

1. Parish: Brettenham

Meaning: Bretta's (the Britons) meadow/enclosure

2. **Hundred:** Cosford

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Eastern)(1864–1884), Lavenham (1884–)

Union: Cosford

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Cosford RD (–1974), Babergh DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1884, 1935, gains parts of Hitcham, Kettlebaston and Thorpe Morieux 1935

Hadleigh Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,438 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Fine loam over clay soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils.

5. Types of farming:

1086 13½ acres meadow, wood for 4 pigs, 1 cob, 3 cattle, 4 pigs

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, beans, barley, turnips

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1980 Line of Roman road forms section of eastern boundary. Long well spread ribbon type development along 'the street' Which is aligned NE–SW, skirting the edge of Brettenham Park to the south (occupies large area in southern sector of parish). Church situated at northern end of development. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 24, 1801 – 40, 1851 – 80, 1871 – 91, 1901 – 67, 1951 – 96, 1981 – 94

8. Communications:

- Roads:** To Felsham, Rattlesden, Hitcham, Preston St Mary and Thorpe Morieux
- 1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday, others pass through to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday to Stowmarket on Thursday
- 1912 Carriers to Stowmarket on Thursday and Saturday to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday
- Rail:** 1891 5 miles Lavenham station: Bury St Edmunds–Long Melford line opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965
- Water:** River Brett

9. Population:

- 1086 – 43 recorded
1327 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 19s. 1d.
1524 – 22 taxpayers paid £1 9s. 8d.
1603 – 100 adults
1674 – 26 households
1676 – not recorded
1801 – 228 inhabitants
1831 – 366 inhabitants
1851 – 401 inhabitants
1871 – 406 inhabitants
1901 – 273 inhabitants
1931 – 276 inhabitants
1951 – 300 inhabitants
1971 – 259 inhabitants
1981 – 268 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

- 1254 Valued £9 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £11 3s. 10d.
'To the parsonage and every parson.... Piece of land called 'Kings Croft'(4 acres) c.1546
1831 1 curate, stipend £40 p.a. No glebe house. Gross income £200 p.a. Incumbent also holds Perpetual curacy of Bury, Huntingdon.
Valued £377 p.a. 1835
Tithes commuted for yearly rent charge of £491 1843
1891 Good residence and 27 acres glebe
1912 Nett value £270 p.a. 28 acres glebe and residence
- Patrons:** The King (1603), Bishop of Ely (1831), The Crown (1844),

Lord Chancellor (1873)

11. Church:

St Mary

(Chancel, nave, S tower incorporating porch)

1086	Church + 24 acres
14 th cent.	Main structure
15 th cent.	Chancel
1886	Restoration

Seats: 66 appropriated, 196 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1644	Rev William Alcock ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers
1817–1834	7 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 4 carucates held by Wulfnoth
1086	Manor of 4 carucates belonging to Robert, Count of Mortain
13 th cent.	Richard de Clare owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
c.1372	Hugh de Stafford owns (linked to Barningham)
15 th cent.	William Sampson owns
1613	Sir Robert Houghton owns (linked to Hitcham and Buxhall)
c.1700	Sir George Wenyewe owns (linked to Combs)
c.1850	Joseph Parker owns
c.1874	Thomas Bartholomew Beale owns
1903	Thomas Courtenay Thaydon Warner owns

Sub-Manors

Ryses

15 th cent.	Thomas Sampson owns (absorbed by main manor)(linked to Playford and Rushmere, Kirton and Sproughton)
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Stanstead al Stanstreet Hall

16 th cent.	Lord William Howard owns
1568	Robert Rychars owns (linked to Buxhall)
1609	John Rivett owns (linked to Bildeston)
1662	Robert Bailtoft owns
c.1665	Ralph Meadows owns
c.1704	John Beaumont owns
c.1733	John Wenyewe owns (annexed to main manor)
c.1764	Rev Abbott Upcher owns
1822	John Foster owns
1886	C.J. Grimwade owns (linked to Hadleigh, Hitcham, Kersey, Whatfield, Capel St Mary and Wenham Parva)
1904	Walter A. Copinger owns (linked to Buxhall)

1909 Col J H Rivet-Carnac owns

Willisham's

1383 Edward de Willisham held of Honor of Clare
1421 John Sampson owns (annexed to main manor)(linked to Harkstead)
16th cent. Thomas Spring owns (linked to Whatfield)
1585 R. Marshe owns

14. Market/Fair:

15. Real Property:

1844 –£1,666 rental value
1891 – £1,798 rateable value
1912 – £1,697 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1674 Sir George Weneve (has house with 14 hearths)
1784 John Wenyeye, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1912 Sir T.C.T. Warner, CB MP JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 husbandman
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 1 spinster, 3 husbandmen, 1 labouring man
1600–1649 6 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 clerk
1650–1699 11 yeomen, 2 spinsters, 3 clerks
1831 69 in agriculture, 15 in retail trade, 2 professionals,
3 in labouring, 14 in domestic service, 3 others
1844 2 beerhouse keepers, corn miller, 3 shopkeepers,
shoemaker, wheelwright, blacksmith, 12 farmers
1912 post-mistress, schoolmistress, gardener, 2 farm bailiffs,
Grocer/drapery, head gamekeeper, blacksmith, 8 farmers,
miller, asst overseer bailiff, beer retailer, carrier,
wheelwright

19. Education:

1818 1 Sunday school (40–50 attend)
1833 2 daily schools (30 attend), 1 Sunday school (50 attend)
Church school built by Rev S. Cole 1841, enlarged 1871,
average attendance 1891 73, rebuilt 1908, average
attendance 1912 72
Boarding school for dyslexics opened at the Old Rectory
1981

20. Poor relief:

1776	£118 0s. 7d.
1803	£115 6s. 0¼d.
1818	£415 9s.
1830	£630 3s.
1832	£674 19s.
1834	£423 4s.

21. Charities:

Durrant's Gift: Church Land

1644 by will of James Durant: £1 p.a. rent charge from field inhabitants called Crouch Field for distribution among poor.

Twining Bequest:

1912 by will of Rev George Brewster Twining. Interest on £250 for benefit of the poor.

22. Other institutions:

Stok of the Gylds £2 152)
Working Mens Club built 1904 by Sir T.C.T. Warner
Library built 1902

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 Beerhouse/retailer
The Crown Inn public house closed 1977

24. Personal:

Sir Thomas Courtenay Theydon Warner: Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk 1912
'Brettenham and the Wenyeve family' by Rev C J Betham, PSIA Vol IX p.131.

25. Other information:

Derelect smock mill

Poplars Farm: timber-framed 15th cent.

Brettenham Hall: 16th cent. stands in park of 150 acres, unoccupied 1891. Seat of the Wenyeve family for two centuries. Residence of Joseph Bonaparte for short time 1830, extensively rebuilt 19th cent., additions made 1903, used as school c.1945–

Suggested as possible site of Roman station Combretonium

Church is situated on high ground 311 feet above sea level. 50 church towers can be seen from the top of its tower 1882

'Combretonium and Brettenham' by Rev H. Copinger Hill, PSIA Vol. XIX p.227.

'Additional Notes on Brettenham' by Rev C.J. Betham, PSIA Vol. VII p.251.

'Rectors of Brettenham' by Rev C.J. Betham, PSIA Vol. VIII p.117.

Ice house exists near Devils Hill Wood

Workhouse in existence with 20 inmates 1776