1. Parish: Kentford

Meaning: Ford over River Kennett

2. Hundred: Risbridge (part), Lackford (part)

Deanery: Clare (–1884), Thurlow (1884–1916), Newmarket (1916–1972), Mildenhall (1972–)

Union: Mildenhall


Other administrative details:

Newmarket Petty Sessional Division
Mildenhall County Court District

3. Area: 800 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

a. Well drained, coarse and fine loam soils, shallow calcareous coarse loam over chalk or chalk rubble
b. Deep non-calcareous loam soils in places
c. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion

5. Types of farming:


1818 Marshall: Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, seeds, turnips, rye
1969 Trist: Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots

6. Enclosure:

1827 798 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1826

7. Settlement:

1958 Small compact development around cross junction of roads to Herringswell and Gazeley. Main Bury St
Edmunds to Newmarket Road serves as the main street through the village although the A45 bypass (opened 1975) takes traffic away to the north of the settled area. Church centrally situated. Gravel pits and heathland occupy northern sector of parish. River Kennett forms natural boundary to west. Scattered farms.


**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** Main Bury St Edmunds to Newmarket Road and roads to Herringswell and Gazeley. A45 bypass opened 1975

1891 Carriers pass through to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday

**Rail:** 1891 – ½ mile Kennett station: Cambridge–Bury St Edmunds line opened 1846/54, still in operation

**Water:** River Kennett

**9. Population:**

1086 – not listed
1327 – 25 taxpayers paid £4 4s. 9¼d (includes Gazeley and Nedeham)
1524 – 23 taxpayers paid £2 4s. 2d.
1603 – not listed
1674 – 22 households
1676 – 44 adults
1801 – 120 inhabitants
1831 – 173 inhabitants
1851 – 172 inhabitants
1871 – 192 inhabitants
1901 – 225 inhabitants
1931 – 249 inhabitants
1951 – 244 inhabitants
1971 – 203 inhabitants
1981 – 169 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (consolidated with Gazeley)**

1254 Portion of vicar of Gazeley £5
1291 Not recorded
1535 Valued £7 3s. 4d.
1831 No glebe house. 1 curate, stipend £103 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Spixworth, Norfolk Tithes commuted for £180 p.a. 1843

Joint value £340 1873

1912 Joint value £190 p.a. + 4 acres glebe and residence (in Gazeley)
Patrons: Trinity Hall, Cambridge

11. Church St Mary
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

14th cent. Main structure
1643 Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) ordered cross and pictures taken down
Late 17th cent S. porch
1877 Restoration

Seats: 150 (1831)

12. Nonconformity etc:
1912 Mission Hall listed

13. Manorial:

Kennett and Kentford al Kennett al Kentford (in Kedington)

13th Cent. Roger Bigot died seised 1278
1461 John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk owns
1478 Sir William Berkeley owns
1560 Sir William Petrie owns
c.1717 Barnardiston family owns (linked to Kedington)
1759 Jon Williams owns
1777 Oliver Godfrey owns
1909 Capt. G.H. Pering owns

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £620 rental value
1891 £2,568 rateable value
1912 £1,589 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680 1 gent
1912 Lady de Bathe

18. Occupations:

1550–1549 2 yeoman, 1 parish priest
1550–1599 1 yeoman
1600–1649 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 tailor
1650–1699 1 wool comber, 3 yeoman, 1 cordwainer, 1 tanner, 1 innkeeper
1831 31 in agriculture, 3 in retail trade, 1 in labouring, 8 in domestic service, 4 others
1844 Victualler, schoolmaster, shopkeeper, blacksmith, 2 farmers, poulterer
1912 Sub–postmaster, schoolmistress, 2 publicans, horse slaughterer, boot dealer, 2 shopkeepers, horse trainer, head gardener, teacher of music, 2 farm bailiffs, builder

19. Education:

1577–1596 Licence to Mr Morland to teach boys and youths the Art of Grammar and to read the same in the chapel of Kentford
1818 1 Sunday school (12 attend)
1833 1 Sunday school (16 attend)
1844 Schoolmaster listed
1891 United with Gazeley for educational purposes
1912 School built 1892, supported by voluntary contributions 1912 (26 attend), school closed c.1945

20. Poor relief:

1776 £19 6s. 3d.
1803 £31 16s. 2d.
1818 £103 13s.
1830 £110 17s.
1832 £120 6s.
1834 £120 2s.

21. Charities:

Town/Poors Land:

1827 by Indenture at enclosure: Allotments of 14 acres 1R 17P let for 5 years at Peppercorn rent to J. Wellsman (the churchwardens being embarrassed for funds to fence and husband the land). At expiration of lease churchwardens were charged to let the land and distribute rents among the most deserving poor.

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St John Baptist 1389

23. Recreation:

1650–1699 1 innkeeper recorded
1844 The Cock and The Fox and Bull Inn (unoccupied) public houses
1891–1912 The Old Cock Inn and The Fox and Ball public houses

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Boys Grave: Situated at cross roads, 2 theories a) it is the grave of a shepherd boy who committed suicide or b) it is the grave of a gypsy boy. Tended regularly by unknown persons

Report of excavation of 2 round barrows by H.A. Martin in East Anglian Archaeology no, 1 p.12.