1. Parish: Long Melford

Meaning: Mill ford

2. Hundred: Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Western) (1864–1884), Sudbury (1884–)

Union: Sudbury

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Melford RD (–1974), Babergh DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Melford Petty Sessional Division
Sudbury County Court District

3. Area: 5,281 acres land, 34 acres water (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

a. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loam, some with calcareous clay subsoil
b. Small amount permeable coarse loam soil with affected by groundwater

5. Types of farming:

1086 Wood for 60 pigs, 2 mills, 3 cobs, 30 cattle 300 sheep, 140 pigs, 12 beehives, 40 wild horses

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. This area also had weaving industry to fall back on.

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

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, oats

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet. Better loams attract orchard and soft fruit growers

6. Enclosure:

1612 Licence to impark (340 acres of park, warren, with
deer and full rights of chase and warren around Melford Hall) granted to Lord Savage

7. Settlement:

1953 Long ribbon type development along main Bury St. Edmunds–Sudbury road. Church situated at northern end near Melford Green and Hall. Railway crosses parish to SE. Scattered farms.


8. Communications:

Road: To Bury St. Edmunds, Sudbury, Cavendish, Stanstead and Acton
1844 Coaches and carriers to Bury St. Edmunds and Sudbury pass daily.
Waggon to Bury St. Edmunds and Colchester Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
1891 Omnibus to Sudbury Thursday
Carriers to Sudbury daily. Others pass from Glemsford to Sudbury daily
1912 Cab meets trains
Carriers from Sudbury to Glemsford pass daily
from Melford to Sudbury daily also
from Melford to Sudbury Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday


Water: Tributary of River Stour

9. Population:

1086 – 63 recorded
1327 – 62 taxpayers paid £6 18s.
1524 – 150 taxpayers paid £65 7s.
1603 – 900 adults
1674 – 224 households
1676 – approx. 1,034 adults
1801 – 2,204 inhabitants
1831 – 2,514 inhabitants
1851 – 2,587 inhabitants
1871 – 3,046 inhabitants
1901 – 3,080 inhabitants
1931 – 2,525 inhabitants
1951 – 2,413 inhabitants
1971 – 2,870 inhabitants
1981 – 3,324 inhabitants

10. **Benefice: Rectory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1254</td>
<td>Portion of Parson £13 6s. 8d. Portion of St. Saviours £ 26 13s. 4d. Portion of Prior of Stokes 5s. £40 5s. 0d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1291</td>
<td>Valued £20 Portion of Prior of Stokes 6s. 8d. £20 6s. 8d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1535</td>
<td>Valued £28 2s. 6d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Not recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>Good residence. 150 acres 3R 22P glebe 2 curates 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Nett value £750. 135 acres glebe and residence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Patrons:** John Cobbold (1844), Incumbent (1873), Mrs Barber (1912)

11. **Church:** Holy Trinity (153' long x 62' wide)

(Lady Chapel, chancel with 4 chapels, clerestoried nave of 7 bays, N. & S. aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1086</td>
<td>Church, 2 carucates of land, 4 villagers and 9 smallholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1184</td>
<td>Church formed part of endowment of the hospital of St. Saviours, Bury St. Edmunds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1460/1495</td>
<td>Present church constructed between these dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1479</td>
<td>Chancel built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1481</td>
<td>7 bays of nave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1484</td>
<td>S. porch and S. Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1670</td>
<td>Chapel was in ruinous condition, repairs and converted into school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1711</td>
<td>Tower erected (previous tower having been burned down). Again replaced (1898–1903)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868/69</td>
<td>Major restoration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seats:** 1,350 (1873)

**St. James Chapel**
Anciently sited at Chapel Green.
Depicted as church with steeple on manor map of 1580
No record of demolition

**St. Anne’s Chapel**
Formerly situated near ponds in the Park (Kentwell)
‘History of Long Melford’ by Parker
Will of Sir William Clopton 1530/31 refers to vestments and decorations in this ‘private domestic chapel’.
12. **Nonconformity etc.:**

1553  Roger Coe, a shearmen, burned at Yoxford for his religious beliefs
1593  1 recusant papist
1603  21 recusants
1606  14 recusant papists
1611  10 recusants
1676  30 papists, 4 nonconformists
Congregational chapel founded 1713, seats 400
12 houses set aside for worship 1708–1847
Newly erected building for worship recorded 1726
Primitive Methodist chapel 1908
Private catholic chapel at Melford Place c.1525, gallery 17th cent.

13. **Manorial:**

**Long Melford Manor:**

1066/1086  Manor of 12 carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds
1545  Sir William Cordell owns (linked to Shimpling)
c.1600  Savage family inherit
1612  Lord Savage granted licence to impark lands in Melford
1641  Countess Rivers owns (linked to St. Osyth Priory, Essex)
c.1650  Sir John Cordell owns
1891  Rev. Sir William Hyde Parker owns

**Sub-Manors**

**Monks Melford/ Melford Monachorum**

1199  Granted to Hospital of St. Saviours (136 acres arable land, 7 acres mowing meadow, 3 ½ acres pasture, 4 acres wood)
1545  William Clopton owns (linked to Gt. Waldingfield, Great and Boxford)
c.1650  Sir Willoughby D'Ewes owns (linked to Stowlangtoft and annexed to Kentwell Hall)
1676  Thomas Robinson owns (linked to Cockfield and Cavendish)
Late 17th cent. John Moore owns (linked to Cavendish, Lavenham, Glemsford and Cockfield)
1905  Edward Starkie Bence owns (absorbed by Kentwell Hall)

**Luton's Manor**

Anciently belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds

c.1539  Appears let by the Crown
1545  William Clopton owns (absorbed by Monks Melford)
Woolhouse, Woodfoule & Blakes Manors

Reputed manors of Kentwell
1476 held by Walter Jermayn
1497 William Clopton died seised (absorbed by Monks Melford)

Cranevyles al Crainaviles

Little known
1523 Thomas Spring died seised (linked to Lt. Waldingfield, Cockfield, Shimpling, Preston, Polstead, Milden)

Kentwell

1066 Manor of 2 carucates and soc belonging to Algarunder Seward of Maldon
1086 Manor of 2 carucates and soc belonging to Frodo, the Abbots brother
1145 Galeus owns
Mid 13th cent. De Kentwell family owns
1245 Consists of 9 carucates
1251 Granted to Sir William de Valence
1287 Consists of 360 acres arable land, 4 acres mowing meadow, 5 acres pasture, 17 acres wood, windmill, warren and 52 acres
c.1383 Sir Thomas Clopton owns
1562 Absorbs Luton’s Manor and Monks Melford respectively
1650 Sir Willoughby D’Ewes owns (linked to Stowlangtoft)
1905 Edward Starkie Bence owns

Melford Rectory

1287 100 acres land, 3 ½ acres meadow, Church of Melford, 8 acres pasture, ½ acre wood. Parson has free right of bull and boar and claimed right of assize of bread and ale. Old manor house said to have been moated.

14. Market/Fairs:

Grant for fair and weekly market on Thursday to Abbot of St. Edmunds 1235 (market obsolete by 1891)
Grant for 9 day fair 1330
Fair held on Whit Tuesday for cattle and toys 1759
Fair held on Whit Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Market held on Tuesday 1792
Fair held on Whit Tuesday for pedlary and Wednesday and Thursday for cattle and sheep 1805
1844 Fair held on Whit Tuesday and Wednesday for pleasure and pedlary, on Thursday for cattle
Fair held on Whit Thursday for cattle and Friday for pleasure and pedlary 1888
1912  Large cattle fair held on Thursday of Whit week and a pleasure and pedlary fair on the Friday
Chapel Green also called the Old Market

15.  Real property:

1844  £7,724 rental value
1891  £10,954 rateable value
1912  £10,425 rateable value

16.  Land ownership:

1844–1912  Land sub-divided

17.  Resident gentry:

1680  Baronet and Knight. 3 gentlemen
1685  Sir John Cordell, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1686  Mr. Clopton, Sir Robert Cordell, Sir Thomas Darcy and Sir Roger Martyn
1775/1812  Richard Moore, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1803  Sir Henry Parker, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1828  Hart Logan, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1837  Sir Hyde Parker, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1912  Sir W. Hyde Parker, H.H. Almack JP, J.W.F. Hamilton JP and E.S. Bence

18.  Occupations:

1451–1482  1 tailor, 3 fullers, 1 cordwainer
1500–1549  4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 2 shearmen (one who cuts woollen cloth), 1 labourer, 6 weavers, 9 fullers, 2 smiths, 5 priests, 1 butcher, 8 clothmakers, 1 fishmonger, 3 dyers, (additional information for this group see 'The Springs of Lavenham' by B. McClenaghan
1550–1599  12 yeomen, 1 clothier, 2 tailors, 3 husbandmen, 2 labourers, 1 blacksmith, 4 weavers, 1 clerk, 1 fuller, 2 carpenters, 1 parish clerk, 1 minister, 2 curates, 1 miller, 1 Sawyer
1600–1649  23 yeomen, 7 clothiers, 3 tailors, 3 husbandmen, 2 shearmen, 3 labourers, 1 blacksmith, 2 weavers, 4 carpenters, 3 butchers, 1 governor of hospital, 1 basket maker, 1 gardener, 1 bay maker, 1 pedder, (maker of panniers/baskets or pedler), 2 bricklayers, 1 cordwainer, 1 parish clerk, 1 freemason, 1 Glover, 1 mill hand, 1 combor, 1 beer brewer, 1 joiner
1650–1699  17 yeomen, 2 clothiers, 1 tailor, 5 husbandmen, 1 shearman, 3 blacksmiths, 1 clerk, 2 carpenters, 3 maltsters, 4 grocers, 1 say weaver, 2 barbers, 4 spinsters, 3 butchers, 1 mercer, 1 glazier, 1 brick burner, 6 bay makers, 1 inn holder, 1 cordwainer, 1 spinstress, 1
minister, 1 baker, 2 fellmongers, 1 chirurgeon (surgeon),
1 wool comber

1831  208 in agriculture, 140 in retail trade, 3 in manufacturing,
12 professionals, 53 in labouring, 89 in domestic service,
71 others

1844  3 corn mills, 6 malting establishments and a foundry.
Some silk weavers employed by Sudbury manufacturers
Solicitor, farrier, auctioneer, corn dealer, hair seating
manufacturer, chemist/druggist, gardener, whitesmith,
rope/net maker, hairdresser, hat manufacturer,
bookseller/printer, tinner, coach builder, rope
manufacturer, calf jobber, iron/brass founders, 9
publicans, 5 teachers, 8 bakers, 5 beerhouse keepers, 4
blacksmiths, 9 boot/shoemakers, 4 bricklayers/plasterers,
5 butchers, 2 coopers, 3 millers, 13 farmers, 5
grocers/drapers, 5 joiners, 6 maltsters, 2 milliners, 2
milliners, 2 painters, 1 saddler, 2 shopkeepers, 2
surgeons, 6 tailors/drapers, 3 wheelwrights.

1912             Factories for horse hair seating and coconut fibre.
Postmaster, council officers, teachers, station master,
coal depot, drug grinders/oil distillers, 7 butchers, 8
shopkeepers, 10 publicans, 2 dressmakers, 14 farmers,
bank, chemist, 3 builders, 4 beer retailers, 7 bakers,
fruiter, maltster, engineers, warden of Melford hospital,
tobacconist, 2 stationers, 3 coal merchants, watchmaker,
3 blacksmiths, 2 shoemakers, ass't. overseer, 2 saddlers,
4 solicitors, 3 cycle agents, fire brigade, 2 hairdressers, 2
farm bailiffs, hotel keeper, plumber/glazier, 2 surgeons,
deraper, 2 apartment owners, bootmaker, 2 horse hair
manufacturers, Gas Co., watch/clock maker, insurance
agent, tin worker, 2 wheelwrights, carpenter, boot
repairer, coach builder, general merchant, carrier, 2
tailors, cattle dealer, 2 estate agents, 4 grocers, tea
dealer, training home for servants, nurseryman, iron
founder, hardware dealer, coconut mat, matting and fibre
manufacturer
A & G. Engineering established 1968

19.  Education:

John Mills Boys school founded 1495 (10/12 attend
1818/1833), still in existence 1891

1818  John Moore charity school (20 attend 1818/1833) still in
existence 1891
4 schoolmasters/tutors recorded 1614–1787

1818  3 schools, 50 boarders + 30 day pupils
3/4 dames schools (50/60 attend)
1 Sunday school

1833  11 schools (178 attend)
1 boarding school (16 boys attend)
1 Day and Sunday National school (60 females attend)
1 established church Sunday school (60 attend), 1 Independent Sunday school (80 attend)

1844
4 academies (3 taking boarders)
National school and 2 endowed schools
British school attached to Independent chapel built 1862 (130 attend 1891)
National school built 1861, average attendance 300
School built in Bridge Street 1862 by Sir William Parker (average attendance in 1912) 38
Public Elementary school built 1860, enlarged 1895, average attendance 1912, 405 closed 1974
St Catherines Road (Infants) school built 1895, average attendance 1912 93

20. Poor relief:

1776  £787 7s. 8d.
1803  £2,187 17s. 6d.
1818  £5,373 5s.
1830  £3,244 16s.
1832  £3,200 4s.
1834  £2,395 18s.

21. Charities:

'The Charities of Long Melford' by Ernest E. Adams 1896

Trinity Hospital:

1580  by will of Sir William Cordell. Hospital for 12 poor men and one woman

Doles:

1840  £14/15. 10s. distributed annually at Easter

Church and Poor Estate:

1518  by will of William Skeyne: Cottage, barn and 18 acres let at £33 p.a. applied to use of poor, the parish church and rents/repairs

Hills Charity/Exchequer payment:

Yearly pension of £2 8s. 1d. payable by Exchequer (grant of Edward V1) for schoolmaster
Applied to parish school (12 boys free scholars)
Moore’s Charity:
1713  Bequest of John Moore: Interest on £300 to employment of schoolmistress: education of 20 poor children

Poors tenements:
1840  4 almshouses said to have been built by Sir Roger Martin

Corders Charity:
1636  by will of John Corder: 40s p.a. for distribution among the poor

22. Other institutions:
Market Cross 13th cent. destroyed 1642 stump remains
Guilds of Corpus Christi and St. Thomas 1524
Hospital of the Holy and Undivided Trinity founded by Sir William Cordell 1573. Rebuilt 1847. 14 inmates fed, lodged and clothed, also receive quarterly allowance (all old and poor persons of Melford and Shimpling)
1776  Workhouse (150 inmates)
1803  6 Friendly Societies (137 members)
School of Industry (20 children)
1844  Petty Sessions held at Bell Inn once a fortnight. Held at Police Station on alternate Fridays by 1912
1891  Stoke and Melford Union Association or Benefit Society and Sickness Club (1,300 members)
British Workmen Coffee and Dining Rooms
1912  Water supplied from wells
Town lighted with gas provided by Long Melford Gas Co. Ltd
Church Institute
Fire Brigade
Police Station
Territorial Battalion (5th) Suffolk Regiment
Training Home for Servants

23. Recreation:
Bull Inn believed to date from c.1580
1 inn holder recorded 1650–1699
1844  10 public houses, 5 beerhouses
1891  4 beerhouses, 10 public houses, 2 hotels
Oddfellows Lodge held at Bull Hotel
Coffee and Reading Room opened 1879 (120 members)
Billiard room attached to Lecture Hall
Literary Institute established 1849 with Reading room (120 members)
1912  1 hotel, 3 beer retailers, 11 public houses
Women’s Institute. Minute books date from 1918
Long Melford Historical and Archaeological Society
Football Club dates from c.1868
Cricket Club 1979 + Clubs for Tennis, Netball and Table Tennis
Lodge of Shepherds Friendly Society established 1873
Working Men’s Club built 1872
20th cent. Annual firework display and funfair
Girl Guides, scouts, cubs, brownies
Village hall established in 1914–18 war, ex-naval hut, extended 1983
1979 Long Melford play group and Fir Trees play group
Melford Entertainers
Youth Club
Over 60’s Club
Ex Service and Working Men’s Club
Royal British Legion
Silver Prize Band

24. Personal:

Families associated with Kentwell Hall: in parish box file (RO).
‘Cousin Beatie’ (a memory of Beatrix Potter) by Ulla Hyde Parker.
Beatrix Potter was a relative of the Hyde Parker family and some of her watercolours and sketches are of Melford Hall. There is a ‘Beatrix Potter bedroom’ in Melford Hall.
Roger Coe: a shearman burned 1555 at Yoxford for his beliefs.
Prince and Princess of Wales (later Edward V11 and Queen Alexandra) visited Melford Hall 1865. Occasion was marked by giant bonfire of village green.

25. Other information:

Petrifying spring said to exist on Cranmer Green 1844.

2 incendiary attacks provoked by agrarian unrest 1844.

Riots took place on polling day 1885. Involved in stone throwing and setting fire to Crown public house. Required troops being sent from Bury St. Edmunds to control. Believed to be last time Riot Act was used in Suffolk.

Kentwell:


Former house called ‘Lutons’ probably stood in/near wood called Pond Plantation. Fine 15/16th cent. moated manor house in ‘E’ formation with 2 bridges crossing moat.
Melford Place:

15–18th cent. home of Martin family who were Royalists and Catholics. Most of the house destroyed by fire 1967.

‘Melford Place’. PSIA Vol.11, p.84.


Melford Hall:

Built 1554–1577. Queen Elizabeth 1 was entertained at the Hall. Suffered rifling by mob pursuing Countess Rivers c.1642. Original Hall built by Sir William Cordell 1545.

Transferred to National Trust 1960.

‘Melford Hall’ PSIA Vol.11, p.50.

23 persons died of plague in August 1593, 119 persons died of plague in 5 months 1604.

Bridge for horse and carriages built 1762.

Jacobean wall painting discovered at Saffron Cottage 1986 which is part of 15/16th cent. manor house.

Luxury sheltered accommodation built 1984.

The Conduit house 16/17th cent. contains substantial channel of water supply.

Village school used as community centre 1974.

Mains sewers connected 1959.

Private and council house development boosted population figures 1959.

Aerial photography shows possible Roman road running across Melford Green 1979.


Pond (on East side) from which bricks were made for rebuilding of Melford Hall 1554 (known as Clay Pits).
Village sign erected 1978.


Guildhall of Corpus Christi situated at Little St. Marys in Hall Street 16/17th cent.


‘Long Melford through the ages’, by B.L. Wall 1986.

‘Along Melford’, by Rev. C. Herbert (a guide to visitors).


The Scutchers Arms: is a link with the flax industry. Claims to be only pub of that name in Britain.


‘Some account of Melford Church’. PSIA Vol. 11 p.73.


‘Two Unusual Subjects in ancient glass in Long Melford Church’, by C. Woodfords, PSIA Vol. XX1, p.63.

‘Symbolism in Long Melford Church’, PSIA Vol. XX1, p.171.

‘Notes by Mr Haydon Whitehead with reference to paper on glass in Long Melford Church’, PSIA Vol. XX1, p.172.


‘The Restoration of K.'