

# 1. Parish: Chelsworth otherwise Chellesworth

**Meaning:** Ceorl's enclosure

2. **Hundred:** Cosford

**Deanery:** Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Eastern)(1864–1883),  
Hadleigh (1884–1928), Lavenham (1928–)

**Union:** Cosford

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

## Other administrative details:

Hadleigh Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 871 acres land, 6 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

### Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		12 acres meadow, 1 mill, 2 cobs, 9 cattle, 20 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, clover, turnips, mangolds
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1978 Small compact development concentrated on northern side of Bildeston to Monks Eleigh road. River Brett meanders NW–SE across parish forming western boundary for part of its length and occupying

line south of main development in its path across parish. Church centrally situated to south of development and north of river. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 32, 1801 – 39, 1851 – 66, 1871 – 66,  
1901 – 55, 1951 – 56, 1981 – 43

## 8. Communications:

**Roads:** To Bildeston, Lindsey and Monks Eleigh  
1891 Carriers pass through to Lavenham on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

**Rail:** 1891 5 miles Hadleigh station: Bentley–Hadleigh line, opened 1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for goods 1965 and track taken up.  
4½ miles Lavenham station: Bury St Edmunds–Long Melford line, opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965.

**Water:** River Brett

## 9. Population:

1086 – 23 recorded  
1327 – 15 taxpayers paid 18s. 7d.  
1524 – 34 taxpayers paid £4 5s. 4d.  
1603 – not recorded  
1674 – 51 households  
1676 – not recorded  
1831 – 346 inhabitants  
1851 – 255 inhabitants  
1871 – 276 inhabitants  
1801 – 234 inhabitants  
1901 – 199 inhabitants  
1931 – 165 inhabitants  
1951 – 174 inhabitants  
1971 – 136 inhabitants  
1981 – 128 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Portion of the parson £6 13s. 4d.  
Portion of St Saviours £1 10s. £8 3s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £8  
1535 Valued £8 8s. 9d.  
Tenement called 'Churchhouse' recorded 1570  
1831 1 curate, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house, gross income £267 p.a.  
Incumbent also holds Rectory of Whatfield  
Modus of £270 p.a. in lieu of tithes, 30 acres glebe 1840

1912            Nett value £170/ 30 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:**     The Crown (1831), Lord Chancellor (1873)

**11. Church: All Saints**

(Chancel, clerestoried nave of 3 bays, aisles, N porch, S porch, W tower)

1086            Church + 30 acres land, 1 acre meadow

14th cent.     Main structure including tower

1850            Restoration

1966            S porch restored (used as vestry)

1953            4 plain piscinas discovered indicating site of former chapels

**Seats:** 70 appropriated, 130 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1817            1 house set aside for worship

**13. Manorial:**

1066/1086     Manor of 3½ carucates belonging to Abbot of St Edmunds

c.1527         Sir Anthony Wingfield owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

c.1609         Sir Robert Naunton owns (linked to Kettlebaston and Hasketon)

1655           Robert Marryott owns (linked to Hasketon, Bredfield and Woodbridge)

c.1675         Thomas Knight owns

c.1694         Edmund Jenny owns (linked to Bredfield and Debach)

1737           Robert Pocklington owns (linked to Whatfield)

**14. Market/Fair:**

**15. Real Property:**

1844    –    £1,319 rental value

1891    –    £1,574 rateable value

1912    –    £1,173 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844            Sir Henry E. Austin principal owner, small estates owned by T.B. White and W. Ennals

1891            Lt. Col. G.H. Pocklington, principal owner

1912            Sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

	Sir Robert Pocklington, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1804)
1844	Sir Henry Edmund Austin, Robert Martin Pocklington and Capt. Radford RN
1891	E.H. Hardwick JP, Col. F. Pocklington JP and Col. G.H. Pocklington JP
1912	A.E. Hoare JP, Col. F. Pocklington JP and Alexander Poole MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549	1 weaver, 1 carpenter
1550–1599	2 labourers, 2 husbandmen, 1 yeoman
1600–1649	4 yeomen, 2 clothiers, 1 clerk
1650–1699	1 labourer, 3 husbandmen, 7 yeomen, 2 spinsters, 1 butcher, 1 clerk, 1 wool comber, 1 comber
1831	38 in agriculture, 20 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 2 in labouring, 26 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	3 farmers, 2 shopkeepers, yeoman, butcher, joiner, pork butcher, cattle dealer, blacksmith, shoemaker
1912	Postmaster, schoolmistress, head gardener, grocer/beer retailer, 2 farmers, builder, head gamekeeper, farm bailiff, shopkeeper

**19. Education:**

1818	Schoolmistress teaches day school, 1 Sunday school (28 attend)
1833	2 daily schools (48 attend), 1 Sunday school (25 attend)
1844	Small national school
	National school built 1870, 32 attend 1891, average attendance 1912 43, closed c.1958

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£69 16s. 1d.
1803	£64 8s. 1¾d.
1818	£289 12s.
1830	£212 6s.
1832	£275 6s.
1834	£162 3s.

**21. Charities:**

**Nightingale's Charity:**

1580	of Robert Nightingale – devised copyhold estate for use of poor. 21 acres land let at £31 p.a. Rents applied to purchase of coals and clothing for poor.
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### **Thurloe's Dole:**

1840 of Elizabeth Thurlow: Rent charge of 30s. p.a. applied to bread distributed on Lady Day at the church.

### **22. Other institutions:**

Guild of Holy Trinity 1516

Sparrow and Rat Club: correspondence relating to 1910–14

2 poor houses a. double tenement on Hadleigh Road built 1816 to replace former property. B. 'Rush Cottage' on Lindsay Road. Both sold 1841

### **23. Recreation:**

1912 Beer retailer

Peacock Inn public house with shop attached, contains wood Carvings dating from 1410. Took its name from Miss Peacock (being the maiden name of the mother of sisters who ran the Establishment), shop under threat of closure 1977

### **24. Personal:**

### **25. Other information:**

Chelsworth House: built c.1737 by Robert Pocklington

Traces of ancient building said to have been visible on rising ground called Park Fields 18th/19<sup>th</sup> cent. suggested site of original manor house.

Parish contains many chalk pits.

Documents exist relating to slaughter house, shop and pound with plans 1685–1932.

'Mural paintings, Chelsworth Church', PSIA Vol. I, p.146.

Said to have been first mentioned as Ceorleswyrthe 962 AD when King Edgar I reputedly gave it to his stepmother.

Mill demolished 1754.

The Grange: built c.1450 timber framed with massive beams and a King post roof. 16<sup>th</sup> cent. additions.

Chelsworth Hall: 19<sup>th</sup> cent. mansion, converted into hotel for the elderly 1960, closed 1981.

Has gained the reputation of being 'the prettiest village in Suffolk'.

Case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.

'Chelsworth: the story of a Little Suffolk Village' by G.R. Pocklington 1956.

Chelsworth Hall Park formed by Robert Pocklington c.1750.

Parts of the Old Hall remain – used to house evacuees 1939–45.

Stocks and whipping post in existence 1770.

Parish boasted of having 7 'able archers' 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Butt Field (part of Chelsworth Park) reflects memory of site of parish butts.

3 mills (1 wind, 2 water) 13th cent.

- a. Upper Mill (fulling mill) stood near orchard of the Grange (Mill Hill),
- b. Lower Mill: pulled down c.1754, site believed to be near Mill Tongs,
- c. Site unknown.