

## 1. Parish: Shelley

**Meaning:** Leah (clearing) on slope or ledge

2. **Hundred:** Samford

**Deanery:** Samford

**Union:** Samford

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

### Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1884  
Ecclesiastical boundary change 1933  
Samford Petty Sessional Division  
Hadleigh County Court District

3. **Area:** 912 acres land, 4 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion.
- b. Stoneless clay soils in places calcareous, variably affected by groundwater. Flat land, risk of flooding.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		16 acres meadow, 1 mill, 1 cob, 4 cattle, 7 pigs, 23 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing 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 variations 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, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 River Brett forms natural boundary to east. Extremely small development on eastern boundary close by river crossing at Shelley Bridge. Church centrally situated. Secondary development at Shelley Priory. Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 22, 1801 – 19, 1851 – 26,  
1871 – 30, 1901 – 24, 1951 – 23,  
1981 – 14

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Layham and Higham

**Rail:** 3 miles Hadleigh station. Bentley–Hadleigh line, opened 1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for goods 1965

**Water:** River Brett

**9. Population:**

1086 – 16 recorded  
1327 – 26 taxpayers paid £1 17s. 3½d  
1524 – 19 taxpayers paid £2 14s. 8d.  
1603 – not listed  
1674 – 22 households  
1676 – not listed  
1801 – 137 inhabitants  
1831 – 142 inhabitants  
1851 – 138 inhabitants  
1871 – 130 inhabitants  
1901 – 103 inhabitants  
1931 – 87 inhabitants  
1951 – 73 inhabitants  
1971 – 46 inhabitants  
1981 – 51 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831), Vicarage (1891)**

1254 Valued £4 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £4  
1535 Not listed  
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £72 p.a.  
Valued £72 1835  
1891 Valued £51 p.a.  
1912 Nett value £37 p.a. 40 acres glebe

**Patrons:** W.B. Rush (1831)

**11. Church All Saints**

(Chancel, N. chapel, nave, S. aisle, porch, tower on North side – entrance through base)

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Chancel
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure including tower
15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	N. chapel
1643	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 6 Superstitious pictures and removed 2 inscriptions
1882	Restoration

**Note:** Unusual ground plan – nave projects west of north tower.

**Seats:** 140 (1831)

## 12. Nonconformity etc:

## 13. Manorial:

1066	Manor (as outlier of East Bergholt) of 2 carucates
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the King
1272	Robert de Tateshall held of the barony of Tibenham, Norfolk Robert Harleston owned at which time the manor was forfeited to the Crown and granted to Richard, Duke of York. However, Chancery Proceedings state that John L'Estrange died seised of this manor in 1467.
1485	Linked to hawstead, Rougham and Onehouse (Roger Drury died seised)
1510	Linked to Brantham (Edward Cornwallis)
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Linked to Sproughton (Sir Philip Tilney)
1627	Thomas Kerridge owns
1756	Samuel rush owns

## 14. Markets/Fairs

1227	Grant of market and fair
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## 15. Real property:

1844	£1,147 rental value
1891	£1,038 rateable value
1912	£591 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844	Land sub-divided
1891	J.W. Brittain and Mrs. Arnold, principal owners + few small owners
1912	R.K. Brittain, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1611	Thomas Tilney, Sheriff of Suffolk
1647	Thomas Kerridge, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1673	Richard Kirby, John Tilney
1705	Thomas Kerridge, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1912	R.K. Brittain, Major F.H. Howe

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599	1 yeoman, 4 husbandmen
1600–1649	3 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 blacksmith
1650–1699	1 yeoman, 1 spinster, 1 pail maker
1831	27 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 6 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	2 shoemakers, land surveyor, 4 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, 3 farmers

**19. Education:**

1833	1 Sunday school (8 attend)
1912	Children attend school at Layham and Raydon

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£56 10s. 2d.
1803	£165 9s. 3d.
1818	£204 5s.
1830	£143 18s
1832	£144 15s
1834	£130 12s.

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

Edmund Tilney d. 1610, appointed master of the revels in the Royal Household 1579. Undertook the licensing of plays for public representation and publication.

Charles Tilney executed 1586 for his part in the Babington Conspiracy.

**25. Other information:**

Shelley Hall: built 1520 by Sir Philip Tilney. Listed as farmhouse 1891, said to exhibit the Tilney arms. Queen Elizabeth I entertained 1561.