

# 1. Parish: Boxted

**Meaning:** Place where box grew

**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:** 1,574 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

### Mixed:

- a. Some slowly permeable calcareous clay soils, some slightly permeable non-calcareous clay soils. Slight risk water erosion
- b. Small amount deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 5 pigs, 4 cattle, 15 pigs, 17 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, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet, better loams attract orchard and soft fruit growers

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1953 Small compact development on edge of Boxted Park, which probably influenced settlement. Church situated within Park. Secondary settlements at Fenstead End and Street Farm.

Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 21, 1801 – 23, 1851 – 35, 1871 – 43,  
1901 – 52, 1951 – 48, 1981 – 37

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Stanstead, Hartest and Somerton

**Rail:** 1891 3 miles Glemsford Station: Stour Valley line – opened  
1868, closed for goods 1966, closed for passengers 1967

**Water:** River Stour: Navigable by c.1724. Decline began c.1860  
Lock at Boxted. Last barge at lock 1916. Weir.

**9. Population:**

1086 – 25 recorded

1327 – 14 taxpayers paid £1 13s. 10d.

1524 – 19 taxpayers paid £4 5s. 6d.

1603 – 320 adults (includes Hartest)

1674 – 25 households

1676 – 65 adults

1801 – 171 inhabitants

1831 – 239 inhabitants

1851 – 201 inhabitants

1871 – 194 inhabitants

1901 – 234 inhabitants

1931 – 144 inhabitants

1951 – 151 inhabitants

1971 – 125 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory – consolidated with Hartest 1831**

Anciently linked to Hartest  
1831 Incumbent also holds rectories of Hartest, Somerton and Stansfield  
Gross joint income £663 p.a.

Tithes commuted for £375 10s. p.a. 1839

1912 Joint nett value £470. 20 acres glebe

**Patrons:** Crown (1603–)

**11. Church: All Saints**

(Chancel with chapel, nave, N aisle, S porch, W tower)

14/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure

1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 6  
Superstitious pictures  
Much restored (no dates)

**Seats:** 60 appropriated, 140 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1606 1 person does not receive communion

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to King Edward held by Wulfric, a thane

1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou

**Boxted Manor**

12<sup>th</sup> cent. Forfeited by Roger Poictou and held by William Hervey

1210–1212 Held as Honor of Lancaster

1461 Poley family owns (linked to Somerton, Preston and Hartest)

**Sub-Manors**

**Troketts al Truckets**

1507/8 William Felton died as owner. Said to be valued 12s. and held by Abbot of St Edmunds

17<sup>th</sup> cent. Frederick Scott owns

**Mores**

15<sup>th</sup> cent. William Cressener owns

1542 Richard Poley owns (absorbed by main manor)

1798 Lady Blundell acquires

1827 Marchioness of Devonshire owns (linked to Cavendish)

**14. Market/Fair:**

1759 Fair held on Whit Tuesday for cattle (obsolete by 1844)

**15. Real Property:**

1844 – £1,460 rental value

1891 – £1,417 rateable value

1912 – £1,408 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 G.W. Poley, Marquis of Downshire and Mrs Gee, principal owners

1891 J.G.W. Poley and Lord Walsingham, principal owners

1912 J.G.W. Poley, main owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1186/96 and

1191/92

1680

1686

William FitzHervey, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk

1 Knight and 1 gent, recorded

Sir John Poley

1844	G.W. Poley
1857	John George Weller Poley, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1883	John George Weller Poley (son of above), High Sheriff of Suffolk

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549	1 yeoman
1550–1599	1 miller, 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 clothier, 1 tanner
1600–1649	1 cook, 4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 2 clothiers, 2 carpenters, 1 ploughwright
1650–1699	1 farmer, 4 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 clothier, 1 blacksmith, 2 carpenters, 1 minister, 1 say maker
1831	51 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 1 professional, 3 in labouring, 17 in domestic service, 4 other
1844	6 farmers, blacksmith, 1 maltster
1912	1 publican, 3 farmers, gamekeeper, 2 farm bailiffs, gardener, blacksmith

**19. Education:**

1731–1734	2 schoolmasters/tutors listed
1891	National school built 1852 by Miss Poley, 30 attend 1891. Closed 1902
1912	Children attend school at Hartest and Hawkedon

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£126 4s. 10d.
1803	£177 5s. 9½d.
1818	£597 20s.
1830	£498 6s.
1832	£459
1834	£387 10s.

**21. Charities:**

**Poleys Charity:**

1572	by Deed of John Poley: Diverse lands and tenements administered by Trustees. One fifth of rents distributed annually among poor
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**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1891/1912	The Kings Head public house Brownies, British Legion, Evergreen Club and Womens Institute 20 <sup>th</sup> cent.
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**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Boxted Hall: Moated mansion situated in park of 90 acres 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

'Boxted Bombard'. England's oldest cannon housed in Tower of London 1963.

'The Boxted Bombard', by H.L. Blackmore, 'Antiquaries Journal', Vol. 67, Part 1, p.86.