

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.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 152, 1801 – 453, 1851 – 542, 1871 – 654, 1901 – 718, 1951 – 778, 1981 – 1228

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

Rail: 1891 Melford Station: Bury St. Edmunds–Sudbury line opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965, Sudbury line closed 1967

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

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

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)

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

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 shearman, 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 17 th 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, Groton 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 17 th 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 comber, 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 chirurgion (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,
fruiterer, maltster, engineers, warden of Melford hospital,
tobacconist, 2 stationers, 3 coal merchants, watchmaker,
3 blacksmiths, 2 shoemakers, asst. overseer, 2 saddlers,
4 solicitors, 3 cycle agents, fire brigade, 2 hairdressers, 2
farm bailiffs, hotel keeper, plumber/glazier, 2 surgeons,
draper, 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)

1844 1 established church Sunday school (60 attend), 1
 Independent Sunday school (80 attend)
 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:

1495 by will of John Hill: White rents of £4 4s. p.a. Woods of 8 acres in Pentlow let at £8 p.a.
 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:

William de Valence: Guardian and Lieutenant of England 1285. Joint
 Commissioner of Armament 1292, Chief Plenipotentiary (France) 1296.
 Richard Everard; stabbed to death in entrance hall of The Bull 1648.
 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 sheerman 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:

Hall built 1560 by Cloptons, approached by lime avenue $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long, planted
 1678. Park created c.1660. Hall remodelled after fire of 1826 by T. Hooper
 (central block). 20th cent. restoration by P. Phillips. Now run as historical
 education and functions centre. Opened to public 1976.

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.

'The Restoration of Kentwell Hall', by J. Lonsdale. East Anglian Magazine Vol.35, p.396.

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.

Auction Particulars of Kentwell Hall Estate 1970 in parish box file (RO).
Map of Melford dated 1580 (commissioned by Sir William Cordell) hangs at Melford Hall (copy in RO).

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.

The Green: Remains of Old Market Cross exist.

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

Village sign erected 1978.

Long Melford Garden Centre opened 1984.

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

'Magnificent Melford' a book of photographs by Richard Deeks 1981.

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

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

'A Sermon in Stone' 500th anniversary book of Long Melford Church 1980.

'The Matmaker and Magistrate': Long Melford 1885, by R. Deeks.

'History of Long Melford', by Sir William Parker 1873.

'Melford Memories', by Ernest Ambrose 1972.

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

'Dr. Bisbie's Manuscript Collection for Long Melford' by Rev.C. Deedes. PSIA Vol.V11, p.78.

'Melford Parsonage: account of tithes (1676)' PSIA Vol V11, p.80.

'Some account of Melford Church'. PSIA Vol.11 p.73.

'Excavations in Roman Long Melford (1970–72)', by R. Avent and the late T. Howlett, PSIA Vol.34, p.229.

'The Savage Hatchments at Long Melford', by L. Dow. PSIA Vol.XXV1, p.214.
'Roman Long Melford', by N. Smedley. PSIA Vol.XXV111, p.272.

'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.

'Ancient Roman Settlement at Long Melford', by J.S. Holden. PSIA Vol.XV, p.267.

'Roman finds at Rodbridge, near Long Melford'. PSIA Vol.XXV, p.307.

'Architectural Distinction of Long Melford', by A. Jobson. Suffolk Fair (May 1980), p.13.

'Long Melfords Motoring Methuselah's'. Suffolk Fair (Feb. 1985), p.67.

'Two Penn'orth o' Cheese' by E. Ambrose. East Anglian Magazine Vol.34, p.560.

'Westgate House', by R. Rushton. East Anglian Magazine Vol.30, p.156.
'The Restoration of K.