

1. Parish: Cavenham

Meaning: Cafa's enclosure or pasture

2. **Hundred:** Lackford

Deanery: Fordwich (–1862), Fordwich (Suffolk)(1862–1884), Mildenhall (1884–)

Union: Thetford

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Brandon RD (1894–1934), Mildenhall RD (1934–1974), Forest Heath DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Lackford Petty Sessional Division
Mildenhall County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,343 acres land, 9 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Well drained chalk and fine loam over chalk rubble. Some deep non-chalk loam in places, slight risk water erosion
- b. Some calcareous sandy soils, some acid under heath/ woodland, risk of wind erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		4 mills
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep–corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
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:	Rye, barley, wheat, oats.
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:**

1773	Approximately 1,100 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1772
1802	1,041 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1801

7. Settlement:

1958 River Lark forms northern boundary. Possible line of road to Temple Bridge. Very small settlement on edge of Cavenham Park which may have influenced Development. Church situated to south of settlement.
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 26, 1801 – 29, 1851 – 53, 1871 – 47. 1901 – 36, 1951 – 37, 1981 – 34

8. Communications:

Roads: To Icklingham, Tuddenham and Lackford
Line of Icknield Way runs through parish
1891 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 2¾ miles from Higham station: Newmarket–Bury St Edmunds line, opened 1854, closed for goods 1964, station closed for passengers 1967.

Water: River Lark: River Lark Navigation Scheme 1889–1901

Air: Airfield opened in parish for RAF 1943 ('K' type dummy airfield)
USAF missile base 1945, in use as gravel quarry 1965

9. Population:

1086 – 32 recorded
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £2 3s. 6d.
1524 – 25 taxpayers paid £1 5s. 4d.
1603 – 80 adults
1674 – 32 households
1676 – 103 adults
1801 – 190 inhabitants
1831 – 261 inhabitants
1851 – 283 inhabitants
1871 – 210 inhabitants
1901 – 147 inhabitants
1931 – 136 inhabitants
1951 – 120 inhabitants
1971 – 121 inhabitants
1981 – 97 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage 1831, Discharged Vicarage 1844

1254 Valued £10

1291 Portion to monks of Stokes (Stoke by Clare) £1 16s. £11 16s. 0d.
 Valued £13 6s. 8d.
 1535 Valued £ 5 5s. 10d.
 17th cent. Held in plurality with Tuddenham
 1831 1 curate, stipend £40 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation
 Gross income £113 p.a.
 1844 At enclosure vicarial tithes commuted for allotment of 350 acres let at
 £120 p.a.
 298 acres glebe (include Higham) 1887
 United with Tuddenham 1920s

Patrons: The King (1603), The Crown (1831), Lord Chancellor (1918)

11. Church: St Andrew
 (Chancel, Nave, S Porch, W Tower)

1086 Church + 60 acres free land
 13th cent. Original structure. Chancel has suggestion of possible 2 storey
 W porch with chamber over
 14th/15th cent. Main structure
 1870 Restoration
 1977 Under threat of redundancy

Seats: 150 (1918)

11a. Other religious institutions:

House of Knights Templars: Togrynd

1311 Recorded that Preceptor of Cavenham had been responsible for a
 reprise of 5s. 11d. to Priory of Stoke by Clare from the mills in
 Cavenham and Twygrynd.

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

Cavenham al Canham

11th/12th cent. Gilbert de Clare owns (linked to Lakenheath, Herringswell, Sudbury,
 Milden, Chilton and Cavendish) passing by marriage and inheritance
 To the Earls of Stafford
 1590 Thomas Bedingfield owns (linked to Eriswell, Tuddenham, Hoxne,
 Eye, Gislingham, Redlingfield, Stoke Ash and Stuston)
 1618 Sir Edmund Lewkener died seised (linked to Downham and Denham)

18th cent. Marquis of Cornwallis owns (linked to Hartismere manors)
1811 Henry Spencer Waddington owns

14. Market/Fair:

15. Real Property:

1844 – £1,178 rental value
1891 – £962 rateable value
1912 – £1,142 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Harry Spencer Waddington, principal owner
1891 Harry Spencer Waddington, principal owner
1912 A.B.H. Goldschmidt JP, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1813 Henry Spencer Waddington MP, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1912 A.B.H. Goldschmidt JP, Lt. Col. B.E. Spragge DSO, J.P. & G. Wood JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 husbandman
1550–1599 2 husbandmen, 1 shepherd, 3 yeomen, 1 vicar
1600–1649 6 husbandmen, 1 shepherd, 1 tailor, 3 yeomen, 3 labourers,
1 herdsman
1650–1699 1 cooper, 2 husbandmen, 1 miller, 4 shepherds, 5 yeomen,
3 labourers
1831 54 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 1 professional, 17 in domestic
service
1844 Shoemaker, corn miller, steward, 2 shopkeepers, joiner/builder,
Farmer/beerhouse keeper, maltster, 2 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, farm bailiff, head gardener,
estate foreman, head gamekeeper, beer retailer, electrical engineer,
shopkeeper

19. Education:

1818 1 day school (20/26 attend)
1833 1 daily school (24 attend)
School built 1871 50 attend, enlarged 1905, average attendance
1912 31

20. Poor relief:

1776	£19 8s. 6d.
1803	£111 12s. 1d.
1818	£268 14s.
1830	£185 15s.
1832	£200 9s.
1834	£187 8s.

21. Charities:

Church Land:

1840 13 acres let at £19 10s. p.a. applied to churchwardens accounts

Firmage's Charity/ Poor's Allotment:

1591	Bequest of W Firmage: 1 acre land let a £1 p.a. to the churchwardens.
1840	80 acres allotment let to poor upon enclosure in lieu of their rights to cut fuel on Cavenham Heath, let at £22 p.a. Rents distributed to poor at Easter.

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St Andrew, St Mary, Holy Trinity 1389 and St John Baptist 1446
Village Hall built 1903 by A.B.H. Goldschmidt

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 1 beerhouse/retailer
Bury Pistol Club Shooting Range 1982

24. Personal:

Sir Thomas Tuddenham convicted of treason and beheaded 1461.
Sir Simon le Blanc 1748–1816: resident of parish, Norfolk circuit judge.
H.S. Waddington 1840–1870s: resident of Hal, MP for Bury St Edmunds.
A. Goldschmidt: grandfather of Sir James Goldsmith, Chairman of Cavenham Group PLC, and merchant banking family.

25. Other information:

Inquisition of Templars rents and property: mills at Cavenham called Twygrind 1308/09.

Cavenham Hall built 1898/99, demolished 1949.

Cavenham Heath National Nature Reserve established 1952.

'A squat ground axe from Cavenham', by T. Briscoe, PSIA Vol. 33, p.310.
Cavenham Brass', PSIA Vol XIX p.354.