

1. Parish: Hartest

Meaning: Stag hill or wood

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

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

Union: Sudbury

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

Other administrative details:

Melford Petty Sessional Division
Sudbury County Court District

3. **Area:** 1986 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Some slowly permeable calcareous/ non calcareous clay
soils, slight risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086 Wood for 6 pigs, 4 horses at hall, 20 cattle, 25 pigs, 60
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, barley, oats, beans, peas, roots

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar
beet, better loams attract orchard and soft
fruit growers

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1953 Compact development radiating out from Green which
appears situated at multi-road junction. Secondary
centres at Cross Green extending along road to Brockley
Green, Mile End and Hartest Hill. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 61, 1801 – 120, 1851 – 179, 1871 – 165,

1901 – 133, 1951 – 123, 1981 – 150

8. Communications:

Road: To Shimpling, Stanstead, Boxted, Somerton, Brockley Green and Lawshall
1844 Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
to Sudbury on Monday, Thursday and Friday
1891 Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds daily (except Sunday) to Sudbury on Monday and Friday
1912 Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
to Sudbury on Thursday

Rail: 1891 4½ miles Glemsford station: Stour Valley line, opened 1868, closed for goods 1966, closed for passengers 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 41 recorded
1327 – 21 taxpayers paid £1 11s. 3d.
1524 – 39 taxpayers paid £6 19s. 2d.
1603 – 320 adults (includes Boxted)
1674 – 72 households
1676 – 392 adults
1801 – 646 inhabitants
1831 – 761 inhabitants
1851 – 832 inhabitants
1871 – 720 inhabitants
1901 – 534 inhabitants
1931 – 440 inhabitants
1951 – 373 inhabitants
1971 – 290 inhabitants
1981 – 399 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (consolidated with Boxted)

1254 Portion of parson £17 6s. 8d.
Portion of Abbot of Sees (St. Martin de Sees, Normandy) 10s. £17 16s. 8d.

1291 Valued with Chapel of Boxford (probably Boxted) £21 6s. 8d.
Portion of Sees 10s.
Portion of Stokes £1 £22 16s. 8d.

1535 Valued £29 14s. 2d.

1674 Parsonage had 5 hearths

1831 Incumbent also holds Rectories of Boxted, Somerton and Stansfield.
Joint gross income £663 p.a.

Valued £652 1835
Tithes commuted for £611 p.a. Glebe House. 25 acres 2R
29P glebe 1839
1912 Joint nett value £470. 20 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Crown (1831–)

11. Church **All Saints**
(Chancel, aisles, N & S. porches, W. tower)

1086 Church + 80 acres free land
14th cent Lower part of tower (remainder modern)
15/16th cent. Main structure
1879/1890 Restorations

Seats: 200 appropriated, 200 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc.:

1593 2 persons not receiving communion for 3/4 years
1611 1 recusant papist is accused of baptising his own child in
his own home
1822–1840 5 houses set aside for worship
Congregational chapel
Meeting Room for Plymouth Brethren 1908

13. Manorial:

Hartest Manor

1066/1086 Manor of 5 carucates belonging to Abbot of St.
Etheldreda's
12/13th cent. Bishop of Ely claimed right of gallows
1561 Alienated to Crown
1587/88 Particulars of the Sovereign's Woods in Hartest are
contained in Exchequer Special Commissions
1609 Granted to George and John Salter
1844 Poley family owns (linked to Boxted, Somerton and
Preston)

14. Market/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £2,905 rental value
1891 £2,443 rateable value
1912 £2,177 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided

1912 J.G. Weller Poley, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Rev. E.D. Butts MA
1912 Rev. H.J.W. Wisdom BA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 wheelwright, 1 yeoman, 1 butcher
1550–1599 1 wheelwright, 2 husbandmen, 9 yeomen, 1 carpenter,
1 tailor, 1 victualler, 1 sexton, 2 smiths
1600–1649 6 husbandman, 20 yeomen, 2 weavers, 3 tailors, 3
labourers, 1 miller, 1 blacksmith
1650–1699 2 wheelwrights, 1 husbandman, 17 yeomen, 1 butcher,
2 carpenters, 3 clothiers, 1 weaver, 1 joiner, 1 say
weaver, 1 tanner, 1 wool comber, 1 spinster, 1 webster
(female weaver), 1 stapler
1831 78 in agriculture, 64 in retail trade, 3 in manufacturing, 4
professionals, 6 in labouring, 32 in domestic service, 4
others
1844 Blacksmith, saddler/harness maker, miller, builder/
wheelwright, 2 plumber/glaziers, teachers, farrier,
bricklayer, surgeon, 2 publicans, shopkeeper,
butcher/cattle dealer, baker, beerhouse keeper, 15
farmers, 2 grocer/drapers, 5 shoemakers, 2 tailors, 2
carriers, maltster, butcher
1912 Sub-postmaster, teachers, 15 farmers, baker/shoemaker,
3 publicans, builder, 2 butchers, 2 grocers, beer retailer, 2
carriers, 2 bakers, surgeon, grocer/drapers, miller/maltster,
bootmaker, shopkeeper, piano tuner, blacksmith

19. Education:

1818 1 endowed school (see Sparkes Charity 1721) (50 attend)
Several day schools, 1 Sunday school (67 attend)
1833 Sparkes daily school (Charity assisted) (28 assisted
pupils, 45 fee paying)
1 daily school (31 attend), 1 Boarding school (19 attend)
1 Sunday school (23 attend)
1844 1 free school master recorded, 1 Boarding and day
school mistress recorded
School built 1858 (150 attend)
Public Elementary school built 1860, enlarged 1875,
average attendance 1912 114
Primary school established 1966

20. Poor relief:

1776 £266. 10s. 4d spent on poor relief

1803	£364 11s. 9d.
1818	£1,210 12s.
1830	£901 7s.
1832	£938 5s.
1834	£548 13s.

21. Charities:

Poley's Charity:

1572 by deed of John Poley: One fifth rents distributed annually among poor

Sparke's Charity:

1721 by will of Thomas Sparkes: Messuage and 30½ acres to education

Wright's Almshouses:

1646 by will of Thomas Wright: Cottage and 2 tenements occupied by 4 widows

Corder's Charity:

1840 £1 5s. distributed among poor

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St. Margaret 1524

1776 Workhouse (30 inmates)
Village Institute built by Thomas Weller Poley 1888
Burial Ground Committee 1857

1891 Police constable listed
Ancient Shepherds have Lodge at Bell Inn (85 members)
Foresters meet at Crown (200 members)

23. Recreation:

1550–1599 1 victualler listed
1844 The Bell Inn (posting house), The Crown Inn public houses
1 beerhouse
1891 Hartest and Boxted Village Club supplied daily and other papers and bagatelle board
1 beer retailer, 3 public houses
1912 3 public houses, 1 beer retailer
Womens Institute established c.1918
Football Club won South Suffolk Junior League 1950/1

24. Personal:

Phillippa Munnings: accused and tried at Bury Assizes, for witchcraft 1694. Acquitted and lived out her life in Hartest

Elton Hayes: TV/Radio personality of 1950's/60's owns farm in parish 1978.

Mary Loggins: wrote her first play at 81 years 1979. 'The Ballad of Hartest Stone' which was performed at Bury St. Edmunds County Upper School as part of W.I. Scene 80 drama contest

25. Other information:

'Hartest: A Village History' by Hartest Local History Group, edited by C. Payne 1984.

Church cottages: known as the Almshouses since at least 1638.

Ice Age stone: on Village Green, believed to have been dragged there in 1704 (said to have come from Somerton). Several versions regarding the stones history, non-substantiated.

Tithe apportionment: Transcript in parish folder (RO) 1839.

Fire at Brick House Farm, arson suspected 1885.

Modernised village hall opened 1975.

'Happy, Cautious Hartest', by H.D. Orriss. East Anglian Magazine Vol.38, p.394.

'The Carriers Cart', by H.D. Orriss. East Anglian Magazine Vol.39, p.20.

Parsonage House believed formerly situated at Dickerson Corner.