

1. Parish: Alpheton

Meaning: The homestead of Aelfled

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Western)(1864–1884), Sudbury (1884–1926), Lavenham (1926–)

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:** 1,222 acres (1912)

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

5. Types of farming:

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, beans, barley, oats, turnips, mangolds

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

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1953 Small well spaced development with pockets of habitation around Tye Green, the public house, the Hall and Church. Scattered farms. Disused airfield occupies northern portion of parish.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 15, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 69, 1871 – 76
1901 – 58, 1951 – 66, 1981 – 88

8. Communications:

Road: Main Bury St Edmunds–Sudbury road
Rail: 1912 4.5 miles Lavenham station: opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965.
Air: Cockfield airfield built for USAF 1941, closed 1945.

9. Population:

1086 – Not recorded
1327 – 12 taxpayers paid £0. 13s. 1d.
1524 – 16 taxpayers paid £0. 19s. 6d.
1603 – 85 adults
1674 – 16 households
1676 – 110 adults
1801 – 204 inhabitants
1831 – 309 inhabitants
1851 – 370 inhabitants
1871 – 290 inhabitants
1901 – 244 inhabitants
1931 – 189 inhabitants
1951 – 219 inhabitants
1971 – 246 inhabitants
1981 – 245 inhabitants

10. Benefices: Rectory

1254 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
Portion of Abbot of Albamarl (Aumerle, Normandy) £2.
£ 8. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £10.
Portion of Aubemarle £2. 10s. £12. 10s. 0d.
1535 Valued £10. 1s. 8d.
1831 Curate, stipend £80 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £260 p.a.
Modus of £275 p.a. in lieu of tithes 1843, 44 acres glebe
1912 Nett value £148. 44 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Mrs Alington 1603, Incumbent 1831, J. Hodgeson 1873,
E.E. Surrige 1912

11. Church: St. Peter and St. Paul (Chancel, nave, S Porch, W tower)

15th cent. Tower and S Porch
14th cent. Main structure

Seats: 40 appropriated, 150 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

2 persons not receiving communion 1611
1 person not receiving communion 1627
1 papist, 2 nonconformists 1676

Houses set aside for worship 1835/41

13. Manorial: **Alpheton Manor**

12/13th cent. Belonging to Walter de Barnham
1318–1434 Belongs successively to John de Whelnetham, Edmund de Brokesbourn and Sir Lawrence Raynforth
c.1541 Edmund Latimer of Freston owns
16th cent. Sir Roger Martin owns (linked to Stanstead)
18th cent. Mrs Little owns passing to Nathaniel Barnardiston (linked to Ryes, Sudbury) in which family it remains 1910

14. Market/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£1,324 rental value
1891	£1,193 rateable value
1912	£962 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1912 Rev. H.H. Bartrum MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	2 husbandmen, 1 parson, 1 labourer, 2 yeomen, 1 wheelwright
1600–1649	1 husbandman, 1 labourer, 4 yeomen, 1 blacksmith
1650–1699	1 husbandman, 1 clothier, 8 yeoman, 1 tailor
1831	55 in agriculture, 12 in retail, 1 professional, 13 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	3 farmers, wheelwright, carpenter, blacksmith, Victualler, maltster/corn miller
1912	Sub-postmaster, teacher, 2 shopkeepers, 4 farmers, 2 farm bailiffs, publican, miller, wheelwright

19. Education:

1818	1 school held 2 days per week (46 attend)
1833	3 daily schools (6–12 attend in each), 1 Sunday school established 1820 (30 attend) National school built 1863, enlarged 1905 to accommodate 73, average attendance 1912 of 44, closed (date unknown)

20. Poor Relief:

1776	£99. 16s. 0d.
1803	£212. 16s. 6d.
1818	£335. 9s.
1830	£396. 3s.
1832	£215. 2s.
1834	£219. 5s.

21. Charities:

Doles: 1840 Request of George Clopton: 10s. p.a. distributed in bread and money

Corders Charity: 20s. p.a. for distribution among poor

22. Other Institutions:

1776 Workhouse (35 inmates)

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Red Lion public house

24. Personal:

'A Mighty Man' (W E Goldsmith: Blacksmith of Alpheton). East Anglian Magazine Vol. 38, p.554

25. Other information:

Alpheton Hall: 16th cent. retains part of original moat, now farmhouse.

Site of original village and green said to be evident 1956

Old Rectory: 16/17th cent. Grade II listed building

Old school ceased to be used as village hall 1965, opening of new village hall imminent 1978

Ancient seal belonging to Bury Abbey found c.1891 in farmhouse called 'The Hall' – impression attached to deeds of 1518 in British Museum.

'Ancient Camp, Alpheton' by J Sinclair Holden. PSIA Vol.mXIV, p.305

'The Naming of Alpheton: Two landed Anglo-Saxon Ladies in Domesday Book', Suffolk in the Middle Ages by N Scarfe, p.73.