

1. Parish: Kedington (also known as Ketton)

Meaning: The enclosure/homestead of Cydda's people (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge (part of Hinckford Hundred, Essex until 1895)

Deanery: Clare

Union: Risbridge

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Clare RD (in part 1894–1895, entirely 1895–1974), St. Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1893 (gains Calford Green from Essex)

Risbridge Petty Sessional Division

Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,400 acres land, 8 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sand soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086 26 acres meadow, 1 mill, 3 cobs, 4 cattle, 18 pigs, 150 sheep, 6 beehives

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. Also has similarities with sheep–corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.

1818 Marshall: Wide variations of 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, roots

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. Settlement:

1958 River Stour flows through centre of parish.
Large well spaced development around central green area and church. Secondary settlement at Calford Green.
Scattered farms

1966 New housing estate near village centre; another to west.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 36 , 1801 – 100, 1851 – 131 in Suffolk, 22 in Essex , 1871 – 153 in Suffolk, 26 in Essex , 1901 – 154, 1951 – 187, 1981 – 726, 2001 – 800

8. Communications:

Road: to Little Wratting, Barnardiston, Hundon, Wixoe, Stoke by Clare, Birdbrook and Sturmer

1891 Carrier to and from Haverhill on Tuesday and Friday

1912 Carrier from Haverhill daily

1960s–1990s Regular bus service to Haverhill and Cambridge

2000 – One early morning and evening service to Cambridge; hourly service to Haverhill and Bury St. Edmunds

Rail: 1891 3 miles to Haverhill station

Haverhill South: Haverhill–Halstead line opened 1863 closed 1962

Haverhill North: Haverhill–Sudbury line opened 1865, closed for goods 1966, made unmanned halt, closed for passengers 1967

Air: Stansted 35 miles

9. Population:

1086 – 58 recorded

1327 – 23 taxpayers paid £2 16s. 1d.

1524 – 35 taxpayers paid £8 1s. 10d.

1603 – 140 adults

1674 – 73 households

1676 – 06 adults

1801 – 588 inhabitants

1831 – 626 inhabitants

1851 – 772 inhabitants

1871 – 980 inhabitants

1901 – 817 inhabitants

1931 – 752 inhabitants

1951 – 853 inhabitants

1971 – 2,000 inhabitants

1981 – 2,420 inhabitants

2001 – 2,021 inhabitants

2011 – 2,017 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

- 1254 Valued £10
To the vicar 13s. 4d. £10 13s. 4d.
- 1291 Valued £20
- 1535 Valued £16 8s. 6½d.
- 1603 Incumbent also holds parsonage of Great Wrattling
- 1674 Parsonage has 6 hearths
- 1831 Glebe house. Gross income £500 p.a. Incumbent also holds vicarage of Little Waldingfield.
Valued £498 1835
Modus of £701 18s. p.a. awarded. Approximately 100 acres glebe subject to rates and taxes 1840
- 1901 £490 p.a. with 111 acres of glebe and residence in the gift of and held since 1868 by the Rev. Barrington Blomfield Syer.
- 1912 As 1901 Rector since 1910 Canon George Perry
- 1998 Part of Stourhead Benefice of 8 parishes

Patrons: B.B. Syer (1831)

11. Church St. Peter and St. Paul

(chancel, nave, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

- 1086 Church + 40 acres free land, meadow of 1½ acres, valued 6s.
- Late 13th cent. Chancel arch
- 1300 Tower built
- 14th cent. Chancel
- 14th/15th c. Main structure unincorporating material from Norman church
- 1610 Canopied pew built for Barnardiston family
- 1619 Folding chancel screen; three-decker pulpit
- 1751 South porch
- Note: Roman walls and materials discovered below the church; Anglo Saxon cross c.900 found inside the church; presently positioned in E window of chancel.
Seats: 150 appropriated, 350 free from 1873
- Early 18th c. Parsonage house replaced by Queen Anne rectory
Sold as private dwelling 1963; now Ketton House.

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1603 One gentleman does not receive communion
- 1662 Minister ejected
- 1836-1850 5 houses set aside for worship
Baptist chapel built 1850, rebuilt 1865, not listed 1912 but continues in use

13. Manorial:

- 1066 Manor of 5 carucates held by Aethelgyth
- 1086 Manor of 5 carucates belonging to Ralph Baynard

12 th cent.	Lands became forfeit and granted to Richard Fitz Gilbert
late 12 th c.	Adam de Novo Mercato/Newmarch/Newmarket owns
1347	Thomas de Barnardiston owns (linked to Barnardiston)
19 th cent.	Maurice Swaby owns (linked to Barnardiston)

Sub-Manors:

Cotton/Cotton Hall

1292	Hugh Peche died seised
14 th cent.	Sir John Tuddenham owns
1540	Sir Edmund Bedingfield owns
19 th cent.	Maurice Swaby and Robert Bird own (absorbed by main manor)

Palmer's Manor or Tenement

1495	William Felton of Sudbury died seised
c.1544	John Spring of Hitcham owns passing to Sir William Spring of Pakenham (linked to Bradfield Combust and Pakenham)

Also listed Manor of Kennet and Kentford al Kennet al Kentford (see Kentford parish for details)

14. Markets/Fairs:

1844	Fair for pedlary held on June 29 th (appears abolished c.1912)
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15. Real property:

1844	£ 1,576 rental value
1891	£ 3,190 rateable value
1912	£ 2,484 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land all freehold, ownership sub-divided
1903	Most land owned by Frank Sainsbury of Blunts Hall.
1912	Land sub-divided
1955	Sainsbury property sold after his death

17. Resident gentry:

1580	Sir Thomas Barnardiston, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1623	Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1679	Sir Thomas Barnardiston
1844	Rev. B.B. Syer

1912 Rev. G. Perry MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 6 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 1 labouring man, 1 rector
1600–1649 11 husbandmen, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 10 yeomen, 1 labouring man, 1 glover, 1 clerk, 1 carpenter, 1 tailor
1650–1699 8 husbandmen, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 6 yeomen, 1 miller, 1 butcher, 1 carpenter, 1 smith, 1 clothier
1831 73 in agriculture, 11 in manufacturing, 34 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 5 in labouring, 17 in domestic service, 14 others
1844 2 butchers, blacksmith, 2 pig jobbers, 2 shoemakers, 2 wheelwrights, bricklayer, blacksmith/beerhouse keeper, shoemaker/victualler, 2 bakers, cabinet maker, beerhouse keeper, victualler, corn millers, 10 farmers, maltsters, 3 shopkeepers, Kedington brewery and maltings – sold 1887.
1912 Sub postmaster, schoolmaster, officers of Risbridge Union Workhouse, police officer, carpenter, 5 farmers, grocer/draper, blacksmith, shoemaker/publican, cycle agent, 3 publicans, bricklayer, carpenter/overseer, baker, solicitor, confectioner, surgeon, dairyman, shopkeeper

19. Education:

1818 1 Sunday school (80 attend including children from Great Wrattling
1833 2 daily schools (97 attend)
1 Sunday school (74 attend)
National school built 1876
Public Elementary (Church of England) school built 1876 almost certainly the same as National school
Average attendance 1912 102. School had become so overcrowded by 1905 the managers refused entry to children from the workhouse.
Closed 1970 and replaced by present school
First school 1974; Primary school 2010

20. Poor relief:

1776 £171 12s. 11d.
1803 £469 19s. 5d.
1818 £838 13s.
1830 £940 17s.
1832 £694 11s.
1834 £642 19s.

21. Charities:

Rent Charges/Doles:

- 1786 Gift of Fairclough: cottage and 1 acre land formerly called Vineyard let at £1 p.a. (Cottage demolished by 1840)
John Purkis' Estate: Rent charge of 3s. 8d. p.a.
Bateman's Gift: 4s. 3d. from estate called Brockholes (Brockley) Green
1s. 8d. from glebe land
4s. 3d. distributed (according to ancient custom) among 13 poor widows in each parish at Christmas, from rents in Kedington and Sturmer
Remainder applied to churchwarden's general accounts.
- 1903 by will of William Snell: £1,000 to be invested, dividends to benefit poor (annual gift of coals) and to church restoration.

22. Other Institutions:

- 1856 Risbridge Union Workhouse built, opened 1857 nominally for 654 inmates, Haverhill workhouse having been declared too small. 132 paupers listed 1891, 310 inmates 1912. Became camp for conscientious objectors and P.O.W camp (1914–1918). Reverted to workhouse until closed and converted to mental hospital 1937. Proposals to develop Community Care Units and sell part of land and old hospital 1987. Demolished 1997 with Community Homes demolished 2012.
- 1901 Clare and Bumpstead Joint Hospital Board formed meeting at Council Room, Kedington, monthly on a Friday.
- 1912 Police officer listed.
- 1912 Quilter Committee Rooms in existence
- 1894 Kedington Parish Council established; new Council office and meeting room to open 2013
- 1921 British Legion formed; Legion Hall built, funds provided by Frank Sainsbury and Mrs Rainey 1936. Enlarged 2005
- 1923 Women's Institute formed
- 1972 Kedington Community Association formed
- 1974 Community Centre built

23. Recreation:

- 1844 2 beerhouses, 1 brewer/maltster
The Bell, The Barnardiston Arms and The White Horse public houses.

1891/1912 The Bell Inn, The Barnardiston Arms and The Barnardiston Head public houses.
 Kedington Cycle Club 1906.
 Football Club 1907.
 c.1925 The Bell closed.
 Ketton Players 20th cent.
 Meadowlark organised entertainment and fund raising events (from 1970s)
 1978 The Barnardiston Head closed
 2012 The White Horse closed

25. Personal:

'Kedington and the Barnardiston Family', by R. Almach, PSIA Vol. IV.
 Brief account of life of Sir Thomas Barnardiston in 'Remarkable Characters of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk' 1820.
 Life of Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston 1588–1653 in 'Lives of Sundry Eminent Persons in this late age, 1683' by Samuel Clark.
 The name 'roundhead' is said to have been first applied to Sir Samuel Barnardiston.
 Barnardiston papers held in Suffolk RO.
 Rev. Samuel Fairclough 1594–1677 born in Haverhill, he was vicar of Kedington 1629–1662. Non-conformist minister. Served on Commission to inquire into trial of witches at Bury St. Edmunds 1645. Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston was his patron and he preached at Sir Nathaniel's funeral service 1653.
 'Rev. Samuel Fairclough', by J. Duncan 1959.
 The Diary of John Clopton 1648–1651 partly compiled in Kedington held at Essex RO, Chelmsford, accepted for publication by Suffolk Records Society.
 Archbishop Tillotson rector of Kedington following ejection of Fairclough, presented communion cup inscribed 'For Ketton' now in Cathedral Treasury at Bury St. Edmunds.
 Herman Merivale (d. 1906) playwright and novelist lived at Barton Place, formerly Street Farm, now Suffolk House, Kedington.

25. Other information:

'Ketton Review' produced by Community Association since 1984.
 'William Bowyer's Keington: Portrait of an Edwardian Village' 1984.
 Booklets on Kedington church (various dates).
 'Calford Green' a history of the buildings and their occupants at Calford Green, Kedington 1999.
 'Update' Calford Green and Kedington End Golden Jubilee Year Book 2002.
 'Fifty Centuries' a Jubilee history presented to every household by the Parish Council 2003.

Watermill and 2 windmills in existence but out of use 1903. Windmills demolished during or soon after World War II. Watermill restored as a dwelling 1975.

Lightning during thunderstorm destroys 51 sheep 1908.

Kedington Hall sold with estate 1780 and subsequently pulled down.

Remains of ancient tree lined drive forms part of churchyard and 'Church Walk'.

Illustration of Hall c.1780 also perhaps in watercolour of church by Lyus 1783. Original in RO.

Photograph of plan of lands of Kedington Hall and Cotton Hall manors 1722 – shows windmill. Original at Essex RO.

Map of glebe land 1774.

'Kedington Cross', PSIA Vol. 20, p. 287.

'Barnardiston Vaults in Kedington church' with photographs, PSIA Vol. XVI p. 44.

Fieldwork at Neolithic cropmark site, Kedington.

Field boundaries, land use and field names 1942.

Both of above in Haverhill and District Archaeological Society Group

Newsletter Vol. 3, p. 4–41.

Roman remains under pews in church, excavated (1953) (CRN 6013).

Roman villa beside Arms Lane (CRN 6019).