

1. Parish : Fornham St. Genevieve

Meaning: Enclosure by trout stream

2. Hundred: Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (–1937), Thingoe (1937)
Abolished ecclesiastically, united with Fornham St. Martin (1957)

Union: Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

RDC/UDC: Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. Area: 680 acres land, 8 acres of water (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid. Risk wind erosion
b. Stoneless mainly calcareous clay affected by groundwater. Risk of flooding near river.

5. Types of farming:

1086 1500–1640	Thirsk:	4 acres meadow, 3 mills, 1 cob, 100 sheep Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1813:	Young:	932 acres arable land, 116 acres grass (includes Fornham St. Martin)
1818	Marshall:	Management uniform. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, sugar beet
1969	Trist:	Deficiencies in minerals are overcome and these lands are now more suited to arable farming with wide range of produce grown

6. Enclosure:

c.1813 270 acres imparked
1820 1,160 acres enclosed in St. Genevieve and St. Martin under Private Acts of Lands, 1817

7. Settlement:

1958 Extremely small development in N.W. corner of parish. Site of St. Genevieve church is isolated. Two sand and gravel quarry sites. Sewerage works occupies site on southern boundary. River Lark forms part of western parish boundary. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 16, 1801 – 19, 1851 – 13, 1871 – 19, 1901 – 18, 1951 – 15, 1981 – 31

8. Communications:

Roads: To Timworth, Culford, Hengrave and Fornham St. Martin

Rail: 1891 2½ miles Bury St. Edmunds station:
Bury St Edmunds–Thetford line opened 1876, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.
Bury St Edmunds–Long Melford line opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965.
Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line opened 1879.
Bury St Edmunds–Ipswich line opened 1845.
Bury St Edmunds–Haughley line opened 1846.

Water: 1889–1901 Lark Navigation scheme

9. Population:

1086 – 31 recorded
1327 – 14 taxpayers paid £1 15s. 6d. (includes Fornham St. Martin)
1524 – 17 taxpayers paid £2 8s. 4d.
1603 – 57 adults
1674 – 23 households
1676 – 57 adults
1801 – 116 inhabitants
1831 – 73 inhabitants
1851 – 57 inhabitants
1871 – 89 inhabitants
1901 – 92 inhabitants
1931 – 70 inhabitants
1951 – 52 inhabitants
1971 – 52 inhabitants
1981 – 107 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (united with Risby)

1254	Valued £6.
1291	Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1535	Valued £7 1s. ½d.
1782	United with Risby at destruction of church
1867/69	Severed from Risby, annexed to Fornham St. Martin
1891	Tithes commuted for £110 4s. 4d. p.a. (Risby takes £73 17s. 10d and Fornham St Martin takes £36 6s. 6d.)
1887	Combined glebe 6 acres 2R. Gross rent £8 p.a.

Patrons: Lady Kydson (1603), William Gilstrap (1874)

11. Church St. Genevieve

1086	Church plus 14 acres free land as alms
1452	Bequest for repair of tower
1782/75	Burned down – remains situated in Fornham Park (tower). Tower subsequently used as water tower for the now demolished Fornham Hall
1813	Chancel taken down

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

Fornham St. Genevieve

1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds Note: The Abbot had villa and water mill for corn – estate known as Abbot's Mill
1539	Linked with Santon Downham, Fornham St. Martin and Hengrave (Sir Thomas Kytson)
1602	Linked to Fornham St. Martin, Rougham and Dagworth (Darcy family) passing to Sir John Gage (linked to Preston, Fornham St. Martin, Stanningfield, Hengrave and Harleston) and then to the Gipps family 17 th cent.
1721	Edward Whitaker owns
1731	Linked to Fornham St. Martin (Samuel Kent)
1789	Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Dukes of Norfolk)
1843	Linked to Fornham St. Martin (John Thomas Manners)
1862	Sir William Gilstrap
1910	G. E. J. Manners owns

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£731 rental value
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1891 £700 rateable value
1912 £757 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Lord John Manners, sole owner
1891 Sir William Gilstrap, sole owner
1912 G.E.A. Manners, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1730 Samuel Kent, High Sheriff
1781 Charles Kent, High Sheriff
1807 Lord Manners
1912 K.R. Hodgson

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 1 yeoman, 1 miller, 1 parson
1600–1649 3 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 millers, 1 cordwainer, 1 clerk
1650–1699 2 blacksmiths, 4 yeomen, 1 rector, 1 inn holder
1844 Land agent, gamekeeper, clerk, shepherd, 2 farm bailiffs
1912 Gardener, 1 farmer, sub-agent to G.E.J. Manners,
gamekeeper

19. Education:

1912 Children attend school at Fornham St. Martin

20. Poor relief:

1776 £16 1s. 3d.
1803 £65 8s. 9d.
1818 £88
1830 £65 3s.
1832 £64 8s.
1834 £54 19s.

21. Charities:

Doles:

1840 £4. 18s p.a. applied to clothing, blankets and coals

Lady Kytson's Charity:

1840 Cloth for coat, stuff for gowns given alternate years to
poor persons

22. Other institutions:

Fornham Guilds: Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Martin 1480,
St. Peter 1483, St. Genevieve 1490, St. Trinity
1481.

23. Recreation:

1650–1699 Inn holder recorded

24. Personal:

c.1730 Samuel Kent, MP for Ipswich, Surveyor of Chelsea
Hospital

25. Other information:

Fornham Hall: some dispute as to date of construction a. 1760 built by
Charles Kent-Egleton, b. c.1815 built by 12th Duke of Norfolk.
Demolished 1951.

Reputed site of battle 1173 in which Robert de Lucy, Chief Justiciary of
England defeated the Earl of Leicester and his foreign troops. The
dead from the battle believed to be buried in barrows at Seven Hills.
Site of battle said to be at le Camping Close 1826. Approximately
10,000 Flemings from Leicester army said to have been killed (more
accurate figure said to be 15/16,000).
Countess of Leicester is reputed to have thrown her rings into the river
before attempting suicide by drowning (she was rescued and
imprisoned).

Fornham Sword 12th cent. found 1933 3' 5" in length, inlaid with silver, held in
Moyses Hall Museum.

Engraving of Fornham Hall by H. Davy (Suffolk Artist 1793–1865) reproduced
in 'Views of the Seats of the Noblemen and Gentlemen in Suffolk',
1826.

Campaign by residents to prevent Industrial Waste Plant being sited in the
parish 1974–78.

Houses near church said to have disappeared due to formation of Fornham
Park c.18th cent. sometime between 1769 and 1788.

Transcript of inscriptions from old churchyard in parish folder

Kingsburyhill: possible significance in name ('History and Antiquities of
Hengrave' by J. Gage).