

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
13th cent. Tower
14th 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
13th cent. Sir John de Bathun/Bathonia owns
1316 John de Sohun owns
16th 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.