

1. Parish: Layham

Meaning: Sheltered meadow/enclosure

2. Hundred: Cosford

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

Union: Cosford

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

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1884, 1935. Gained part of
Shelley and lost part to Shelley 1884.
Ecclesiastical boundary change 1933,
Part transferred to Polstead 1935
Cosford Petty Sessional Division
Hadleigh County Court

3. Area: 2,521 acres land, 10 acres water (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion
 - b. Stoneless clay soils, in places calcareous, variably affected by groundwater, risk of flooding

5. Types of farming:

1086		29 acres meadow, wood for 10 pigs, 1 mill 2 cobs, 35 cattle, 51 pigs, 280 sheep, 42 goats
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, dairying and pig keeping
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations in crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main Crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, oats, 360 acres meadow
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958/1973 River Brett flows across parish N–S
Small compact development on eastern boundary and to east of river.
Church separately situated to west of settlement and river
Secondary settlement along Overbury Hall Road. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 66, 1801 – 50, 1851 –119, 1871 –120,
1901 –114, 1951 –114, 1981 –221

8. Communications:

Road: To Hadleigh, Polstead, Shelley and Raydon
1891 Carriers pass through to Stoke by Nayland on Mondays
1912 Carrier to Ipswich on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 1½ miles to Hadleigh Station: Bentley–Hadleigh line,
opened 1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for goods
1965

Water: River Brett

9. Population:

1086 – 67 recorded
1327 – 27 taxpayers paid £1 10s. 2d.
1524 – 48 taxpayers paid £3
1603 – 123 adults (includes Raydon)
1674 – 67 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 471 inhabitants
1831 – 522 inhabitants
1851 – 577 inhabitants
1871 – 542 inhabitants
1901 – 464 inhabitants
1931 – 387 inhabitants
1951 – 359 inhabitants
1971 – 537 inhabitants
1981 – 630 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Portion of rector £13 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £6
1535 Valued £16 0s. 7½d.
Good rectory house built 1790, enlarged 1937
1831 Glebe House. Gross income £837 p.a.

17 acres 1R 29P glebe. Modus of £800 p.a. in lieu of
tithes 1840
1912 Nett value £472 p.a. 71 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Henry Stapleton (1603), St Johns College, Cambridge (1831–)

11. Church **St. Andrews**
(Chancel, vestry, nave, S.porch, W. tower)

1086 Church and 40 acres land, 1 acre meadow, 1 plough
14th cent. Main Structure
1643 Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) removed 6
superstitious pictures and cross from steeple
Brick tower 1742, altered c.1800, replaces brick
tower of c.1300 – tower arch remains
1861, 1886 Restorations
Note: W. wall of nave (S. side) scooped out forming shelf
for dole bread)

Seats: 136 appropriated, 164 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

4 popish recusants

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 4 carucates held by Aelfric Kemp
1086 Manor of 4 carucates held by Eudo the Steward
1066 Manor of 3 carucates held by Alfnoth from Harold
1086 Manor of 3 carucates held by Hugh of Grandmesmil

Layham Hall/Netherbury Hall

13th cent. Hugh de Despencer owns
1327 Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent owns (linked to
Kersey)
1338 Crown Property
c.1426 Sir Henry Gray owns (linked to Kersey)
c.1442 Sir John de Tiptoft
c.1544 Manor appears to be subdivided
1544 John Clarke/Clerke owns
c.1622 John Hodges owns
c.1640 D'Oyley family owns (linked to Hadleigh and Kersey)
1855 Rev. Richard Daniel owns (linked to Lindsey and
Wattisham)

Sub-Manors:

Overbury Hall

13 th cent. c.1305	Sir Peter de Layham owns Robert de Reydon owns (linked to Newton, Wherstead and Woolverstone)
1357	Sir Andrew de Bures owns (linked to Raydon and Wherstead)
c.1362	Sir Richard de Sutton owns
1462	Sir John Howard owns (Stoke by Nayland, Preston, Cockfield and Lavenham)
1466	Sir William Bouchier owns (linked to Bildeston, Shelland and Hopton)
16 th cent. 1577	Henry D'Oyley owns Consisted of 4 messuages, 2 mills, 267 acres pasture, arable and meadow. Absorbed by main manor

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 – £3,722 rental value
1891 – £3,638 rateable value
1912 – £2,946 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

	Mr. Hodges and Thomas Warren 1679
1844	Rev. H.H. Hughes BD
1891	J.F.T. Dipnell JP, Mrs Arnold, T.E. Adams
1912	Major E.F. Gales JP, Sir Joshua T. Rowley JP and Rev. F.D.Thomson MA

18. Occupations:

1500– 1549	2 husbandmen
1550–1599	9 husbandmen, 2 carpenters
1600–1649	7 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 1 parson
1650–1699	8 yeoman, 1 wheelwright, 1 spinster, 1 farmer
1831	112 in agriculture, 24 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 2 in labouring, 34 in domestic service, 4 others
1844	2 butchers, corn miller, carpenter/shopkeeper, 2 shopkeepers, boot/shoemaker, bricklayer, 3 victuallers, wheelwright, 2 blacksmiths, 13 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, carpenter, 13 farmers, 2 publicans, farm bailiff, wheelwright, medical officers at

Cottage Hospital, asst. overseer, dressmaker, harness maker, miller, carrier, white and red brick/drain tile manufacture (disused since 1950s), market gardener, pork butcher, thatcher, shopkeeper, hardware dealer

19. Education:

1818 1 daily school (44 attend), 1 Sunday school (55 attend)
1833 4 daily schools (79 attend, 11 places assisted, 1 Sunday school (49 attend)
National School built 1840, enlarged 1872, 80 attend 1891
Public Elementary school built (1842), average attendance 1912 56

20. Poor relief:

1776 £232 5s. 6d.
1803 £236 5s. 7¼d.
1818 £1,332 5s.
1830 £1,001 13s.
1832 £851 15s.
1834 £752 17s.

21. Charities:

Bakers Charity: 1727 by will of Rev. William Baker: Interest on £30 for distribution of bread

22. Other institutions:

3 Friendly Societies (99 members)
Hadleigh and District Cottage Hospital converted from private dwelling 1910 contains 3 beds 1912
Womens Institute records 1947–1982
Hadleigh and Layham Nursing Association accounts 1938–1950

23. Recreation:

1844 The Queens Head, the Cherry Tree and the Marquis of Cornwallis public houses
1891/1912 The Queens Head and the Marquis of Cornwallis public houses

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Water corn mill and fulling mill in existence 1722.

Overbury Hall: 16th cent. building, restored 1871.

Seat placed on Brett Green in memory of Robert Samuel Attwell, chairman of Brett Green Residents Association 1968–1974.

Earliest date recorded for Layham mill 1531 although believed to have occupied site since c.1086. Present building was originally 5 storeyed timber building, destroyed by fire 1904 when present building was erected. Ceased commercial use c.1945, recommenced 1977.