

1. Parish: Great Waldingfield

Meaning: Open area of the dwellers by the 'wold' or wood

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Western) (1864–1884), Lavenham (1884–1972), Sudbury (1972–)

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:** 2303 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a) Some slowly permeable calcareous/ 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:**

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, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1813 478 acres in Gt. Waldingfield, Chilton and Gt. Cornard enclosed under Private Acts of lands 1811

7. Settlement:

1977 Large compact development situated at northern end of line of Roman road. Disused airfield to the west has concentrated development to the eastern perimeter of this construction. Secondary settlement occurs around the church (to the east of main settlement and at Upsher Green). Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 52, 1801 – 42, 1851 – 149, 1871 – 150, 1901 – 114, 1951 – 183, 1981 – 413

8. Communications:

Road: To Acton, Chilton, Lavenham, Lt. Waldingfield, Edwardstone and Newton
1891 Carrier from Lavenham to Sudbury passes Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
1912 Carrier to Sudbury daily except Wednesday

Rail: 1891 3 miles equidistant Lavenham and Long Melford stations: Bury St Edmunds–Melford line, opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, Sudbury line closed 1967, closed for goods 1965.

Air: Sudbury Heavy Bomber Base opened 1944 for 486th Bomb Group USAF. 3,000 men were situated around Gt. Waldingfield (this would have made considerable impact on population figures).
After hostilities ended base used for government storage.
Sold 1962/64. Hangers occupied by Ashdown Rawlinson Ltd.

9. Population:

1086 – 66 recorded (includes Little Waldingfield)

1327 – 32 taxpayers paid £3. 7s. 4½d.

1524 – 41 taxpayers paid £13. 8s. 8d. (includes Chilton)

1603 – 294 adults

1674 – 77 households

1676 – 293 adults

1801 – 564 inhabitants

1831 – 679 inhabitants

1851 – 659 inhabitants

1871 – 585 inhabitants

1901 – 460 inhabitants

1931 – 348 inhabitants

1951 – 564 inhabitants

1971 – 858 inhabitants

1981 – 1,224 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Portion of parson £23. 6s. 8d. Portion of Prior of Hatfield Regis £1	<u>£24. 6s. 8d.</u>
1291	Valued £21. 6s. 8d.	
1535	Valued £21. 6s. 8d.	
1674	Parsonage has 6 hearths	
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £608 p.a. Valued £589 1835 Good residence rebuilt (1863), 23 acres 1R 10P glebe Tithes commuted for £710 p.a. 1844	
1912	Nett value £450. 25 acres glebe and residence New rectory built 1967. Sold 1976	

Patrons: Samuel Colman (1603), Clare Hall, Cambridge (1844–)

11. Church St. Lawrence

(Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, N. and S. porches, W. tower)

1086	Waldingfield: Church + 30 acres Third part of church + 10 acres free land	
14 th cent.	Tower, nave and aisles built by John Appleton. Formerly held sacristy	
15/16 th cent.	Remainder of structure	
1827/29	Restoration	
1866/69	Chancel rebuilt	
1863/67	Restoration	

Seats: 110 appropriated, 150 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc.:

1603	2 recusants
1611	1 person not receiving communion
1676	1 nonconformist
1816–1822	3 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

Waldingfield:

1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Wulfin under King Edward
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Aubrey de Vere
1066	Manor of 1 carucate held by Wulfric a thane of King Edward
1086	Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Ranulf brother of Ilgar by King William's gift

Carbonels or Butlers

1086	Belonging to Aubrey de Vere as above
1275	Thomas Carbonels granted Richard Thalemach and Robert (Chaplain of Acton) 2 parts of the manor and advowson
c.1400	Sir Andrew Boteler owns (linked to Chilton and Cavendish)
1500	Inquis p.m. of Robert Crane
1587	Sir Robert Jermyn owns (linked to Preston)

Sub- Manors

Badley al Peyton Hall

1240	Sir Geoffrey de Bedele owns
1331	John de Peyton owns (linked to Stoke by Nayland, Cavendish and Boxford)
16 th cent.	Sir William Drury owns (linked to Hawstead, Acton, Somerton, Lawshall and Cockfield)
1599	Edward Colman died seised (linked to Milden and Brent Eleigh)

Brandeston Hall

1086	Estate of 5 carucates belonging to the mother of Earl Morchar
13/14 th cent.	Bavant family owns
1360	Nunnery of Dartford, Kent owns
1371	Crown property
1417	Inquis p.m. of Roger Swillyngton
1500	Appleton family held on lease
c.1539	Sir Edmund Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1817	Thomas Mills owns
1905	Thomas Patrick Hitchcock owns

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14 th cent.	Richard Andrew Luttrell owns
1434	Elizabeth Lovell owns (linked to Acton) passing to Earls of Arundel
1528	Henry Bures died seised
1590	Said to be held by the Barrow family on the Honor of Clare (linked to Newton)
1657	Bacon family owns (absorbed by Brandeston Hall)
17 th cent.	Ambrose Kedington owns
1905	John Kirby Rodwell owns

Sandesfords al Stanford

1358 William Chasteleyn owns
 c.1420 Rober Knyvett died siesed (linked to Groton) passing to Clopton family (linked to Long Melford, Groton and Boxford)
 1811 James Sparrow owns (linked to Gt. and Lt. Cornard)

Dowres/Dowayers

No dates John de la Dowayres owns
 1294–1550 Peyton family owns (absorbed by Peyton Hall)

14. Market/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £3,328 rental value
 1891 £2,909 rateable value
 1912 £2,123 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
 1912 J.M. Rodwell, T.P. Hitchcock and J.S. Carlton, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1680 2 gents and 1 Baronet recorded
 1844 J.M. Rodwell, Rev. H. Kirby MA, Brig. Gen. J.A. Coxhead and Lord H. Fitzgerald JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman, 6 weavers, 1 wood setter, 4 clothmakers, 1 dyer, 1 shearman (one who cuts woollen cloth), (additional information for this group from 'The Springs of Lavenham' by B. McClenaghan)
 1550–1599 4 clothiers, 6 husbandmen, 2 carpenters, 5 weavers
 1600–1649 2 clothiers, 1 comber, 3 husbandmen, 10 yeomen, 2 carpenters, 1 weaver, 1 blacksmith, 1 clothworker
 1650–1699 1 butcher, 2 clerks, 9 yeomen, 2 say makers
 1831 135 in agriculture, 22 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 24 in domestic service, 15 others
 1844 15 farmers, wheelwright, bricklayer, 2 carpenters, hurdle maker, 3 blacksmiths, 4 beerhouse keepers
 1912 Sub-postmistress, teachers, 5 farm bailiffs, 13 farmers, beer retailer/carrier, publican, blacksmith, shopkeeper, poultry dealer, wood dealer

19. Education:

1818 1 evening class, 2/3 dames schools, 1 Sunday school
also attended by children from Chilton (60 attend)
1833 3 daily schools (70 attend), 1 Sunday school (40
attend).
National school established 1842, building added 1852.
Primary school built 1969/70

20. Poor relief:

1776 £193. 18s. 0d.
1803 £661. 19s. 6d.
1818 £1,153
1830 £893. 14s.
1832 £1,222. 2s.
1834 £845. 5s.

21. Charities:

Appleton's Charity:

1580 by will of Edward Appleton: 40s. p.a. distributed among
poor not receiving relief

Coleman's gift:

1840 lost due to insolvency

22. Other institutions:

1844 Clothing Club

23. Recreation:

1844 4 beerhouses. Parochial library
1891 2 beerhouses, The White Horse public house
1912 Beer retailer, The White Horse public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Glebe Cottage believed to date from 14th cent.

Housing development led to overcrowding in village school and instigated
construction of new primary school 1960's.

Babergh Hall built 17/18th cent.

Brandeston Hall: built 16/17th cent. moated, but has been landscaped

into series of ponds.

'Gt. Waldingfield Church' by Rev. C.A. Stokes. PSIA Vol. IX, p.90. 'The Babergh Village: Story of Gt. Waldingfield' by L. Kenyon 1986.