

1. Parish: Eriswell

Meaning: Boar's stream

2. **Hundred:** Lackford

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

Union: Mildenhall

RDC/UDC: Mildenhall RD (–1974), Forest Heath DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Lackford Petty Sessional Division
Mildenhall County Court District

3. **Area:** 6.658 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Shallow well drained calcareous sand and coarse loam soils over chalk or chalk rubble, some similar deep sandy soils. Risk wind erosion
- b. Deep well drained sandy soil. Some very acid especially under heath/woodland. Risk wind erosion
- c. Some deep peat near river

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		2½ mills, 36 acres meadow, 2 fisheries, 4 horses at hall, 13 cattle, 20 pigs, 1,680 sheep.
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:	Barley oats, 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:**

1818 5,674 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1817

7. Settlement:

1958 Majority of parish consists of heath and warren. Western boundary follows line of Eriswell Lode and high fen. Small compact development on western edge of parish following line of Lakenheath road. Church situated on edge of development. Some scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 27, 1801 – 56, 1851 – 103, 1871 – 84, 1901 – 85, 1951 – 89, 1981 – 1,268

8. Communications:

Roads: To Icklingham and Lakenheath
1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 3 miles Mildenhall station: Ely–Norwich line, opened 1845, closed for goods 1966, unmanned halt 1967
Cambridge–Mildenhall line, opened 1885, closed for passengers 1962, closed for goods 1964. Mildenhall station now used as a private house.

9. Population:

1086 – 52 recorded (includes Coklesworth)
1327 – 21 taxpayers paid £4 17s. 6d.
1524 – approx. 31 taxpayers paid £1 15s. 2d. (membrane missing)
1603 – 120 adults
1674 – 37 households
1676 – 120 adults
1801 – 295 inhabitants
1831 – 403 inhabitants
1851 – 524 inhabitants
1871 – 407 inhabitants
1901 – 352 inhabitants
1931 – 293 inhabitants
1951 – 285 inhabitants
1971 – 3,278 inhabitants
1981 – 4,832 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Valued £13 6s. 8d. To manor of Cruce Roys (Royston, Herts) £5 Tithe of Abbot of Colchester £3	
		<u>£21 6s. 8d.</u>
1291	Valued £16 13s. 4d. Portion to Abbot of Colchester £3	<u>£19 13s. 4d.</u>

- 1340 Tithes of 3 mills 13s. Parsons total income £19 11s. 4d.
£3 deducted for annuity to Colchester Abbey
- 1535 Valued £16 6s. 10d.
Chantry with 3 lights within parish church founded by will
of Margaret Bedingfield (no date), valued at £10 17s. 4d.
Ceased to exist 1535/36
- 1677 Parsonage house, barns, stables, backhouse, outhouses,
garden, orchard, pasture and little yard – estate of 16
acres 1R (Terrier of Rectory)
- 1831 Glebe house. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Eccles by Sea,
Norfolk. Gross income £540 p.a.
- 1839 52 acres glebe. Modus of £640 18s. 11d. p.a.

Patrons: Henry Bedingfield (1603), J.B. Evans (1831), Thomas Evans
(1844), Viscount Iveagh (1918)

11. Church

St Lawrence

(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, N. porch, W. tower)

- 1086 1 church plus 60 acres(Coklesworth)
1 church plus 60 acres land
- 13th cent. S. aisle, S. chapel
- 14th cent. Main structure, chancel.
- 1874 Restoration

Seats: 250 (1831)

Note: St. Lawrence (district church for Coklesworth)

St Peter:

Ruin standing in grounds of Eriswell Hall (part of 2 walls
and 15th cent. Window) now used as farm building.
Masonry from this church has been reused at Lakenheath

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1712 1 house set aside for worship (said to have been missioned by
Congregationalists of Bury St Edmunds)
- 1839 Primitive Methodist chapel built (disused by 1891)
- 1843 Wesleyan chapel built
- 1882 Wesleyan Methodist chapel listed

13. Manorial:

- 1066 Manor of 6 carucates held by Godwin, a thane of King
Edward
- 1086 Manor of 6 carucates belonging to Eudo
- 1086 Manor of 6 carucates (outlier at Coclesworth –
Chambelains Hall) belonging to Eudo

Eriswell Manor

13th cent.	Held by Ralph de Rouetustre (Rochester) as of Honor of Boulogne
1460's	de Tuddenham family owns (linked to Cavenham) passing by inheritance to Bedingfield family Sometime after 1660's vested in Dean and Chapter of Ely
1829	New England Company owns (linked to Cavenham)
1869	Prince Duleep Singh owns (linked to Elveden)
1870	Lord Iveagh owns (linked to Elveden, Icklingham and Wangford)

Sub-Manors

Chamberlains

1460's	de Tuddenham family owns (absorbed by main manor)
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14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,839 rental value
1891	£2,598 rateable value
1912	£2,459 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	New England Company, Alex Murray principal owners plus several small owners
1869	Parish bought by Prince Duleep Singh and annexed to Elveden Estate
1912	Lord Iveagh, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844	Alexander Murray
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18. Occupations:

1550–1549	1 yeoman,
1550–1599	6 husbandmen, 1 shepherd, 3 yeomen, 3 rectors
1600–1649	2 husbandmen, 4 shepherds, 4 yeomen, 1 clerk
1650–1699	2 husbandmen, 4 shepherds, 2 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 1 blacksmith
1831	77 in agriculture, 11 in retail trade, 5 in labouring, 13 in domestic service, 9 others
1844	Tailor, schoolmistress, corn miller, wheelwright, joiner/builder, 2 victuallers, farm steward, bricklayer, butcher, 2 blacksmiths, 3 boot/shoemakers, 10 farmers, 2 shopkeepers

1912 Sub-postmaster, 3 school mistresses, police constable, miller, blacksmith, estate clerk, farm steward, haulier, estate nurse, publican, farmer, shop keeper, 2 farm bailiffs, tailor, beer retailer, clerk of works, teacher of music, under gamekeeper

19. Education:

1818 1 day school (40 attend)
1833 1 daily school supported by Society for Propagation of Gospel
Circa 1856 1 small free school built, supported by manor, later turned into village hall
1896 Public Elementary school rebuilt by Lord Iveagh, average attendance 51 1912

20. Poor relief:

1776 £62 14s. 8d.
1803 £241
1818 £506 2s.
1830 £421 16s.
1832 £316
1834 £341 14s.

21. Charities:

Poor's Estate:

1840 2 double cottages used as poor house.
Allotment of 15 acres 1R 2P let at £4 15s. p.a.
distributed to poor according to family size

Fisher & Griffin Gifts:

1712 by will of Samuel Fisher
1717 by will of Richard Griffin: £40 p.a. distributed to poor

22. Other institutions:

1474 Guild of St. John Baptist
1803 1 Friendly Society (12 members)
1893 Police officer listed
1896 Parish reading room, previously national school

23. Recreation:

1844 The Bell and The Chequers public houses
1891/1912 1 beer retailer, The Chequers public house

24. Personal:

Thomas de Tuddenham 1401–1461: born at Eriswell Hall, beheaded for treason

Miss Frances Philips: murdered, 2 men hanged for the crime 1782

James Paul 1804–1820: North American Indian brought to England and educated by New England Company. Apprenticed to Thomas Houghton, carpenter/builder

25. Other information:

Boundary change: Eriswell lost 500 acres of fen heath to Mildenhall 14th cent. Three Eriswell men fined 6s. 8d. each for burning and looting Abbey property 1327.

Watermill situated at Eriswell Hall (of ancient origin).

'Eriswell Notebook', by J.T. Munday 1967.

'History of Eriswell', by William H. Donnan 1956 – some of the information in this book is unreliable.

Old school built 1856 later used as village hall.

'Early Medieval Eriswell', by J.T. Munday 1965 – 76 translations of documents concerning Eriswell cum Coclesworth 1086–1340.

Several pamphlets regarding parish history by J.T. Munday.

During Napoleonic wars Eriswell warren supplied approximately 25,000 rabbits a year to feed London hungry.

Eriswell High Lodge: warreners lodge built to safeguard warren from poachers.

Claims to be first village in England to support missionary work via New England Company 1649 – many buildings in Eriswell carry their mark 'NEC'. Community of USAF families in parish 20th cent.

Church bells melted down for munitions 1642–1648.

Eriswell Manor: manor house of ancient date (exact date not known).

'The excavation of a prehistoric site at Upper Chamberlains Farm, Eriswell', by D. Dymond, PSIA Vol.33, p.1.