

**1. Parish: CAVENDISH**

**Meaning:** Cafa's pastures

**2. Hundred:** Babergh

**Deanery:** Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Western) (1864–1884), Clare (1884–)

**Union:** Sudbury

**RDC/UDC:** (W Suffolk) Melford RD (1894–1935), Clare RD (1835–1974)  
St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

**Other administrative details:**

Melford Petty Sessional Division  
Sudbury County Court District

**3. Area:** 3,346 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Some slowly permeable calcareous clay soils, some non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion.
- b. Small amount deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel.
- c. Very small amount of permeable coarse loam soil with groundwater.

**5. Types of farming:**

|           |             |  |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| 1086      |             | Wood for 10 pigs, 28 cattle, 1 horse, 65 pigs, 156 sheep, 2 mills.   |
| 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, beans, peas, oats and root crops.   |
| 1969      | Trist:      | More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet, Better loams attract orchard and soft fruit growers.   |

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1953 River Stour forms southern boundary with railway following this line. Moderate sized settlement spaced along Clare – Long Melford road. Boundaries to development appear to be the river crossing to the east and the Green to the west. Church, Hall and Rectory all situated adjacent to the Green. Some scattered farms.  
**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 136, 1801 – 189, 1851 – 276, 1871 – 305, 1901 – 220, 1951 – 223, 1981 – 360

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Clare, Long Melford, Pentlow and Glemsford  
1844 Carrier to London via Clare on Monday and Thursday  
1891 Carrier to Sudbury on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
1912 Railway carrier

**Rail:** 1891 Cavendish station: Sudbury–Haverhill line, opened 1865 closed for good 1964, closed for passengers 1967

**Water:** River Stour: navigable c.1724. Toll-tables for 1741 and 1750 list goods transported. Declined around 1860 Navigation Company went into voluntary liquidation 1913

**9. Population:**

1086 – 33 recorded  
1327 – 48 taxpayers paid £ 4 14s. 4d.  
1524 – 70 taxpayers paid £14 2s. 6d.  
1603 – approx 300 adults  
1674 – 152 households  
1676 – 583 adults  
1801 – 1,042 inhabitants  
1831 – 1,214 inhabitants  
1851 – 1,394 inhabitants  
1871 – 1,388 inhabitants  
1901 – 897 inhabitants  
1931 – 716 inhabitants  
1951 – 638 inhabitants  
1971 – 878 inhabitants  
1981 – 973 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

|      |  |              |
|------|--|--------------|
| 1254 | Portion of Rector £13 6s. 8d.<br>Portion of Prior of Hertford £2<br>Portion of Prior of Stokes £2 10s. | £17 16s. 8d. |
| 1291 | Valued £28<br>Portions as above £7   | £35 0s. 0d.  |
| 1535 | Valued £26   |              |
| 1674 | Parsonage has 6 hearths  |              |
| 1831 | Glebe house. Gross income £551 p.a.<br>Valued £547 1835  |              |
| 1844 | Good residence. 61 acres 31P glebe   |              |
| 1912 | Nett value £485. 72 acres glebe and residence  |              |

Patrons: Jesus College, Cambridge (1831–)

**11. Church: St Mary (approx 91' long)**

(Chancel, clerestorial nave of 5 bays, aisles, S Porch, embattled tower)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1086                                     | Church + 30 acres free land                 |
| 1381                                     | Chancel built by will of Sir John Cavendish |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> cent.                   | W tower, S porch                            |
| 1471                                     | Money left in will for S aisle              |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> cent. | 5 bay arcade                                |
| 1865                                     | Restoration began, completed 1869           |
| 1869                                     | Chancel and tower restored                  |

**Seats:** 400 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1676      | 9 nonconformists, 1 suspected recusant   |
| 1703–1842 | 17 houses set aside for worship<br>Independent chapel enlarged 1853 (no dates for building)<br>Congregational chapel and lecture hall 1908 |

**13. Manorial:**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1066 | Manor of 2 carucates belonging to King Edward and held by Norman |
| 1086 | Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Ralph of Limesay               |

**Overhall Manor**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> cent. | Lands divided between Sir Hugh de Odyngseles and David de Lindsey |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> cent. | Rejoined under de Odyngasele family                               |

- c.1370 Sir John Cavendish owns (linked to Pentlow, Fakenham, Aspes and Saxham)
- 1569 Robert Downes of London owns
- 1622 Sir Stephen Soames owns (linked to Bures St Mary)
- 1679–1791 Sold frequently till Thomas Ruggles acquires after which there is some confusion as to ownership

### **Sub-Manors:**

#### **De Greys/Colts Hall**

- No dates Passes from de Odingsels to Sir John de Grey (linked to Little and Great Cornard)
- 1321 Valued £10 13s. 4d. Consists of 1 messuage, 1 carucate 60 acres Land, 1 acre meadow (appears linked to Little Cornard and Preston)
- 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Lady Bardolph owns
- 1402 Robert, Lord Poynings owns (linked to Wiston and Bures)
- 1404 Designated part of Duchy of Lancaster
- 18th cent. Appears to be in the Jennens family ownership (linked to Acton)
- 1905 Earl Howe owns (linked to Newton and Acton)

#### **Netherhall**

- C13 Consists of approx 2 messuages, 1 carucate land, 10 acres meadow, 14 acres pasture, 32 acres wood and held by Henry de Pynkeneye
- c.1350 William de Genevill owns 51 acres land, 1½ acres pasture and 2½ acres Wood
- 1437 Thomas Andrew died seised
- 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Wentworth family owns
- 1615 Sir Stephen Soame owns (absorbed by main manor)
- 1855 Yelloby family owns (appears absorbed by main manor although There is some confusion)

#### **Newhall**

- 1463 Richard, Duke of York owns a third part
- 1475 Thomas Colt died seised (absorbed by de Greys)

#### **Houghton Hall**

- 1548 Sir John Wentworth owns (linked/absorbed by Netherhall)
- 1706 Sir Thomas Robinson owns (linked to Monks Melford and Cockfield)
- 1706 John Moore owns (linked to Long Melford, Lavenham, Glemsford and Cockfield)
- 1847 Charles Heigham owns followed by George H Goodchild 1885

### **Bulley Hall**

c.1314 Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford owns  
1409 John Bottiller owns passing to Cavendish family c.1435  
c.1482 Wentworth family owns (absorbed by Netherhall)

### **Impey or Impsey Hall/Quipsey Hall**

c.1381 Sir John Cavendish owns (absorbed by main manor)

### **Kensings/Kessings Hall**

1398 Passes in the same way as Impsey Hall to  
Richard de Cornerth owns (linked to Gt. and Lt. Cornard and Bures)  
1599 Colt family owns (absorbed by de Greys)

### **Peytons**

1298 John de Peyton owns (linked to Gt. Waldingfield, Stoke by Nayland and  
Boxford)  
c.1475 Colt family owns (absorbed by de Greys)

### **Peche's/Peychy's**

No date John Peche owns  
13<sup>th</sup> cent. John de Peyton owns (absorbed by Peytons)  
1463 Richard, Duke of York died seised  
c.1475 Colt family owns (absorbed by de Greys)

### **More Hall**

1609 Edward Copley owns (nothing more known)

### **Collingham Hall**

c.1381 Sir John Cavendish owns (absorbed by main manor)  
1484 Granted as part of endowment of chantry in St Bartholomew  
The Less (Fry Chantry), London  
1609 Said to pass to Governors of Free School in Bury St Edmunds

### **Stansfield Hall**

1637 Richard Abbott owns (nothing more known)

## **14. Market/Fair:**

1844 Fair for cattle etc, held on June 11<sup>th</sup> and fair for pleasure on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>  
Obsolete by 1891

**15. Real Property:**

1844 – £4,406 rental value  
1891 – £4,406 rateable value  
1912 – £3,684 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land always sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1356 Sir Andrew Cavendish, High Sheriff of Suffolk  
1680 2 gents listed  
1686 Cavendish, Colt, Major Matthew Cracherode and Sir William Peake  
1844 Rev. T. Castley MA  
1912 Councillor B.M. Gausson

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 2 clothmakers ('The Springs of Lavenham' by B McClenaghan)  
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 8 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 5 clothiers, 2 weavers, 1 miller,  
1 butcher, 1 fuller, 2 clothmakers, 1 blacksmith, 1 labourer  
1600–1649 14 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 7 clothiers, 1 maltster,  
1 weaver, 2 shoemakers, 2 millers, 1 blacksmith, 4 labourers,  
1 saymaker, 1 clerk, 1 servant  
1650–1699 11 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 tailor, 4 clothiers, 1 butcher,  
1 blacksmith, 2 saymakers, 1 wool comber, 1 say weaver,  
2 inn holders, 2 websters (female weavers), 1 glover, 1 draper,  
1 carpenter, 1 baker  
1831 152 in agriculture, 124 in retail trade, 3 in manufacturing,  
7 professionals, 1 in labouring, 19 in domestic service, 30 others  
1844 2 butchers, bricklayer, beerhouse keeper, carrier, watch/clock  
maker, 2 cabinet makers, 2 bakers, ironmonger, watch cleaner,  
glover/breeches maker, plumber/glazier, collar/harness maker,  
surgeon, 4 publicans, 4 teachers, 4 blacksmiths, 4 grocer/drapers,  
8 farmers, 2 joiners, 2 maltster/millers, 4 shoemakers, 2 tailors,  
2 wheelwrights  
1912 2 teachers, Certifying Factory Surgeon, Medical Officer, parish clerk,  
police constable, station master, postmaster, 5 farmers, baker,

wheelwright, railway carrier, watchmaker/jeweller, boarding house owner, clerk, 5 butchers, grocer, gardener, hand laundry, baker/grocer, hotel owner, 2 farm bailiffs, cabinet maker, cattle dealer, miller/maltster, builder/carpenter/undertaker, hairdresser/painter, cycle agent, currier, water miller, beer retailer, surgeon, glove maker, blacksmith, 2 shoemakers, harness maker, gardener  
 1970's Vineyard established at Netherhall by B. Ambrose

**19. Education:**

1671–1792 3 schoolmaster/tutors listed  
 1696 Free grammar school founded by Rev. Mr Grey 1696 for instruction of 15 boys. 34 attend 1818, 20 free pupils 1844 Boarding for 20 (15 free) in 1891 when it was said to be crippled for want of funds  
 1818 2 boarding and day schools (17 attend)  
 5 small parish schools (124 attend), 2 Sunday schools (40 attend)  
 1833 2 daily schools (23 attend), 1 Sunday school (40 attend)  
 1844 4 Academies  
 National school built 1863 on The Green. Enlarged 1883 and 1899. Average attendance 1912 130.  
 1891 Lecture Hall rented as British School (coffee room, reading room and library attached)  
 1912 Blackland (Congregational) school, average attendance 50, closed 1927 used as Memorial Hall 1959

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £281 0s. 7d.  
 1803 £1,020 0s. 11½d.  
 1818 £1,993  
 1830 £1,753 12s.  
 1832 £1,618 14s.  
 1834 £1,272 10s.

**21. Charities:**

**Greys Charity:**

1696 Indentures by Rev Thomas Grey to establish free school and apprenticing (apprenticing had ceased by 1891)

**22. Other institutions:**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1776    | Workhouse (30 inmates) situated N side of Stour Street, formerly Workhouse Street. Accounts date from 1758 |
| 1803    | 2 Friendly Societies (39 members)  |
| 1912    | Police station, reading room and Institute   |
| No date | Cavendish Preservation Society<br>3 Town houses burned down 1971, rebuilt 1972                             |

### 23. Recreation:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1650–1699 | 2 inn holders listed                                       |
| 1844      | 1 beerhouse, 4 public houses                               |
| 1891      | Cocoa house keeper, 5 public houses, 1 beerhouse           |
| 1912      | 1 hotel, 3 public houses, 1 beer retailer                  |
| 1914–1918 | Cinema closed 1960, occupies site of former Grammar school |

### 24. Personal:

Sir John Cavendish 14<sup>th</sup> cent.: Chief Justice of the Court of the Kings Bench. Beheaded at Bury St Edmunds by rabble incited after Wat Tyler's rebellion 1381  
'Cavendish Recollections 1820–1894' by John Braybrooke

### 25. Other information:

Cavendish is noted for its splendid Green.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.

Houses situated by river flooded to depth of 'some feet' 1850.

'Bygone Cavendish' by Rev. J.D. Barnard 1951.

Overhall: known locally as 'Pockey Hall' in reference to its use as isolation

hospital for smallpox victims c.1767.

Wat Tyler Rebellion: mob sacked and burned mansion of Sir John Cavendish 1381

Church Cottages restored and administered by George Savage Trust as homes for the elderly c.1954.

Village has won Best Kept Village award on several occasions.



5 thatched almshouses known as Hyde Park Corner ravaged by fire 1971. Renovated by the Savage Trust

Village sign unveiled by Duke of Devonshire 1979.

Six council bungalows opened by Mayor of St Edmundsbury District Council 1976.

B. Ambrose established vineyard at Netherhall (1972) (Cavendish Manor Wine). This is open to the public together with house and gardens + camping facilities (House is Elizabethan)

Sue Ryder Foundation: Museum opened by Queen Mother 1979 at Sue Ryder Foundation Headquarters, situated at Old Rectory from 1953. Sue Ryder Home extended 1976.

'Old House of Overhall', PSIA Vol. VIII, p.261. Part demolished 16<sup>th</sup> cent. reduced to farmhouse.

'Cavendish Church', PSIA Vol. VIII, p.263.

'Pottery Vessel found at Cavendish', PSIA Vol. XXVI, p.58.