

## 1. Parish: Whatfield

**Meaning:** Clearing or glade where wheat was grown

2. **Hundred:** Cosford

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

**Union:** Cosford

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

### Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1883, 1884, 1935.  
rationalisation of boundary with Semer and gains  
detached part of Naughton 1885. Part transferred  
to Semer 1935  
Ecclesiastical boundary change 1933  
Cosford Petty Sessional Division  
Hadleigh County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,599 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:** a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay  
soils, slight risk water erosion  
b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam  
over clay, some calcareous clay soils on sloping ground.

5. **Types of farming:**

|           |             |   |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| 1086      |             | 14 acres meadow, 1 mill   |
| 1500–1640 | Thirsk:     | Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture,<br>meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying<br>with some pig-keeping, horse breeding and<br>poultry. Crops mainly barley with some<br>wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and<br>occasionally hemp. |
| 1818      | Marshall:   | Course of crops varies usually including<br>summer fallow as preparation for corn<br>products.  |
| 1937      | Main crops: | Principally arable  |
| 1969      | Trist:      | More intensive cereal growing and sugar<br>beet.  |

6. **Enclosure:**

## 7. Settlement:

1973 Large well spaced ribbon type development along road to Naughton. Church centrally situated. Airfield intrudes into parish at SE corner. River Brett forms western boundary. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 20, 1801 – 34, 1851 – 74,  
1871 – 68, 1901 – 71, 1951 – 78,  
1981 – 116

## 8. Communications:

**Road:** To Elmsett, Naughton, Semer and Hadleigh  
1891 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday  
1912 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

**Rail:** 1891 3 miles Hadleigh station: Bentley–Hadleigh line opened 1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for goods 1965

**Air:** Private airfield

**Water:** River Brett

## 9. Population:

1086 – 45 recorded  
1327 – 23 taxpayers paid £2 10s. 7d.  
(includes Naughton)  
1524 – 33 taxpayers paid £2 2s. 2d.  
(includes Naughton)  
1603 – 80 adults  
1674 – 25 households  
1676 – not recorded  
1801 – 235 inhabitants  
1831 – 337 inhabitants  
1851 – 380 inhabitants  
1871 – 339 inhabitants  
1901 – 317 inhabitants  
1931 – 267 inhabitants  
1951 – 295 inhabitants  
1971 – 271 inhabitants  
1981 – 321 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

- 1254 Portion of the parson £10  
Portion of the Hospitallers of Battisford 13s. 4d.  
£10 13s. 4d.
- 1291 Valued £16
- 1535 Valued £15 0s. 5d.  
Incumbent also holds Parsonage of Elmsett 1599–1644  
Rectory house partly rebuilt 1657 by Rev. Samuel Backler
- 1831 Glebe house. Gross income £405 p.a. Incumbent also  
Holds Rectory of Chelsworth  
Valued £393 1835  
Tithes commuted for rent charge of £484 1843
- 1912 Nett income £330 p.a. 71 acres glebe and ancient  
rectory house

**Patrons:** Robert Roff (1603), Jesus College, Cambridge (1831–)

**11. Church St. Margaret**

(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

- 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure
- 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower (low and broad), pyramid roof added later  
Nave c.1400
- 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Porch
- c.1700 West gallery

**Seats:** 50 appropriated, 140 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Congregational chapel founded 1767 seats 130  
Salvation Army Hall 1928

**13. Manorial:**

- 1066 Manor of 1½ carucates at Domesday Vill of Ash  
Street Held by 1 free woman
- 1086 Manor of 1½ carucates belonging to Robert, Count  
of Mortain

**Whatfield Hall**

- 1314 Thomas de Cokefield owns (linked to Naughton,  
Groton, Cokefield and Moulton)
- 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir James Hobart owns (linked to Trimley St. Martin,  
Trimley St. Mary, Walton and Creeting St. Peter)
- 1546 Sir John Spring owns (linked to Brettenham, Buxhall and  
Kedington)
- c.1601 Nicholas Strutt owns

|        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| c.1699 | William Vesey owns  |
| 1855   | Charles Tyrell owns |
| 1885   | Miss Cooke owns     |

**Sub-Manors:**

**Berrards Hill**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> cent. | Thomas Spring owns (annexed to main manor)   |
| 1588                   | Bridgett Rolfe owns  |
| 1637                   | Sir George Waldegrave owns (linked to Hitcham And Lindsey)   |
| 1885                   | W.H. Nunn owns   |
| 1909                   | C.J. Grimwade owns (linked to Brettenham, Hadleigh, Hitcham and Kersey, Capel St. Mary and Wenham Parva) |

**Peyton's/Manor's**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1528 | William Timperley owns (linked to Drinkstone and Gt. Finborough) |
|------|--|

**Hornham**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| No date                | Robert Barwell owns                                |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> cent. | Sir Robert Pooklington owns (linked to Chelsworth) |

**Furneaux**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> cent. | Robert de Furneaux owns                        |
| 1388                   | Thomas Hethe (linked to Ampton and Denham)     |
| c.1525                 | George Bokenham owns                           |
| 1583                   | Thomas Roberts owns                            |
| 1855                   | Lady Austen owns                               |
| 1909                   | C.J. Grimwade owns (absorbed by Berrards Hall) |

Possible further manors of Tudenhams and Cosfords  
Although these are unsubstantiated.

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

|      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1844 | £1,932 rental value   |
| 1891 | £1,810 rateable value |
| 1912 | £1,268 rateable value |

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

Mr. Snelling (1679)  
1844 Rev. F. Calvert MA  
1912 Rev. E.A. Lane MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 1 potter, 1 labourer, 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen, 1 rector, 1 wheelwright  
1600–1649 4 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 farrier, 2 carpenters, 1 brickmaker  
1650–1699 3 yeomen  
1831 68 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 1 professional, 14 in domestic service, 10 others  
1844 Shoemaker, blacksmith/victualler, 9 farmers  
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, engineer, 8 farmers, Publican, 2 carriers, farm bailiff, grocer, threshing machine owner, butcher

**19. Education:**

1818 1 school on Wednesday and Sunday (60 attend)  
1833 1 Sunday school (37 attend)  
National school built 1859, 60 attend 1891, restored 1911, average attendance 1912 58

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £114 5s.  
1803 £139 17s. 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.  
1818 £926 2s.  
1830 £912 11s.  
1832 £1,041 17s.  
1834 £672 18s.

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

Medical Club 1836–61

**23. Recreation:**

1844/1912 The Horseshoes public house  
The Five Horse Nails Inn c.1971

**24. Personal:**

Pedigree of the Furneaux family of Whatfield in British Museum Add.  
Ms 19129–30

**25. Other information:**

'The History of Whatfield'. Suffolk Tracts Vol.VI p.15 ,repeated in 'Fugitive Pieces', Vol.II p.89 by Rev. John Clubbe 1758.

Old Rectory: moated building 1657 erected by Rev. Samuel Backler.

Parish contained series of 10 estates, the two largest belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds 1086.