

# 1. Parish: Ewarton/Arwarton

**Meaning:** Eoforweard's enclosure/homestead

2. **Hundred:** Samford

**Deanery:** Samford

**Union:** Samford

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Samford R.D. (–1974) Babergh D.C. (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Samford Petty Sessional Division  
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,306 acres land, 197 acres tidal water, 213 acres foreshore (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed

- a. Deep well drained fine loam, course loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep often stoneless course loam. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse and fine loam over clay

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		6 acres meadow, 3 <sup>rd</sup> part of fishpond, 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 26 pigs, 80 sheep, 4 goats
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region here sheep are main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig-keeping.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variation of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley
1969	Trist:	More intensive sugar growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1977 River Stour forms natural boundary to south with wet lands adjoining.  
Small compact development along line of road to Harkstead.  
Church situated to east of settlement.  
Secondary settlement at Shop Corner.  
Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 22, 1801 – 28, 1851 – 43 , 1871 – 42,  
1901 – 47, 1951 – 55, 1981 – 45

## 8. **Communications:**

Road: To Shotley and Harkstead

Rail: 9 miles from nearest railway station at Ipswich

Water: River Stour. Made navigable by Act of Parliament 1705  
1891 Wharf at Arwarton Ness listed  
Last barge travelled as far as Dedham 1928

## 9. **Population:**

1086 – 14 recorded  
1327 – 16 taxpayers paid £1 11s. 0¼d.  
1524 – 34 taxpayers paid £3 11s. 6d.  
1603 – 126 adults  
1674 – 22 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 195 inhabitants  
1831 – 179 inhabitants  
1851 – 247 inhabitants  
1871 – 187 inhabitants  
1901 – 200 inhabitants  
1931 – 190 inhabitants  
1951 – 176 inhabitants  
1971 – 129 inhabitants  
1981 – 129 inhabitants

## 10. **Benefice: Rectory (consolidated with Wooverstone)**

1254 Valued £5  
1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £10 13s. 4d.  
1831 1 curate, stipend £60 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £500 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Harkstead.  
Good parsonage house built c.1837  
Yearly rent charge of £305 in lieu of tithes. 20 acres 34 P  
Glebe 1838  
1912 Joint nett value £384. 78 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Sir Philip Parker (1603), H.D. Berners (1831), Ven.  
Archideacon Berners (1844), C.H. Berners (1891)

- 11. Church**     **St. Mary**  
(Chancel, nave, clerestory, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)
- 13<sup>th</sup> cent.     Monuments  
14<sup>th</sup> cent.     Chancel, shortened 18<sup>th</sup> cent., rebuilt 1838/39  
15<sup>th</sup> cent.     Main structure

Seats:            200 (1831)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597            2 persons excommunicated for cohabiting when  
unmarried.  
Rector fails to wear surplice.

**13. Manorial:**

1066            Manor of 1½ carucates held by Thuri, a thane of the  
Kings, or Finn's land  
1086            Manor of 1½ carucates belonging to Richard, son of  
Count Gilbert  
1066            Manor of 60 acres held by Ailbarn, a free man  
1086            manor of 60 acres belonging to Richard, son of Count  
Gilbert  
1066            Manor of 100 acres held by Osbarn, a free man of  
Aelfric's  
1086            manor of 100 acres belonging to Richard, son of Count  
Gilbert

**Ewarton**

13<sup>th</sup> cent.     Linked to Pettistree and Wherstead (Bartholomew  
Davillers)  
14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>  
cent.         Sir Oliver Calthorpe owns  
16<sup>th</sup> cent.     Linked to Wenham Magna and Wherstead (Sir Philip  
Parker)  
c.1775         Linked to Woolverstone (William Berners)  
1891            Linked to Freston, Harkstead and Holbrook (C.H.  
Berners)

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

1254 and     Grants of market and fair to Sir Robert Bacon  
1347

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,450 rental value
1891	£1,504 rateable value
1912	£1,354 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844	Van. H.D. Berners and William Deane, principal owners
1891/1912	C.H. Berners, sole owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1673	Sir Philip Parker
1844	Rev. R. Berners MA Rear Admiral C.H. Dare MVO, Capt. C.S. Hickley RN, MVO, Rev. F. Wood MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599	2 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 1 carpenter
1550–1699	1 collar maker, 2 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 3 sailors/mariners, 1 shipwright, 1 labourer, 1 carpenter, 1 miller
1600–1649	2 husbandmen, 10 yeomen, 2 sailors/mariners, 1 blacksmith, 1 fisherman, 1 carpenter
1650–1699	6 yeomen, 2 spinsters, 1 sailor/mariner, 2 blacksmiths, 1 clothier
1831	43 in agriculture, 4 in retail trade, 1 professional, 5 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	3 farmers, victualler, blacksmith/wheelwright, farm bailiff
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, publican, shopkeeper, 2 farmers

**19. Education:**

1818	1 Sunday school
1833	1 day school (30 attend), 1 Sunday school (established 1829) (58 attend)
1844	National school supported by subscription, average attendance 1891 25
1891	Older children attend school at Harkstead
1912	Council school, average attendance (32)

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£49 12s. 1d.
1803	£99 4s.
1818	£210 13s.
1830	£140 4s.
1832	£130 11s.

1834            £116 13s.

**21. Charities:**

**Poor's Estate**

1840            2 tenements occupied by poor rent free  
1 acre 2R let at £7 9s. p.a. applied to repairs, surplus  
spent in providing coals sold to poor at reduced prices.

**22. Other institutions:**

Guild possesses stock – ready money £1 6s. 8d. 1546  
Alehouses built by Sir Philip Parker 1740

**23. Recreation:**

1844–1912    The Queen's Head public house

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

**Ewarton Hall:**

Built c.1575 with tunnel vaulted gateway c.1549.

Rebuilt by Sir Philip Parker 17<sup>th</sup> cent., partially reconstructed 1858 from wing of Old Hall. Leased 1910 by Admiralty as Commanding Captain's residence for Royal Naval Training establishment at Shotley. Antique shop 1981. Tradition states Anne Boleyn stayed at the Hall and that her heart was interred in the parish church (unsubstantiated). However in 1837 it was reported that a heart-shaped leaden casket was found built in the north wall of the church (East Anglian Notes and Queries 1899).

It is believed that 5 bells were removed from the church and broken up for shot in order to defend the Old Hall against Fairfax's soldiers 17<sup>th</sup> cent.