

1. Parish: Kettlebaston

Meaning: Ketelbern's homestead

2. **Hundred:** Cosford

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Eastern) (1864–1884), Lavenham (1884–)

Union: Cosford

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Cosford R.D. (–1974), Babergh D.C. (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1883, 1884, 1935. Lost to Preston 1885

Part transferred to Brettenham 1935

Hadleigh Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,041 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay Soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Fine loam over clay soils with slowly permeable sub-soils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils.

5. **Types of farming:**

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, vethes, hops and occasionally hemp.

1818 Marshall: Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, turnips and mangolds

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. Settlement:

1978/80 Line of Roman road clips southern sector of parish. River Brett forms part of western boundary. Very small settlement around church and hall. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 13, 1801 – 24, 1851 – 39, 1871 – 38, 1901 – 32, 1951 – 29, 1981 – 21

8. Communications:

Road: To Preston St. Mary, Hitcham and Thorpe Morieux
Rail: 1891 4 miles Lavenham station: Bury St. Edmunds– Long Melford line, opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965

Water: River Brett

9. Population:

1086 – approximately 6 recorded
1327 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 3s. 10d.
1524 – 16 taxpayers paid £1 14s. 6d.
1603 – 75 adults
1674 – 14 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 145 inhabitants
1831 – 202 inhabitants
1851 – 189 inhabitants
1871 – 174 inhabitants
1901 – 129 inhabitants
1931 – 85 inhabitants
1951 – 103 inhabitants
1971 – 70 inhabitants
1981 – 63 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £9 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £13 6s.
1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation, gross income £231 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Shimpling Thorn St. George, Norfolk
Parish appears to be in neglected stated (1837)
15 acres glebe, modus of £300 p.a. in lieu of tithes 1841
1891 Good residence approximately ½ mile from church
1912 Nett value £163. 17 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: William Appleby (1603), T. Fiske (1831), Rev. J.R. Fiske (1844), William Dimes (1873)

11. Church **St. Mary**
(Chancel, N. vestry, nave, S. porch, W. tower + spirelet)

Norman S.doorway, nave
14th cent. Main structure including chancel and tower
1879/1890 Restorations
Note: W. end of nave holds reproductions of Kettlebaston Alabasters. Originals date c.1350 are Held in British Museum.

Seats: 60 appropriate, 140 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1593 2 persons had not received communion for 4 years
1792–1841 2 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

12th cent. Godwin Kettlebaston enfeoffed to Robert Peche to Robert Peche (linked to Bredfield, Haughley and Dalham)
c.1312 Sir Roger de Rydware owns
15th cent. Henry, Lord Scrope owns
c.1415 Sir John Phelip owns
1445 William de la Pole owns (linked to Thorndon, Westhorpe, Wyverstone, Cotton, Trimley St. Martin)
1545 Walter Clerke owns
1590 Henry Appleton owns
1635 Sir Robert Naunton died seised (linked to Chelsworth and Hasketon)
1820 Matthew Beachcroft owns (linked to Wiston)
1909 Francis Beachcroft owns

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £1,144 rental value
1891 £1,055 rateable value
1912 £754 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Rev. J.R. Fiske

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 2 husbandmen, 3 yeomen

1600–1649 1 minister, 1 labourer, 2 husbandmen, 3 yeomen

1650–1699 1 husbandman, 6 yeomen

1831 38 in agriculture, 4 others

1844 Schoolmistress, 5 farmers

1912 6 farmers, farm bailiff, matron of orphanage, shopkeeper

19. Education:

National school built 1838 approximately 30 attend 1844, closed 1922, houses specialist printing establishment 1961

1912 Children attend school at Preston

20. Poor relief:

1776 £52 10s. 6.

1803 £80 9s. 2d.

1818 £346 19s.

1830 £237 12s.

1832 £279 4s.

1834 £181 5s.

21. Charities:

Charity Land:

1840 1 acre let at £6 4s. p.a. (in 2 parcels) distributed at churchwarden's discretion

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St. Trinity 1446

Small orphanage for 12 boys 1912. Branch of Home of the Holy Childhood, Clapton Common, London. Run by nuns in 18/19th cent. Private house Called 'the Convent' by 1981.

1st Parish Council elections held 1975.

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'The Story Behind the Sign', by S.P. Andrews. Suffolk Fair Vol.2 No.10, p.27.

Village sign commemorating grant of manor by Henry VI to William de la Pole 1445. Held manor by service of carrying gold sceptre topped with gold dove on coronation of the Kings heirs and successors. Ivory sceptre of similar design to be carried on day of Queen's Coronation and all such subsequent events.

'Kettlebaston Alabasters', by M.R. Taylor. PSIA Vol.30, p.252 (notes on this in PSIA Vol.31, p.202)