

# **1. Parish: Stratford St. Mary**

**Meaning:** Ford by which Roman road crossed a river

**2. Hundred:** Samford

**Deanery:** Samford (–1946), Hadleigh (1946–)

**Union:** Samford

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Samford RD (–1974), Babergh DC (1974–)

## **Other administrative details:**

Samford Petty Sessional Division  
Hadleigh County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,491 acres land, 12 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. Deep stoneless non-calcareous/calcareous clay soils, locally having humose/peaty surface horizons. Groundwater controlled by ditches/pumps. Flat land. Risk of flooding.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		16 acres meadow, woodland for 16 pigs, 1 Mill, 1 cob, 6 cattle, 36 pigs, 50 sheep
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, hope and occasionally hemp.
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, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

- 1958 River Stour forms natural boundary to South. Wet lands to west and south restrict development. Main A12 road crosses parish S–NE.  
Large compact development to west between main road and river. Church and remainder of settlement occupies sector to east of main road. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 120, 1801 – 76, 1851 – 154,  
1871 – 145, 1901 – 126, 1951 – 152,  
1981 – 267

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Line of Roman Road. Main Colchester–Ipswich road  
1844 Main Norwich–London road  
Carriers to Colchester on Wednesday and Saturday  
Carriers to Ipswich on Tuesday and Friday  
1912 Carriers to Ipswich and Colchester as above

**Rail:** 1891 4 miles Ardleigh station

**Water:** River Stour: Made navigable by Act of Parliament 1705  
Last barge travelled as far as Dedham 1928  
Iron bridge over River Stour built 1876

Village by-pass opened c.1975

**9. Population:**

1086 – 31 recorded  
1327 – 20 taxpayers paid £1 14s.  
1524 – 75 taxpayers paid £53 9s. 10d.  
1603 – Not recorded  
1674 – 120 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 502 inhabitants  
1831 – 630 inhabitants  
1851 – 673 inhabitants  
1871 – 658 inhabitants  
1901 – 510 inhabitants  
1931 – 506 inhabitants  
1951 – 459 inhabitants  
1971 – 403 inhabitants  
1981 – 791 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254	Valued £8 13s. 4d.
1291	Valued £19
1535	Valued £13
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £296 p.a. Incumbent also holds Perpetual curacy of Ruscombe, Berks 19 acres 1R 19P glebe. £325 p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes 1839
1912	Nett value £222 p.a. 18 acres glebe and residence.

**Patrons:** Queen (as Duchess of Lancaster) (1844), Ducy of Lancaster (1912)

**11. Church St. Mary**

(Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, N. porch, W. tower)

1086	1 church + 20 acres free land, ½ plough
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Chancel
1499	N. aisle built by Thomas More (clothier)
15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure
1532	Porch built. Doorway contains shields with monograms, merchants' marks and mottoes
1870, 1876–79	Restorations

Note: A bassoon hangs in S. aisle. Also in S. aisle is a ledger stone (possibly 14<sup>th</sup> cent.)

**Seats:** 300 (1831)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Samuel Lindsell, Rector ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers 1644  
Congregational chapel built 1860

**13. Manorial:**

**Stratford Hall**

1066	Manor of 3 carucates held by Robert
1086	Manor of 3 carucates belonging to Swein of Essex
12 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Linked to Edwardstone (Hubert de Munchanay)
1316	John de Stratford owns
1478	Geoffrey Brame owns
1502	Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Charles Brandon)
1539	Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex owns
1540	Manor forfeited to Crown and vested in Anne of Cleves

c.1560	linked to Haughley, Stowmarket and Wetherden (John Sulyard)
c.1647	Nicholas Philips owns
1657	Major General Sir Philip Skippon owns
c.18/ 19 <sup>th</sup> cent.	William Deane owns

### **Sub-Manors:**

#### **Vesey's/Bonhall Payses**

1377	Sir Simon de Burley owns
1382	Linked to eye, Thorndon, Haughley and Higham (Michael de la Pole)
1609	Crown property
1855	Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Sir J.R. Rowley)
1910	Sir J.T. Rowley

### **Overhall**

1409	Sir Richard Walton died seised
1424	Elizabeth Howard owns

#### **Spanbies/Spanbies-Sulyard**

1482	John Sulyard owns (becoming absorbed by main manor in 16 <sup>th</sup> cent.)
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### **14. Markets/Fairs:**

1382	Grant of market and fair
1383/4	Charter for market every Thursday and Fair on eve, day and morrow of Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr (granted to William de la Pole)
1844	Market long obsolete. Pleasure Fair held 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
1891	June Fair for pedlary and pleasure – obsolete

### **15. Real property:**

1844	£2,650 rental value
1891	£2,489 rateable value
1912	£2,397 rateable value

### **16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912	Land sub-divided, soil mainly freehold
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### **17. Resident gentry:**

1680	2 gents
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1844	Rev. C. Golding MA
1891	T.S. Furniss, JP, W.H. Horne, JP, E. Cooper, Major S. Dawson
1912	Lord P.C. Gorell, Rev. B.A. Browning, MA

## 18. Occupations:

1550–1699	Non recorded
1831	68 in agriculture, 61 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 4 labourers, 37 in domestic service, 15 others
1844	Butcher, maltster, corn miller/merchant, beer seller, clerk, bricklayer, 3 shoemakers, shopkeeper, carpenter, post horse letter carrier, 2 bakers, plumber/glazier, 2 schoolmistresses, 2 tailors, seed crusher, hay trusser, harness maker, 3 gardeners, coach builder, 2 grocer/drapers, blacksmith, postmistress, surgeon, butcher, 4 publicans, 8 farmers, birch broom maker
1912	Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmistress, 3 farm bailiffs, teacher of drawing, carrier, publican, coach builder, cycle agent, 3 farmers, 2 publicans, master of hounds, butcher, 2 jobmasters, maltsters, 2 grocer/drapers, hotelier, 2 chimney sweeps, 3 shopkeepers, blacksmith, librarian, baker, grocer

## 19. Education:

	School founded 1588 by bequest of Lettice Dykes for education of 2 poor children
	Bequest of Robert Clarke 1731 for education of 10 poor children
1818	Endowed school containing 40 children (6 places assisted)
1833	Endowed school containing 22 children (8 places assisted)
	2 daily schools (45 attend), 1 Sunday school (41 attend)
1844	2 schoolmistresses listed
	School Board formed 1876 (united parishes of Stratford St. Mary and Higham)
1891	Night school for boys held in winter by the rector
	Public Elementary school built 1877, average attendance 1912 100
	New primary school

## 20. Poor relief:

1776	£122 12s. 8d.
1803	£229 18s. 9d.
1818	£640 14s.
1830	£516 9s.
1832	£497 19s.
1834	£395 16s.

**21. Charities:**

**Poor's Lands:**

2 acres let at £4 13s. p.a. distributed among poor 1840

**Cloth Charity Estate:**

1735 House, yard, garden and 2 acres land let at £8 5s. 6d. p.a. Rents laid out in purchase of linen cloth for distribution among poor annually.

**White's Charity:**

£2 4s. p.a. applied to supply of bread to poor twice yearly 1840

**School Charities:**

1731 by will of Robert Clarke. £5 rent charge p.a. applied to education

**22. Other institutions:**

1803 Guilds of Holy Trinity and St. John Baptist 16<sup>th</sup> cent.  
1803 Friendly Society (26 members)  
1891 Oddfellows Lodge held at Swan Inn  
Parish Rooms built 1909 by Col. Browning  
1912 Kennels of Essex and Suffolk foxhounds  
Police officer listed  
Water Authority pumping station 1935

**23. Recreation:**

1844–1912 1 beer seller. 4 public houses (The Anchor, The Black Horse, The Kings Arms (coaching house), The Swan (posting house))  
Swan Inn: Origins in 16<sup>th</sup> cent. (Booklet by L.P. Thompson in parish folder). George II is said to have stayed at the Inn 1736  
Also mentioned in 'Old Inns of Suffolk', by L.P. Thompson 1946  
1912 Parochial library  
Women's Institute 20<sup>th</sup> cent.  
Bowling Green opened 1964

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Important stopping point for travellers since Roman times. Romans had staging post just outside village at Gun Hill known as 'Ad Ansam'.

Black Horse Inn: associated with highwayman Matthew Keys who is said to have left his watch, sword and pistol in lieu of payment of his bill.

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

Water Mill: such a building has existed on the site in the street (mid village) since 1619. The last building is shown on OS map of 1843. Became known as the 'macaroni' mill (used for manufacture of macaroni which business closed in 1890). Used by Home Guard during 1939–45 war. Demolished 1947/48.

Voted Best Kept Village in Babergh District 1975.

Won Suffolk Best Kept Village Trophy 1978.

Parish contained 2 houses each with tenter-house and field 1945.

Article on late medieval Weaver's Home by C. Hussey, 1945, in parish folder.

'Gooseacres': Title deeds date from 1596.

Bridge across Stour built 1926, earlier bridge was situated approximately 200' above present site (before realignment of the road)

Gallows field is shown situated opposite 'The Gables' and the church on map of this date 1821.