

1. Parish: Cockfield

Meaning: Cocca's feld or land

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

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

Union: Cosford

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Cosford Rd (-1974), Babergh DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Melford Petty Sessional Division
Bury St. Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 3621 acres land, 5 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:** Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Some fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoil with slight risk of seasonal waterlogging or water erosion.

5. Types of farming:

1086 1 winter mill, 3 cobs, 12 cattle, 37 pigs, 98 sheep, 12 beehives, wood for 6 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.

1804 Young:

1818 Marshall: Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products.

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, sugar beet, beans, green crops.

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

20th cent. Major fruit/orchard region.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1953/1977 Main Bury St. Edmunds- Sudbury road forms western boundary. Parish is made up of several small hamlets. The largest being at Great Green. Here the development is around the Green, along Felsham Road to the east and the road to, and around, Parsonage Green to the south, at which point the church is situated. Settlement also occurs at Colchester Green, Stows Hill (Three Horseshoes public house), Buttons Green, Windsor Green, Cross Green (Mill), and Oldhall Green. Smithwood Green has disappeared due

to disused airfield situated to the south and which probably influenced settlement in this area. The railway crosses the parish to N-S. Some scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 80, 1801 – 115, 1851 – 212, 1871 – 225, 1901 – 214, 1951 – 225, 1981 – 281

8. **Communications:**

Road: Main Bury St. Edmunds – Sudbury road. Roads to Lavenham, Bradfield St. Clare and Felsham
1844 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday, to Ipswich on Monday and Thursday.
1891 Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday,

Rail: 1891 Cockfield station: Bury St. Edmunds–Long Melford line, opened as a goods siding only 1865, opened for passengers 1870, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965. Station used for coalyard.

Air: Airfield used for USAF 1941, closed 1945

9. **Population:**

1086 – 77 recorded
1327 – 31 taxpayers paid £ . 11s.
1524 – 82 taxpayers paid £8 19s. 8d.
1603 – 256 adults
1674 – 135 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 739 inhabitants
1831 – 1023 inhabitants
1851 – 988 inhabitants
1871 – 980 inhabitants
1901 – 854 inhabitants
1931 – 707 inhabitants
1951 – 710 inhabitants
1971 – 721 inhabitants
1981 – 774 inhabitants

10. **Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Portion of the parson £26 13s. 4d.
Portion of St. Saviours £2.
Portion of Parson of Lindsey and St. James £1. £29 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued at £33 6s. 8d.
Portion of St. James £1 10s.
1535 Valued at £30.
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £679 p.a.
Valued £635 1835
Good residence. Modus of £1050 p.a. in lieu of tithes 1843
1912 Nett value £580. 39 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Mr. Springe (1603), St. Johns College, Cambridge (1831–)

11. Church St. Peter.
(Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

1086
12th/13th cent.
14th cent. Tower, chancel, main structure with 15/16th cent. additions.
15th/16th cent. Aisles
17th cent. Puritan soldiers said to have destroyed much of the woodwork and window tracery.
1879 Restoration.

Seats: 70 appropriated, 350 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1611 1 person not receiving communion, 4 recusant papists.
1717–1842 7 houses set aside for worship. Independent chapel built 1841.
Congregational chapel 1908, seats 280

13. Manorial:

Cockfield Manor.

1066/1086 Manor of 4½ carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmundsbury.
c. 1535 Vested in Robert Drury.
1545 Sir John Spring owns.
1684 Sir Thomas Robinson owns (linked to Long Melford and Cavendish)
c. 1713 John Moore owns (linked to Long Melford, Cavendish, Lavenham and Glemsford)
1865 T. Jennings of Newmarket owns.

Sub-Manors.

Earls Hall.

No date Granted to Vere family, Earls of Oxford by Abbot of St. Edmunds
1462 Lands forfeited to Richard, Duke of Gloucester.
Late 15th cent. Earls of Oxford reinstated (linked to Somerton, Preston and Lavenham)
1829 Appears absorbed by main manor.
1853 Earls Hall Farm extended to 333 acres.

Butlers al Jacobbies.

1523 Thomas Spring died seised (linked/absorbed by main manor)

Pepers al Colchesters.

No date Lemmerus de Cokefeud owns.

- 1242 Sold to Abbot of St. Edmunds.
- 1315 Adam de Colcaestre acquires.
- c.1523 Thomas Spring owns (linked/absorbed by main manor)
- mid 17th cent. Hervey family owns (linked to Ickworth).
- c.1814 Manor fell into disuse. Manor House turned into farmhouse and estate enfranchised by Honor of Clare.

14. Markets/Fairs

- 1254/1255 Grant of market and fair.

15. Real property:

- 1844 £4086 rental value
- 1891 £4703 rateable value
- 1912 £3964 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

- 1844/1912 Land always sub-divided.

17. Resident gentry:

- 1686 Frances Harvey
- 1812 Richard Moore, High Sheriff of Suffolk
- 1912 W.R. Hustler JP

18. Occupations:

- 1482 1 spinster
- 1500–1549 3 husbandmen
- 1550–1599 5 yeomen, 8 husbandmen, 1 shearsman (one who cuts woollen cloth) 2 parsons, 1 wheelwright, 2 carpenters, 1 carrier,
- 1600–1649 30 yeomen, 7 husbandmen, 3 tailors, 1 clockmaker, 1 shoemaker, 1 labourer, 1 miller, 1 joiner, 1 cordwainer
- 1650–1699 30 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 2 tailors, 1 person, 1 brick burner, 2 spinsters, 2 blacksmiths, 1 cooper, 2 wool combers, 2 say weavers, 1 labourer, 1 linen weaver.
- 1831 175 in agriculture, 29 in retail trade, 1 professional, 3 in labouring, 26 in domestic service, 10 others
- 1844 2 millers, maltster/corn merchant, 3 publicans, 2 beerhouse keepers, cattle dealer, 2 teachers, saddler, 2 blacksmiths, surgeon, 2 wheelwrights, 21 farmers, butcher, grocer.
- 1912 Sub-postmaster, 2 teachers, station master, police constable, 18 farmers, 2 blacksmiths, farm bailiff, 2 wheelwrights, bricklayer, school attendance officer, baker, 3 grocers, shopkeeper, picture frame maker, 5 publicans, maltster, asst. overseer, 2 builders, carpenter, cycle dealer, carrier, miller, Riddleys Coal and Iron Co., shoemaker.
- 1976 Ken Steward Engineering Ltd. Established (agricultural contractor and engineer)

19. Education:

1818 2 day schools (70 attend)
1833 2 daily schools (45 attend), 1 boarding school (11 attend), 1 Sunday school (140 attend)
1844 2 teachers listed
National school built 1856, enlarged 1871, (140 attend)
Public Elementary school built 1863, enlarged 1898, average attendance 1912 140.
Independent Sunday school built 1868

20. Poor relief:

1776 £359 17s. 8d.
1803 £599 19s. 1½d.
1818 £1064 5s.
1830 £1448
1832 £1184 8s.
1834 £916 5s.

21. Charities:

Robin's Charity:

1720 by will of Rev. Francis Robins: £3 p.a. distributed among poor and sick.

Corder's Charity:

1828 £1 4s. for distribution among poor.
1840 Messuage and rood of ground used as workhouse. £8 p.a. for purchase of bread.

Nice's Charity:

1671 by will of Edward Nice: 5 acres in Bradfield St. Clare let at £1. 4s. p.a. divided among poor.

22. Other institutions:

1776 Workhouse (30 inmates)
1803 2 Friendly Societies (40 members)
1844 House occupied by paupers, formerly called Town House
1891 Police officer listed

23. Recreation:

1844 3 public houses, 2 beer houses
1891 4 public houses
1912 5 public houses
Suffolk Hunt held annual point-to-point race 1797
1983 Under 16s sports team. Darby and Joan Club.

Annual 'Farming Through the Ages' (originally begun as a fund raising event for village hall).
Coaching House Carvery restaurant.
1986 'Cockfield 900' domesday celebrations and flower festival.

24. Personal:

Rev. W. Ludtum d.1788: discoveries in mathematics and engineering.
Robert Louis Stevenson visited Cockfield Rectory 1873. 'Velvet Coat in Suffolk: Robert Louis Stevenson and Cockfield', by C.R. Edgeley. Suffolk Fair Vol. 4 No.8, p.12.
Rev. Churchill Babington 1889 author of 'The Birds of Suffolk' and 'The Flora of Suffolk'.
Sir Hugh Greene: 1983 Resident of Earls Court Hall since 1964. Director of Greene King Brewery, former Director General of BBC.
Martin Mobberley: 20th cent. author of a paper printed by British Astronomical Association on the Run-off Shed Observatory.

25. Other information:

'Materials for a History of Cockfield' by Churchill Babington 1880.

Peppers hall: described as a handsome mansion (Suffolk Traveller by Kirby 1764). Said to be constructed from materials of the Old Hall (moat and foundations still visible 1880, known as Old Gardens).

Hundred Stones: inscribed 'This marks the bounds of three hundreds and three towns', these being Babergh, Thedwastre and Cosford, Cockfield, Felsham and Thorpe Morieux.

Warbanks: earthworks; possible site of Roman encampment (VCH Vol. 1, p.303). 'The Warbanks at Cockfield 1908', by Rev. E. Hill. PSIA Vol.XIII, p.176.

Church House: Grade II listed building.

Memorial Cross erected 1920.

Bomb fell on village 1944.

Horseshoes Inn: thought to date from 1470.

Tithe apportionment 1844 held in parish folder (RO).

Revival of Court Leet: held in library of Cockfield Rectory 1955.

Village hall opened 1976.

Construction of private housing estate at Duke's Meadow 1982.

Bulls Wood acquired by Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation 1983. Has been designated site of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserve.

'Materials for a history of Cockfield', PSIA Vol.V, p.195.

Cockfield Hall: formerly situated at Old Hall Green. Timber used in local building are believed to have come from this hall and Peppers Hall.

'Cockfield: Village of Greens', by S.P. Andrews. Suffolk Fair Vol.5 No.3, p.12.