

1. Parish: Gazeley

Meaning: Gaegi's clearing

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge (part), part Lackford). Entered Risbridge Hundred in total 1866

Deanery: Clare (–1884), Thurlow (1884–1916), Newmarket (1916–1972), Mildenhall (1972–)

Union: Newmarket

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Moulton RD (1894–1916), Mildenhall RD (1935–1974), Forest Heath DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Newmarket Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,201 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

a. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loam soils, some with calcareous clay subsoils

b. Deep non-calcareous loam soils in places

c. Slowly permeable calcareous/non-calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		15 acres meadow, woodland for 80 pigs, 5 mills (pre 1086), 4 (1086), 5 cobs, 40 cattle, 80 pigs, 960 sheep, 9 beehives
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.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, peas, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1839 1,868 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1838

7. Settlement:

1958 Large compact development adjacent to section of western boundary. Settlement clustered around road junction and centrally situated church. Castle situated on extreme eastern boundary with Denham. Desning Hall isolated apart from small group of cottages nearby. Small secondary settlement at Needham Street. Railway crosses parish W–E. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 20, 1801 – 67 (includes Higham Green), 1851 – 109, 1871 – 113, 1901 – 110, 1951 – 116, 1981 – 260

8. Communications:

Roads:

To Kentford, Herringswell, Moulton, Higham, Dalham and Ashley

1844 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Monday to Cambridge on Saturday to Newmarket on Tuesday

1891 Carriers pass through to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday

1912 Carriers pass through to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday

Rail:

1891 – 2 miles Higham station: Newmarket–Bury St Edmunds line, opened 1854, closed for goods 1964, closed for passengers 1967

9. Population:

1086 – Domesday vill of Desning – 145 recorded

1327 – 25 taxpayers paid £4 4s. 9¼d (includes Kentford and Nedham)

1524 – 8 listed (with Nedham) membrane illegible

1603 – 210 adults

1674 – 28 households

1676 – 176 adults

1801 – 523 inhabitants (includes Higham)

1831 – 426 inhabitants

1851 – 557 inhabitants

1871 – 883 inhabitants (includes Higham)

1901 – 508 inhabitants

1931 – 391 inhabitants

1951 – 366 inhabitants

1971 – 469 inhabitants

1981 – 702 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (consolidated with Kentford)

1254	Valued £30	
	Portion of vicar the same and Kentford £5	<u>£35</u>
1291	Valued £30	
	Portion of vicar £6 13s. 4d.	<u>£36 13s. 4d</u>
1535	Valued £10 10s. 5d	
1603	Incumbent also holds parsonage of Weston	
1831	1 curate, stipend £103 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £440 p.a.	
	Incumbent also holds Rectory of Spixworth, Norfolk	
	Modus of £456 p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes, £180 of which is in lieu of Kentford tithes, + 4 acres glebe 1841	
	Joint value £340 1873	
1912	Joint value £190 p.a. + 4 acres glebe and residence	

Patrons: Trinity Hall, Cambridge (1603–)

11. Church All Saints

(Chancel, vestry, nave, N & S aisles, tower)

1086	Desning: 2 churches with 1½ carucates land, 1½ ploughs
14 th cent.	Main structure with 15 th cent. alterations
	Tower 14 th cent., upper level rebuilt 1884
1857, 1888, 1891	Restorations

Seats: 270 appropriated, 180 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1593	3 persons and their families do not attend parish church but go to Barrow
1606	6 persons negligent in frequenting parish church
1676	1 nonconformist

13. Manorial:

Gazeley Manor

–1348	de Clare family owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1348	Sir Thomas Passelowe owns
1429	Thomas Heigham (linked to Dalham)
1827	Sir James Affleck owns

Sub-Manors

Desning Hall al Castle Hall

1066	Desning: Manor of 20 carucates held by Withgar
1086	Manor of 20 carucates belonging to Richard, son of Count Gilbert
1263	Extent with names of tenants included in Inquis p.m. of Richard de Clare
1290	Surrendered by Gilbert de Clare to the King. Returned to the de Clare family by 1296
14 th cent.	Hugh de Audley (linked to Haverhill)
1535	Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1538	Sir Thomas Audley owns (linked to Cavenham, Herringswell and Great Barton)
1592	Sir Edward Lewkener (linked to Cavenham and Denham)
1673	Lord Townsend owns (linked to Denham)
18 th cent.	Samuel Farmer owns (linked to Denham)

Higham Hall

13 th cent.	Earl of Gloucester owns
1348	Sir Thomas Passelow owns (annexed to main manor)
1429	Robert Heigham died seised
16 th cent.	Sir Edward Leukener (absorbed by main manor)

Gazeley Rectory

	Lands owned by the de Clare family – church of Gazeley granted to Stoke by Clare monastery
1544	leased to John Paston
17 th cent.	Vested in Charles, Duke of Somerset (linked to Lidgate and Withersfield)
1771	Heneage, 4 th Earl of Aylesford owns

Althorpe's/Applethorpe al Bovill's

1315	Robert de Althorpe (had one fee of the Earl of Clare)
1511	Fine levied of this manor against John Hervey
c.1548	William Tassell owns
1595	Inquis p.m. of Reginald Tison
1595	William Cooke owns
c.1749	Charles, 6 th Duke of Somerset owns (absorbed by Gazeley Rectory)
1909	Col. F.W. Rhodes owns

Talmags al Talmyties and Passelows

14 th cent.	William Talmache owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
14/15 th cent.	Edmund, Earl of Stafford (became annexed to Desning Hall)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,640 rental value
1891	£7,015 rateable value
1912	£3,117 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680	3 gents
1912	Rev. W. Bellow MA and Rev. G.H. Butler MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1549	1 husbandman
1550–1599	3 yeomen, 1 shepherd, 2 husbandmen, 1 labourer, 1 vicar
1600–1649	7 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 spinster, 1 blacksmith, 2 millers
1650–1699	7 yeomen, 1 shepherd, 1 husbandman, 1 labourer, 1 carpenter, 1 spinster, 1 blacksmith, 1 grocer
1831	90 in agriculture, 13 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1 in labouring, 20 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	Millwright, victualler, butcher, shoemaker, collar/harness maker, bricklayer, tailor, schoolmistress, 2 blacksmiths, 1 miller, 9 farmers, 2 shopkeepers, 2 wheelwrights
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, land steward, 2 farmers, dressmaker, millers, grocer/draper, 2 publicans, carpenter, blacksmith

19. Education:

1818	Sunday school (100 attend)
1833	2 Sunday schools (50 attend)
1843	National school built, average attendance 1891 70, 1912 72

20. Poor relief:

1776	£75 10s. 4d.
1803	£343 10s.
1818	£936 13s.
1830	£1,042 11s.
1832	£1,065 1s.
1834	£824

21. Charities:

Warren's/Pitt's Doles:

- 1683 Gift of George Warren: rent charge of 7s. 6d. p.a.
- 1641 Gift of Simond Pitts: rent charge of 10s. p.a..
Rents applied to purchase herrings every third year for distribution among poor.

Poors Land:

- 1840 37 acres, rents from which are distributed in coals annually

22. Other institutions:

- 1389 Guild of All Saints, Guild of St James and Guild of St Margaret
- 1803 Friendly Society (39 members)
- 1843 Lodge of Old Fellows opened at Chequers Inn
- 1912 Working Mens Club
- 1934 Clothing Club and Reading Room in existence
- 1933–80 Womens Institute records
Letters exist re sales of poor house 1836/37

23. Recreation:

- 1844 The Chequers and The Lamb public houses
- 1891 The Chequers, The Three Horseshoes and The Carpenters Arms public houses
- 1912 The Chequers and The Carpenters Arms public houses

24. Personal:

Robert Tavall and W. Cobbe (both natives of parish) are said to have been active in East Anglia uprising of 1381 and are believed to have been beheaded at Ramsey, Huntingdonshire

'Heighams of Barrow', by S. Greening, Pagus Issue No. 7 (October 1984) p.8.
Heigham family lived at Higham Hall, Gazeley prior to moving to Barrow.

25. Other information:

'Gazeley, the History of a Parish' by Rev. G.H. Butler c.1897.

Gazeley Hall: built c.1868. Private dwelling 1951.

Seat on village green dedicated to Mr. Herbert Kidd who served on the parish council for nearly 60 years, being Chairman for 42 years (1978).

The well situated on the green was considered the meeting place for inhabitants (no dates).

Village Hall in existence 1951.

'Denham Castle, Gazeley', Pagus, Issue No. 19 (Feb. 1987),

Account of excavation of early B.A. cemetery, by F. Peterson, PSIA Vol. 33
p.19.

Reputed site of Medieval park.

Tower mill converted to dwelling house (no dates).