

1. Parish: Little Waldingfield

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

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (-1864), Sudbury (Western) (1864-1884),
Lavenham (1884-1957), Sudbury (1957-)

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:** 1630 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Some slowly permeable calcareous/ non calcareous clay
soils, slight risk water erosion

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:	Barley, wheat, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

Will of John Wyncoll (1580) refers to '12 acres of land taken and enclosed on the Church Field'. Beyond Living Memory by H. Clive (1979)

7. Settlement:

1977 Compact development. Church centrally situated. Some scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 40, 1801 – 75, 1851–93, 1871 –87,
1901 –74, 1951 –81, 1981 – 135

8. Communications:

Road: To Brent Eleigh, Edwardstone and Gt. Waldingfield
1844 Carrier to Ipswich on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Rail: 1891 4½ miles Sudbury station, opened 1849, line to Shelford
opened 1854, line to Haverhill opened 1865, closed for goods
1966, closed for passengers 1967

9. Population:

1086 — 66 recorded (includes Great Waldingfield)

1327 — 16 taxpayers paid £1. 13s. 3d.

1524 — 57 taxpayers paid £21. 17s. 2d.

1603 — 193 adults

1674 — 64 households

1676 — 226 adults

1801 — 338 inhabitants

1831 — 403 inhabitants

1851 — 404 inhabitants

1871 — 391 inhabitants

1901 — 340 inhabitants

1931 — 246 inhabitants

1951 — 245 inhabitants

1971 — 299 inhabitants

1981 — 344 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (1831), Discharged Vicarage (1844)

1254 Portion of rector £8

Portion of vicar 13s. 4d. £8. 13s. 4d

1291 Valued £9. 6s. 8d.

Benefice in hands of Colne Priory (1299–1555)

1535 Valued £4. 18s. 11½d.

1831 Curate, stipend £52. p.a. Gross income £112 p.a.

Incumbent also holds rectory of Kedington. Glebe house
unfit for occupation. Great tithes commuted for £217. 13s.
p.a. and Small tithes for £146. 2s p.a. (1839)

1912 Nett value £98. 3 acres glebe

Patrons: Bishop of Ely (1603), Incumbent (1844), Miss Hanmer (1873)

11. Church St. Lawrence

(Chancel, nave, aisles, porches, tower with mutilated
figures)

1086 Waldingfield: Church + 30 acres
Third part of church + 10 acres free
land

15/16th cent. Main structure

Chancel: traces of old chapel or cell

1872 Restoration

Seats: 200 appropriated (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc.:

1676 1 papist, 4 nonconformists

1816–1818 2 houses set aside for worship
Wesleyan chapel (1908)

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

Woodhall al Waldingfield Parva

1267 Adam de Cokefield had grant of free warren

1351 Sir John de Chyverston owns

1570 Lady Elizabeth Luttrell owns (linked to Gt. Waldingfield
and Debenham)

16/17th cent. Roger Wincoll owns

1905 George Wade owns

Sub- Manors

Netherhall

1316 William FitzRalph owns

15th cent. Sir Robert Chamberlain owns (linked to Stoke by Nayland
and Polstead)

1512 Thomas Spring owns (linked to Cockfield, Shimpling,
Preston, Polstead, Milden and Long Melford)

16th cent. Roger Wincoll owns (absorbed by main manor)

Holbrook Hall

14/15th cent. John Apleton/ Appleton owns (linked to Glemsford and
Edwardstone)

18th cent. Samuel Warner owns

1737 Walden Hanmer owns

1823 Thomas Dawson owns (linked to Edwardstone)

Luns Hall

Known to have existed but no further information

14. Market/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,104 rental value
1891	£1,944 rateable value
1912	£1,547 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Rev. B.B. Syer, principal owner
1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Mrs Mitchell and Miss Hanmer, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1680	1 gent recorded
1674	Lady Crane

18. Occupations:

1468	1 butcher
1500–1549	1 shearman (one who cuts woollen cloth), 3 clothmakers, 3 weavers, 2 fullers (additional information for this group from 'The Springs of Lavenham' by B. McClenaghan)
1550–1599	1 husbandsman, 1 weaver
1600–1649	3 clothiers, 6 yeomen, 1 cordwinder, 1 husbandsman, 1 woollen weaver
1650–1699	1 spinster, 1 clothier, 5 yeomen, 1 say maker, 1 chandler, 1 carpenter, 1 smith
1831	82 in agriculture, 21 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1 in labouring, 10 in domestic service
1844	2 shoemakers, shopkeeper, blacksmith, 8 farmers, publican, carrier, 2 beerhousekeepers
1912	Police officer, sub-postmaster, teachers, beer retailer, pork butcher, publican, 4 farmers, blacksmith/shopkeeper, pig dealer

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday school (39 attend)
1833	2 small day schools (19 attend), 1 Sunday school (44 attend) School built 1876 and enlarged School Board formed 1879
1912	Public Elementary school, average attendance 54, closed 1969/70

New primary school built 1969/70 (130 attend)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£121. 3s. 7d.
1803	£232. 1s. 6d.
1818	£519. 17s.
1830	£426. 3s.
1832	£455.18s.
1834	£326. 3s.

21. Charities:

Poors land:

1840 29 acres 9R 9P, tenements and barn let at £39. 10s. p.a. distributed among poor in January. £10 p.a. of which is used for apprenticing

Thomas Appleton's gift:

1603 by will of Thomas Appleton: 10 loads wood p.a. (long discontinued 1840)

Edward Appleton's gift:

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

1697 9 acres 2R 9P let at £12 p.a. to benefit of poor

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St. Lawrence (1524)

Almshouses and Pesthouse:

1608 by will of Isaac Appleton: 4 tenements adjoining churchyard occupied by poor persons

1629 House occupied by 2 poor persons sometime used as pesthouse

1803 Friendly Society (28 members)

St. Waldingfield Development Council 20th cent. promotes amenities for the village

23. Recreation:

1844 2 beerhouses, The Swan public house

1891/1912 Beerhouse/retailer, The Swan public house
Football Club, 20th cent.

Playing field and pavilion 1969

Over 60's Club (15 members)

24. Personal:

Appleton family: distinguished history – ‘Memorial of Samuel Appleton of Ipswich’ by Isaac Appleton Jewitt

‘The Appletons of Beacon Hill (Boston)’ by Louise Hall Thorpe

Wyncoll family 16th cent. established substantial clothing industry

‘The Wyncolls of Suffolk and Essex’ by Col. C.E. Wyncoll 1910

25. Other information:

‘Beyond Living Memory’ by Harry Clive 1979

Holbrook Hall: destroyed by fire 1870’s. Originally Tudor building. Rebuilt 1883 on site north of former position

Woodhall: probably pre-dates 1544

Netherhall: moated

Wyncolls wills: apparently indicates an extensive settlement connected with the cloth trade around Humble Green

Paternity case 1770: copy of declaration made by Elizabeth Howard. ‘Beyond Living Memory’ by H. Clive

The Priory: ancient building with stone vaulted crypt. Pevsner dates vault as 14th cent. It has been suggested it was part of property belonging to the Dominican order but this is not substantiated.

‘Little Waldingfield Church’ by Rev. F. Haslewood. PSIA Vol.1X, p.111.