (£50 – 1840) two-thirds distributed annually among poor, remainder to purchase of Bibles and religious books

## **22. Other institutions:**

Guild valued £10 1546  
Workhouse with 12 Inmates 1776  
Police officer listed 1912  
Reading Room built 1934

## **23. Recreation:**

1844 The Chequers public house  
1891 The Chequers public house, 1 beerhouse  
1912 The Chequers public house, 1 beer retailer

## **24. Personal:**

Rev. John Boyse: (1560–1643) born in parish, eminent scholar and divine, one of translators and revisors of the Bible made during reign of James I Assisted Sir Henry Savile to translate works of Chrysostom Prebend of Ely Cathedral. Professor of Greek at Cambridge University. 'The Ladbroke Family: Suffolk Millers for five generations' (founded 1808) Suffolk Fair (Dec. 1981), p.21.

## **25. Other information:**

Dropping Well: said to be sulphureous and possessing medicinal properties similar to Cheltenham waters.

Rector gave 10s. gratuity to Elmsett girls for good behaviour while in service 1629–37.

Pariah poor house situated at Cobb's Bridge 1770.  
War memorial erected 1921.

'The Tithe War', by Roger Ashford. East Anglian Monthly Vol.1 No.8.

Memorial exists in the village to commemorate tithe seizure at Elmsett Hall of 'baby's bed and blankets, herd of dairy cows, 8 corn and seed stacks, valued £1,200 for tithes valued £385' 1932.

The attempt to stop the above seizure resulted in mass protest among farmers and farm workers gaining national news coverage.

'Elmsett Blitz – 1941'. Suffolk Review (New Series) No.2, p.11. Refers to German bomb which landed on row of 8 cottages in Elmsett Street demolishing the cottages and killing 10 persons.

Large quantity of incendiary bombs dropped around Red House Farm 1940. Area has undergone residential expansion between 1961–71.

Village sign unveiled 1977.

Ladbrookes Mill founded 1848.

Rookery Farm, part 16th cent. Grade II listed.

Village hall built 1978.