

1. Parish: Little Wenham

Meaning: Pasture, meadow (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Samford

Deanery: Samford

Union: Samford

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

Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Capel St. Mary with little Wenham (1786)

Samford Petty Sessional Division
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 940 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loams, some with calcareous clay subsoils
 - b) Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wenham: 22 acres meadow, 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 75 pigs, 164 sheep, woodland for 18 pigs, 1 mill
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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, weat on lighter land.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958/1972 Dismantled railway crosses parish NW-SE. Small compact development clustered around church and Wenham Hall. Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 8, 1801 – not recorded, 1851 – 19, 1871 – 19, 1901 – 13, 1951 – 14, 1981 – 11

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Great Wenham, Capel St. Mary and Washbrook

Rail: 1891 1 ½ miles Capel station. Bentley-Hadleigh line, opened (1847), closed for passengers (1932), closed for goods (1965) Platform and base of station house remain

9. Population:

1086 — 64 recorded (includes Great Wenham)

1327 — 26 taxpayers paid £2. 2s. 8d. (includes Great Wenham)

1524 — 10 taxpayers paid 6s.

1603 — 28 adults

1674 — 8 households

1676 — not listed

1801 — 64 inhabitants

1831 — 88 inhabitants

1851 — 72 inhabitants

1871 — 115 inhabitants

1901 — 65 inhabitants

1931 — 72 inhabitants

1951 — 99 inhabitants

1971 — 39 inhabitants

1981 — 36 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory (with Capel St. Mary)

1254 Valued £5. 7s.6d.

1291 Valued £4. 6s. 8d.

1535 Valued £5. 8s. 11 ½ d.

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £694 p.a.
Tithes commuted for £260 p.a. (1838)

1912 Joint net value £500

Patrons: Clipaby Gawdy (1603), J. Tweed (1831)

- 11. Church** **All Saints**
 (Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)
- 1086 Wenham: 4th part of church + 6 acres, church + 20 acres
 free land, ½ plough, Part of church
- 13th cent. Main structure
- 1466 Bequests for building porches
- 15th cent. Nave and tower
- 1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 26
 superstitious pictures and ordered 6 more destroyed and
 steps levelled.
- 1903 Restoration
- 1976 Redundant although preserved by Redundant Churches
 Fund

Seats: 200 (1831)

Bixley: Church of St Petronville

Believed anciently connected to Alnesbourne Priory.

12. Nonconformity etc:

Estate of messuage, tenement/farm of 100 acres in Little
 Wenham, Washbrook and Chattisham. Rents applied to
 use of Quakers. Will of Hester Browning of Crowfield
 (1706)

13. Manorial:

Wenham Parva:

- 1066 Manor of 3 carucates held by Auti, a thane
- 1086 Manor of 3 carucates belonging to Robert, son of
 Corbucion
- 1270 Linked to Shottisham and Bramfield (Sir John de Vallibus
 died seised)
- 1272 Richard de Brewse owns
- 1296 Linked to Nacton, Walton, Bentley (de Holebroke family)
- 1431 Linked to Tattlingstone (Gilbert Debenham)
- 1500 Sir Thomas Brewse owns
- 1682 Hall became separated from manor when John Brewse
 mortgaged and then sold estate to John Mason (1691)
- 1697 Joseph Thurston owns
- 1765 Philip Havers owns
- 1910 G.E. Crisp owns

Sub Manors:

Vaux, Germans/Jermyns

1066	Manor of 1 carucate held by Ansgot under patronage of Edeva the Fair
1086	Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Count Alan and held by Ermengot
1199	Linked to main manor (Robert de Vaux/Vallibus)
1432	Annexed to mainmanor (Sir Gilbert Debenham)
1746	Robert Freeman owns passing by inheritance to John Cook (1761)
1826	James Josselyn owns
1843	Linked to Capel St. Mary (Joseph Ansell)
1868	Linked to Wenham Magna (J.F. Robinson)
1910	Linked to Capel St. Mary (C.J. Grimwade)

Stodhaugh

1513	Absorbed by main manor (Robert Brewse)
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Caltham

Appears to be identical with Stodhaugh

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,507 rental value
1891	£1,024 rateable value
1912	£844 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	F. Crisp and A. Harwood, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1674	William Brewse
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18. Occupations:

1500-1599	3 yeoman
1600- 1649	1 yeomen, 1 husbandmen
1650-1699	1 yeomen, 1clerk
1831	17 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 1 professionals, 7 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	Shoemaker, 4 famers, blacksmith
1912	4 farmers, blacksmith

19. Education:

1912 Children attend school at Capel St. Mary

20. Poor relief:

1776	£43. 15s. 6d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£16.	spent on poor relief
1818	£158. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£132. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£114. 10s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£100. 13s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Wenham Hall: Built circa 1260 for Sir John Vallibus. Example of 13th century domestic architecture. Believed to be earliest example of Flemish brickwork in England. Part moated. Point of interest: Although fortified, it is a house and not a keep. House also contained a chapel.

Used mainly as granary (1891), restored by A.C. Crisp (20th century)

'Little Wenham Hall' by Stephen Jackson (PSIA Vol.II p.183)

Excursion to Little Wenham (PSIA Vol. XI p.71)

Illustration of The Chapel, Wenham Hall (PSIA Vol. V pages 182 and 184)

Archaeological Sites:

Med. Moated site (CRN 5132)

Ring ditch (CRN 5133)

Wenham Castle (CRN 5131)

Church of All Saints (CRN 5134)