

1. Parish: Groton

Meaning: Sandy stream

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (-1864), Sudbury (Eastern) (1864-1884),
Hadleigh (1884-1926) Sudbury (1926-)

Union: Cosford

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

Other administrative details:

Boxford Petty Sessional Division
Hadleigh County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,560 acres including 130 acres woodland and 39 acres
common (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Deep fine loam over clay and clay soils with
slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal
waterlogging. Calcareous subsoils in places

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 10 pigs, 1 winter mill, 1 cob, 16 pigs, 30 sheep
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, barley, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Small scattered development along western parish
boundary. Church centrally situated. Secondary
settlement at Parliaments Heath and Groton Manor

Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 65, 1801 – 69, 1851 – 138, 1871 – 128,
1901 – 91, 1951 – 78, 1981 – 79

8. Communications:

Road: Road to Boxford, Kersey Tye, Milden, Lindsey and Edwardstone
1891 – Horse and trap at Fox and Hounds public house

Rail: 1891 - 6 miles Hadleigh station: Colne valley line opened 1847

9. Population:

1086 — 43 recorded
1327 — 27 taxpayers paid £1. 15s. 11 ¾ d.
1524 — 39 taxpayers paid £5. 15s. 3d.
1603 — 240 adults
1674 — 88 households
1676 — 251 adults
1801 — 516 inhabitants
1831 — 577 inhabitants
1851 — 589 inhabitants
1871 — 506 inhabitants
1901 — 358 inhabitants
1931 — 318 inhabitants
1951 — 219 inhabitants
1971 — 179 inhabitants
1981 — 236 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £16. 13s. 4d.
Portion of parson of St. James of Lindsey 10s.
£7. 3s. 4d.

1291 Valued £8
Portion of St James 15s. £8. 15s. 0d.

1535 Valued £8. 1s. 8d.

1831 Not recorded

1838 37 acres 3R 24P glebe. Modus £457 p.a.

1844 50 acres glebe

1912 Nett value £221. 12 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Adam Winthrop (1562), John Wintroppe (1603), J.W. Willett (1844), Representatives of Rev. J.S. Hallifax (1873), Major G.A. Fitzgerald (1912)

- 11. Church St Bartholomew**
(Chancel, Nave, aisles, S. porch, W. Tower)
- 12th cent. Lower part of tower, remainder (15/16th cent.)
 15/16th cent. Main structure
 1912 Restoration to nave roof
- Seats:** 80 appropriated, 120 free (1873)
- 12. Nonconformity etc:**
- 1676 4 nonconformists
- 13. Manorial:**
- Groton Manor**
- 1066/1086 Manor of 1 ½ carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds.
 11/12th cent. Leased to Robert de Cokefeld
 1286 Ownership determined by duel between Abbot and Cokefeld (Abbot lost)
 1292 Geoffrey de Bellomonte owns (linked to Boxford and Assington)
 1544 Adam Winthrop owns
 1804 Sir William Rowley owns (linked to Stoke by Nayland, Polstead, Nayland and Boxford)
- Sub Manors:**
- Castelins/Castelyns**
- 1293/94 Sir Gilbert Chastelym died seised
 1381/82 Robert Knyvet owns (linked to Gt. Waldingfield)
 1508 Clopton family owns (linked to Gt. Waldingfield, Melford, and Boxford)
 1897 Thomas B. Worters owns
- 14. Markets/Fairs**
- 15. Real property:**
- 1844 £1,719 rental value
 1891 £2,251 rateable value
 1912 £1,685 rateable value
- 16. Land ownership:**
- 1844-1912 Land sub divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680 3 gents recorded
1844 I. Strutt
1912 G.P. Dawson JP

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 8 weavers, 2 shearmen (one who cuts woollen cloth), 1 pedder (maker of panniers/baskets or a pedlar), 3 clothmakers, 1 fuller (additional information for this group from 'The springs of Lavenham' by B. McClenaghham)

1550-1599 3 yeomen, 1 rope maker, 3 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 1 spinster, 1 mason 1 clothier, 1 knacker, 1 brickmaker, 1 pedder

1600-1649 3 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 2 woollen weavers, 1 tallow chandler, 5 weavers, 1 labourer, 1 cooper, 2 clothiers, 1 butcher, 1 schoolmaster, 1 clothworker, 1 tailor, 1 thatcher

1650-1699 4 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 2 maltsters, 2 bakers, 1 spinster, 1 grocer, 3 inn holders, 1 blacksmith, 3 butchers, 1 farmer, 1 mercer, 1 wheelwright

1831 89 in agriculture, 52 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 2 in labouring, 18 domestic service, 4 others

1844 8 farmers, 2 maltsters, tailor, 3 shoemakers, glover, baker, plumber/ glazier, brickmaker, beerhouse keeper, wheelwright, shopkeeper, blacksmith, publican, harness maker

1912 Teacher, 8 farmers, blacksmiths, publican

19. Education:

1600-1649 1 schoolmaster recorded

1818 1 Sunday school (54 attend)

1833 1 daily school (18 attend), 1 Sunday school (26 girls taught gratuitously)
Parochial school built (1852) (60 attend)
Public Elementary school built (1854), average attendance (1912) 53, closed (1934)
Children attend Boxford or Edwardstone
Newbourn School: Private school at Groton House (1953)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£254. 19s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£289. 9s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£480. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£529. 9s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£603. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£442. 13s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Doggett's Charity:

1671 Deed bequeathed by Jon Doggett: 1 ½ acres called Powers let at £1. 15s. p.a. applied to bread

Moore's Charity Land:

1650 Bequered by William Moore: 14 acres in Boxford let at £16 p.a. shared equally with Boxford. Applied with poor rate

Charles Worters:

1887 Bequest of Charles Worters: Interested of £200 distributed annually in coals on Christmas Eve

Almshouses:

1702 4 tenements with gardens repaired at parish expense. Sold (1915) and money applied to charity

22. Other institutions:

1524 Guild of St. Margaret
1776 Workhouse (30 inmates)
1803 Friendly Society (41 members)
1956 Small Hall occupied by Womens Insitute

23. Recreation:

1650-1699 3 inn holders recorded
1844 The Fox and Hounds public house, 1 beer house
1891/1912 The Fox and Hounds public house

24. Personal:

Rev. A.B. Bird: Author of 'Short illustrated guide' (1956)

John Winthrop: (1588-1649) owned Groton Manor. Became JP when just 18 years. Emigrated to America (1630). 1st Governor of Colony of Massachusetts

25. Other information:

'Life and Government in a small parish: Gorton Parish Meeting Books 1695-1811' by Miss J. Robinson (1974)

Pythches Mount situated in Groton Park. Motte 200' in diameter at base. Formerly asurounded by fosse. Damaged by gravel digging

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest in 1844

Transcript of 1851 census in parish folder (R0)

Groton House used as a church training centre for lay people (1877)

Whipping post in existence (1798)

Village pound used as collecting point for stray animals, in derelict state (1956)

Groton Wood acquired by Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation (1974), covers some 50 acres

'Groton Wood' by E.M. Grice. East Anglian Magazine Vol.33 p. 642

'Groton Wood' by E. Milne Redhead. East Anglian Magazine Vol. 34 p.266

Groton house wrecked by fire (1981)

'Groton Parish Registers (1704-1812)'

'Groton, Suffolk: A Short Illustrated Guide' (1956)

'Life on a Suffolk Manor in 16th and 17th Centuries by E. Hardy. Suffolk Review (New Series) No. p.20

'America Began Here'. East Anglian Monthly (13-24) No. 15

Archaeological Sites:

Med. motte (CRN 5796)

Med. moated site (CRN 5797)

Church of St. Bartholomew (CRN 5798)

Stray finds:

Neo. axe (CRN 1826)

Pal. axe (CRN 1955)

Med. dress fitting (CRN 5799)