

# 1. Parish: Kirton

**Meaning:** Church Village (EKWALL)

2. **Hundred:** Colneis

**Deanery:** Colneys

**Union:** Woodbridge

**RDC/UDC:** (E Suffolk) Woodbridge RD (1894–1934),  
Deben RD (1934–74), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Woodbridge and Felixstowe Petty Sessional Division and County Court Districts

3. **Area:** 1,851 acres land, 36 acres tidal water and 30 acres foreshore

4. **Soils:**

### Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils. Risk wind and water erosion
- b. Deep well drained coarse loams, (often stoneless) some sandy loams. Risk wind and water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Light lands, sheep/corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop
1818	Marshall:	Area known as the Sandlings where the cultivation of carrots is undertaken. YOUNG: Their culture of carrots, their breed of horses is nowhere else to be seen. (1813)
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley.
1969	Trist:	Sand is ideal for carrot production which was resumed in the post war period, now mainly produced for canning, other crops – turnip and kale seeds.

6. **Enclosure:**

1807 541 acres enclosed In Kirton, Nacton, Trimley St Mary and St Martin under private acts of land 1805 (award in Ipswich R.O.)

7. **Settlement:**

1958/1975 Relatively large well spaced settlement along line of Falkenham road. Development restricted to wet lands to the west and north.

Church situated slightly to one side of the main settlement.  
Northern boundary – Kirton creek. Some scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 14, 1801 – 40, 1851 – 52, 1871 – 42,  
1901 – 43, 1951 – 52, 1981 – 65

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Bucklesham, Falkenham, Trimley St Martin  
1891 Carrier to Ipswich on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
(also 1912)

**Rail:** 1891, 4 miles to Felixstowe station opened (1877)

**Water:** River Deben (navigable). Rich salt marshes at Kirton Sluice

**9. Population:**

1086 – 32 recorded  
1327 – 76 taxpayers paid £5 15s. 15d.  
1524 – 23 taxpayers paid £2 0s. 6d.  
1603 – 114 adults  
1674 – 24 households  
1676 – not listed  
1801 – 376 inhabitants  
1831 – 624 inhabitants  
1851 – 546 inhabitants  
1871 – 615 inhabitants  
1901 – 515 inhabitants  
1931 – 469 inhabitants  
1951 – 599 inhabitants  
1971 – 851 inhabitants  
1981 – 1,136 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: RECTORY**

1254 valued £10  
1291 valued £10 13s. 4d  
Portion to Rector of Gosbeck 6s.  
1535 Value £10. 13s. 4d  
1831 Glebe house unfit for residence. Incumbent also holds Vicarage  
of Falkenham.  
1835 value £400  
1843 New rectory built. 7 acres glebe  
1887 5 acres glebe  
1891 Rent Charge of £502. 2 s. in lieu of tithes.

**Patrons:** Crown (1831), Lord Chancellor (1891)

**11. Church: Saints Mary and Martin**  
(Chancel, nave, N aisle, W tower)

1086 1 Church + 6 acres land valued 12d.

14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure  
 1520 Money left for tower  
 16<sup>th</sup> Cent. Nave and Chancel ( heavily restored )  
 1858 n. aisle added + 3-arch pier arcade, restoration.

**Seats:** 350

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1883 Wesleyan Chapel (built 1827)

**13. Manorial:**

**Note:** Copinger identifies two Manors in Kirton but there is some difficulty in distinguishing between the two.

1. 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Walter de Stratton owns.  
 1597 Grant of manor to Robert Barker ( links with Falkenham, Trimley st Martin and St. Mary)  
 2. 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Sampson of Playford owns.  
 1530 Grant to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk  
 1804 Sir William Rowler owns a Manor in Kirton.  
 1909 E.G Pretyman ( Possible links with Bucklesham, Falkenham, Levington, Trimley St Martin, Stratton hall and Walton)

**14. Market/Fair:**

1270 Market and fair at Crokeston (suggested refers to Kirton)

**15. Real Property:**

1844 – £1,558 rental value  
 1891 – £2,614 rateable value  
 1912 – £2,394 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1912 Land sub divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 2 husbandman, 1 mariner  
 1550–1599 2 shipwrights, 1 husbandman, 5 yeomen, 2 sailors, 1 labourer  
 1600–1649 5 yeomen, 8 husbandmen, 1 woollen weaver, 1 mariner, 1 sailor, 1 poldavis weaver, 1 carpenter  
 1650–1699 1 spinster, 5 yeoman, 1 mariner, 1 clerk

1831	110 in agriculture, 27 in retail/handicrafts, 13 in domestic service, 11 others.
1844	Butcher, Victualler, Schoolmaster, blacksmith, 2 collar/harness makers, 4 boot/shoemakers, 2 bricklayers, 3 shopkeepers, 2 wheelwrights, 8 farmers.
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, 2 shopkeepers, 8 farmers, 2 publicans, harness maker, wheelwright/builder, grocer, shopkeeper, gamekeeper, blacksmith.

**19. Education:**

1833	1 daily school (1826) (50 attend)
1844	1 schoolmaster listed
1912	Children attend school in Trimley.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£72 11s. 7d.
1803	£145 3s. 2d.
1818	£446 10s.
1830	£427 6s.
1832	£329 7s.
1834	£443 5s.

**21. Charities:**

1804/5	allotment of 4 acres for fuel
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**22. Other institutions:**

1803	2 friendly societies (87 members)
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**23. Recreation:**

1844	THE GREYHOUND public house
1891/1912	THE GREYHOUND and THE WHITE HORSE public houses.

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Domesday vill: Guthestuna and Stuestuna  
 'The Felixstowe Story' by A. Jobson (1968) P. 158 Rich salt marsh at Kirton Sluice  
 Originally three small hamlets- Guston, Croxton and Strewston  
 Ferries across river to Sutton and Ramsholt from the 'stone'  
 Incendiarism caused by agrarian unrest (1843/44)  
 Church hall built in rectory grounds (1973)  
 Water trade conducted from kirton creek  
 Village has become dormitory for Felixstowe and Ipswich (1975)  
 Parish contains Roman Remains

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

Linear feature (CRN 3781, 3782, 3786)

Rectangular Enclosure (CRN 3783, 3459)

Field system (CRN 3784, 3785, 3787, 3789)

Rectilinear enclosure (CRN 3460)

Stray finds: Roman coin (CRN 3780)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 3791)

B.A Beaker pottery (CRN 3791)

Rom. Cremation pottery (CRN 3792)

Scatter finds: I.A pottery (CRN 3788)

Note: CRN= computer records no.