

# 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

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Mildenhall RD (–1974), Forest Heath DC (1974–)

## 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:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep–corn region, sheep main fertilizing 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:	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.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 12, 1801 – 15, 1851 – 40, 1871 – 43,  
1901 – 44, 1951 – 74, 1981 – 66

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** Main Bury St Edmunds to Newmarket Road and roads to Herringwell 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)

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure  
1643 Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) ordered cross and pictures taken down  
Late 17<sup>th</sup> 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)**

13<sup>th</sup> 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.
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**22. Other institutions:**

Guild of St John Baptist 1389

**23. Recreation:**

1650–1699	1 innkeeper recorded
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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.