

1. Parish: Freckenham

Meaning: Freca's enclosure

2. Hundred: Lackford

Deanery: Peculiar jurisdiction Freckenham (–1847), Fordwich (1847–1862), Fordwich (Suffolk) (1862–1884) Mildenhall (1884–)

Union: Mildenhall

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Mildenhall RD (–1974), Forest Heath DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change (1973)
Lackford Petty Sessional Division
Mildenhall County Court District

3. Area: 2,610 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a. well drained coarse/fine loams with shallow calcareous coarse loams over chalk or chalk rubble, slight risk water erosion
- b. well drained calcareous sandy soils, risk wind erosion
- c. deep peat soils near to river

5. Types of farming:

1086		1 mill, 2 fisheries, 20 acres meadow, 3 horses, 13 cattle, 40 pigs, 230 sheep, 6 beehives
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Sugar beet, wheat, barley and turnips
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots

6. Enclosure:

1820 2,368 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1815

7. Settlement:

1958 Small compact development situated mainly on line of Worlington–Fordham road. Castle Hall and Church stand together to south of main settlement. River Kennett forms southern boundary. Railway crosses parish W–E. Some scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 40, 1801 – 62, 1851 – 99, 1871 – 98, 1901 – 76, 1951 – 184, 1981 – 640

8. Communications:

Roads: To Worlington, Barton Mills and Fordham

Rail: 1891 4 miles Mildenhall station: Cambridge line, opened 1885, closed for passengers 1962, closed for goods 1964
Ely–Norwich line, opened 1845, closed for goods 1966, unmanned halt 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 32 recorded
1327 – 27 taxpayers paid £3 4s. 6d.
1524 – 38 taxpayers paid £3 17s.
1603 – not recorded
1674 – 47 households
1676 – not recorded
1801 – 256 inhabitants
1831 – 427 inhabitants
1851 – 477 inhabitants
1871 – 421 inhabitants
1901 – 320 inhabitants
1931 – 351 inhabitants
1951 – 678 inhabitants
1971 – 345 inhabitants
1981 – 1,738 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Not recorded
1291 Valued £21 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £16 11s. 4d.
Tithes commuted for allotments of approx. 550 acres at enclosure
1815 Rectory house
1831 Not recorded
1835 Valued £600
1887 570 acres glebe, gross rental £354 10s.

1918 Valued £292

Patrons: Peterhouse, Cambridge (1831–)

11. Church St Andrew
(Chancel, N. vestry, nave, N. aisle, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 20 acres
13th cent. Chancel
14th cent. Nave
15th cent. Tower: fell down 1882, rebuilt 1884. Cautley says tower fell in 1884 and then rebuilt
1776 Bas relief painting of St. Eligius found
1867–1869 Restoration by G.E. Street
1970s Further restoration

Seats: 200 (1918)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1839 Baptist chapel built

13. Manorial:

Freckenham Manor

895 King Alfred gave estate to diocese of Rochester
1066 Manor of 10 carucates held by Orthi, a thane of Harold's
1086 Manor of 10 carucates belonging to Bishop of Rochester
1537 Sir Ralph Warren owns
–1584 Passes by marriage and inheritance to Sir Richard Cromwell
1600 Sir Stephen Soame owns (linked to Herringswell, Cavendish and Bures)
1782 Nathaniel Barnardiston owns (linked to Bromeswell, Alpheton and Sudbury)

Sub-Manors

Beck/Bek/Beckhall

1452 Inquis p.m. of Thomas Wodehous
1556 Robert Payton owns
1559 Acquired by Robert Tovull and others

Burton/Burtyus

1641 Simon Ffolkes owns

14. Markets/Fairs

Grant of market and fair to Bishop 1218

Dispute between Bishop of Rochester and Abbot of St Edmunds regarding damages done to the Bishops market at Freckenham 1221

15. Real property:

1844	£1,897 rental value
1891	£2,018 rateable value
1912	£1,866 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Col. N. Barnardiston and W.V. Paley, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1673	1 gentleman
1891	Rev. G.B Paley

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 yeoman, 1 husbandman
1600–1649	3 yeoman, 3 husbandmen, 1 knacker, 3 labourers, 1 tailor, 1 carpenter
1650–1699	6 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 sheepman, 2 shepherds, 1 miller, 1 tailor, 1 clerk, 1 rector, 1 vicar, 1 victualler
1831	75 in agriculture, 25 in retail trade, 4 professionals, 18 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	Baker, shoemaker, bricklayer/victualler, shoemaker/schoolmaster, 2 carpenters, corn miller, beerhouse/shopkeeper, brickmaker, blacksmith, shopkeeper, 7 farmers, butcher, miller
1912	Sub-postmistress, school mistress, police officer, 2 publicans, carman, road surveyor, shopkeeper, blacksmith, miller, 5 farmers, horse dealer, grocer, beer retailer, butcher

19. Education:

1818	3 dames schools (41 attend)
1833	2 daily schools (46 attend, 34 paid for by Rev. Tillbrook), 2 Sunday schools (48 attend)
1839	National school built, 50 attend 1891
	Public Elementary school, enlarged 1903, average attendance 70 1912

20. Poor relief:

1776	£56 14s. 3d.
1803	£155 2s. 6d.
1818	£297 10s.

1830	£269 3s.
1832	£246 9s.
1834	£291 9s.

21. Charities:

Shores Charity:

1710 by will of Katherine Shore: Cottage + 9 acres let at £25 p.a. applied to cottage repairs and purchase of stuff for gowns (7/8 yards per poor woman)

Herring Money:

1840 Approx. 9s. 9d. p.a. paid by three landowners for distribution among poor on 31st December

Note: Origin of Herring Money unknown – thought to derive from farm practice of ploughing in fishmeal as fertiliser

22. Other institutions:

1891	Police officer recorded
1894	Village Hall and Reading Room built

23. Recreation:

1684	1 victualler
1844	1 beerhouse, The Golden Bear public house
1891/1912	1 beer retailer, The Golden Bear and The Red Lodge public houses

24. Personal:

Sir Ralph Warren: Lord Mayor of London 1537

Sir Thomas Soame: Sheriff of London, MP in Long Parliament 1640

25. Other information:

Anciently parish held considerable fishing industry – tolls paid in herrings. Vicar of Freckenham established claim to fisheries 1347. Suggested that parish was a port (unsubstantiated). Parish stands at point where the River Lark meets the Linnet.

Castle: motte and bailey east of church.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1843/44.

Manorial seal found on Rectory Farm lands 1889.

'The Manor of Freckenham', by E. Callard 1924.

