

1. Parish: Little Cornard

Meaning: Corn lands

2. Hundred: Babergh

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

Union: Sudbury

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Melford R.D. (–1974), Babergh D.C. (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Melford Petty Sessional Division
Sudbury County Court District

3. Area: 1,740 acres land, 8 acres water (1912)

4. Soils: Chalk, clay on bed of limestone.
Deep fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay, fine
loam and clay soils with slowly permeable subsoil and
slight seasonal waterlogging. Some slowly permeable
seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils.
Calcareous subsoils in places.

5. Types of farming:

1086		1 mill, wood for 44 pigs, 4 horses at hall, 27 cattle, 130 pigs, 539 sheep (includes Gt. Cornard)
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, peas, barley, oats, beans, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1977 Small scattered development near to railway which runs N–S in parallel line to the river. River Stour forms western boundary. Secondary but more compact area of habitation at Workhouse Green. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 25, 1801 – 31, 1851 – 75 ,
1871 – 89 , 1901 – 74, 1951 – 85,
1981 – 112

8. Communications:

Road: To Bures, Gt. Cornard and Assington 1977

Rail: 1891 2½ miles Sudbury station: opened 1849, line to Shelford opened 1854, line to Haverhill opened 1865, Closed for goods 1966, closed for passengers 1967

Water: River Stour: navigable c.1724. Toll-table for 1741 and 1750 lists cargo. Declined around 1860. Navigation Company went into voluntary liquidation 1913

9. Population:

1086 – 79 recorded (includes Gt. Cornard)
1327 – 37 taxpayers paid £3 9s. 11¼d (includes Gt. Cornard)
1524 – 25 taxpayers paid £1 18s. 10d.
1603 – 100 adults
1674 – 29 households
1676 – 117 Adults
1801 – 279 inhabitants
1831 – 354 inhabitants
1851 – 380 inhabitants
1871 – 429 inhabitants
1901 – 288 inhabitants
1931 – 268 inhabitants
1951 – 246 inhabitants
1971 – 305 inhabitants
1981 – 322 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Portion of Rector £4 Portion of Stoke 13s. 4d. Portion of St. Botolph's, Colchester 13s. 4d.	<u>£5. 6s.</u>
1291	Valued £6 13s. 4d. Portion as previously £1 6s. 8d.	<u>£8 0s. 0d.</u>

1535 Valued £8 2s. 8½d.
 1831 Joint gross income £155 p.a. (includes Gt. Cornard)
 Modus of £500 p.a. 1842
 1844 50 acres glebe and residence
 Rectory house built 1847
 1912 Nett value £298. Residence.

Patrons: Danyell Curtes (1603), Incumbent (1831), Bishop of Norwich (1873)

11. Church All Saints
 (Chancel, transept, nave, S. porch, W. tower + spire)

1086 1 church without land, 1 church + 15 acres free land
 14th cent. Tower and parts of chancel
 15/16th cent. Main structure

Seats: 35 appropriated, 320 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1644 Rector of Lt. Cornard ejected by Suffolk Committee for
 Scandalous Ministers
 1676 5 non-conformists
 House set aside for worship 1830

13. Manorial:

Cornard:

1066 Manor of 3 carucates held by Earl Morcar's mother
 1086 Manor of 3 carucates belonging to the King

Little Cornard Manor:

1333 John Somersham owns
 c.1520 Spelman family acquire by marriage
 1637 Sir Robert Crane owns (linked to Newton and Chilton)

Sub-manors

Cawston/Caxtons

13th cent. Sir Peter Braunch owns
 c.14th cent. Sir Richard Cornard owns. Passing by marriage to de
 Grey family (linked to Gt. Cornard and Cavendish)
 Manor seems to have been involved in livestock rustling
 1330/31
 1632 Valued £3 6s. 8d.
 1769 269 acres valued £115

1780 Sir William Grey owns (advanced as Baron Welsingham in whose line it remained 1905)

Peacocks Hall

13th cent. Weyland family owns
1333 John Somersham owns (absorbed by main manor)
1749 Sparrow family owns (linked to Gt. Cornard and Gt. Waldingfield)
1905 William Prigg owns

Serles Manor

1426 Corbet family owns (linked to Preston, Bures, Boxford and Assington)
1439 80 acres land, 5 acres meadow, 2 acres wood held as Honor of Hatfield Peverell
16th cent. Robert Gurdon owns (linked to Assington)

Catchleigh, Appulgrays, Folybroke and Caneworth Manors

Copinger calls these subsidiary manors to Caxtons

Caneworth (Cannewykes)	1307 1328/9	Richard de Edmund holds (said to be situated in Bures) but part of Caxtons
Appylgare	1354	Home of William Appilgare

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,811 rental value
1891 £2,140 rateable value
1912 £2,201 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1912 Rev. J.C. Ambrose MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 3 husbandmen, 1 weaver (additional information for this group from 'The Springs of Lavenham' by B. McGlenaghan)

1550–1599 3 yeomen, 8 husbandmen, 1 labourer
 1600–1649 7 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 1 bricklayer
 1650–1699 10 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 say maker, 1 rector, 1 clerk
 1831 77 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 4 labourers, 13 in domestic service, 1 other
 1844 Blacksmith, brickmaker, 6 farmers
 1912 Teacher, Brick and Tile company, 8 farmers, farm bailiff, catgut manufacturers, shoemaker, baker, 2 shopkeepers, blacksmith, beer retailer

19. Education:

1818 Sunday and night school endowed by Rev. H. Crossman (90 attend)
 1833 2 daily schools (44 attend), 1 Sunday school (56 attend)
 1844 Endowment support for Sunday school, established since 1790
 National school built 1854 70 attend, average attendance 1912 34

20. Poor relief:

1776 £94 15s. 4d.
 1803 £311 17s. 11d.
 1818 £550 5s.
 1830 £496 18s.
 1832 £521 16s.
 1834 £434 11s.

21. Charities:

Stephen's Dole:

1628 by Thomas Stephens: 4s. each distributed at Christmas among poor families

Crossman's Gift:

1790 by will of Rev. Henry Crossman: Support of Sunday School

22. Other institutions:

1776 Workhouse (14 inmates)
 1803 School of Industry (8 children)
 Guilds of Our lady and St. John 1524

23. Recreation:

1891/1912 1 beerhouse/retailer

24. Personal:

Sir William Grey: Chief Justice of Common Pleas 1771
'Part Pedigree of the Frowyks of Peacock Hall'. PSIA Vol. VI, opposite p.34.
'The de Greys of Lt. Cornard', by Rev. G. Crabbe. PSIA Vol. VI, p.13.

25. Other information:

Implied sites of engagements with Danes: Kedington Hill, Sharpfight Meadow, Danes Hole.

Peacocks Hall: built by Sparrow family c.1798. List of records relating to the hall in parish folder (RO).

Tithe map compiled by M. Wheldon 1842.

Deeds of Causton Hall Estate given to Royal Agriculture Benevolent Institution 1955.

Suffolk Herbs established 1974 at Sawyers Farm – growers of organic plants for wholesale market. Open to public on Saturdays,

Lt. Cornard Conservation Society formed 1976.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.

Falling elms demolish churchyard, schoolroom and lychgate 1984. The incidents occurring within months of each other.

'Crowning the Year', by P.H.M. Cooper 1980.