

1. Parish: Wherstead

Meaning: The place by the shore or embankment

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:** 2,139 acres land, 41 acres tidal water, 129 acres
Foreshore (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 often stoneless coarse loam. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse and fine loam over clay.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		19 acres meadow, 1 mill (pre–1086), 1 cob, 65 pigs, 210 sheep, 44 goats, 8 cattle
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep–corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main crop. Also has similarities with wood-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, roots.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1973/74 Railway crosses parish SW–N, River Orwell forms natural boundary to east and Belstead Brook forms natural boundary to west.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 34, 1801 – 30, 1851 – 45, 1871 – 48, 1901 – 60, 1951 – 125, 1981 – 119

8. Communications:

Road: To Ipswich and Freston
1891 Carriers pass through to Ipswich

Rail: 1891 2½ miles Ipswich station. Ipswich–Bury St. Edmunds Line opened 1846, Ipswich–Norwich line opened 1849, East Suffolk line opened 1859, extension to Felixstowe opened 1877

Water: River Orwell. Navigable to Ipswich

9. Population:

1086 – 13 recorded
1327 – 19 taxpayers paid £1 0s. 8d.
1524 – 16 taxpayers paid £5 0s. 2d.
1603 – 48 adults
1674 – 35 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 237 inhabitants
1831 – 233 inhabitants
1851 – 238 inhabitants
1871 – 255 inhabitants
1901 – 287 inhabitants
1931 – 460 inhabitants
1951 – 423 inhabitants
1971 – 314 inhabitants
1981 – 305 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £10
1291 Valued £10
1535 Valued £5 6s. 8d.
1603 Parson also holds living of Freston. Value £5 6s. 8d. Vicarage originally built 1620, enlarged and improved 1816, taken down 1880.

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £194 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectories of Lt. Blakenham and Gosbeck. 18 acres 17P glebe. £158 12s. 6d. awarded in lieu of tithes 1840. £405 8s. p.a. awarded to impropiator in lieu of great tithes. Vicarage built 1880 on glebe land and using materials from old vicarage. 18 acres 37P glebe.

1912 Nett value £189 p.a. and residence + 17 acres glebe.

Patrons: The Crown (1831), Rev. F.A. Blake (1891)

11. Church St. Mary
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 1 church + 3 acres free land
14th cent. Chancel. Original structure (Norman) – walls 4' thick N. and S. doorways (Norman)

15th cent. Main structure including tower
1800 Copper ball placed on top of tower as landmark for vessels on the Orwell River. Removed 1902. Tower restored with pinnacles.

Seating capacity unknown.

11a. Other religious institutions:

Wherstead Monastery: Documentary evidence only. Formed c.1225. Believed united to Priory of St. Peter and St. Paul, Ipswich c.1528.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Curate does not wear surplice.

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Edmund, a free man of Robert, son of Wymarc

1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Count Alan and held by Fulcric

1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Thurstan

1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Count Alan

1066 manor of 1 carucate held by Toli, a free man, under patronage of Robert

1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Count Alan

Domesday Vill of Beria

1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Edeva

1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Count Alan and held by Humphrey

Domesday Vill of Parrington

1066	Manor of 60 acres held by Thurstan
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Count Alan
1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Robert
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Swein of Essex

Wherstead Hall

1086	Believed to be lands of Count Alan
1203	Gilbert de Reymes/Raimes owns (admitted a free burgess of Ipswich, compounded for exemption from toll, custom etc. for his villeins in Wherstead)
1316	Linked to Newton and Woolverstone (Sir Robert de Reydon)
1335	Linked to Acton, Raydon and Freston (Sir Andrew de Bures)
1441	Sir John Harwood owns Manor becomes divided into 4 parts until
early 19 th cent.	John Vernon owns
1818	Linked to Burstall (Sir Robert Harland)
1910	Linked to Lt. Belstead (Charles E. Dashwood)

Sub-Manors

Pannington Hall

1086	Believed to be lands of Swein of Essex above
1202	Gerard de Wachesham owns It appears possible the manor was transferred to St. Peters Priory, Ipswich at the same time as the advowson c.early 13 th cent.
1528	Linked to Falkenham, Felixstowe, Nacton, Bentley, Burstall, Chattisham and Hintlesham (Cardinal Wolsey who granted to St. Mary's College, Ipswich 1529)
1532	Sir William Butts owns
1592	Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Sir Nicholas Bacon)
early 19 th cent.	Absorbed by main manor (John Vernon)

Bowen Hall

1086	Believed to be the Domesday vill of Beria above
No date	St. Peter's Priory, Ipswich
1528	Annexed to Pannington Hall (Cardinal Wolsey and similarly granted to St. Mary's College, Ipswich 1529)
1530	Thomas Hall owns

1609 Linked to Trimley St. Mary (Sir Edward Cooke/Coke)
19th cent. Absorbed by main manor (John Vernon)

Thorington Hall

13th cent. Linked to Pettistree and Erwarton (Bartholomew Davilers)
17th cent. Linked to Erwarton and Wenham Magna (Sir Philip
Parker)
19th cent. Absorbed by main manor (John Vernon)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £2,759 rental value
1891 £3,638 rateable value
1912 £6,946 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Sir Robert Harland and James and John Josselyn,
principal owner + few small owners
1891/1912 C.E. Dashwood, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 2 gents
1844 Rev. G. Capper, William Scrope
1891 C.E. Dashwood
1912 B.H. Burton, JP, C.E. Dashwood, JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1549 1 yeoman
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 clerk
1600–1649 5 yeomen, 1 inn holder, 1 carpenter
1650–1699 6 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 husbandman, 2 farmers, 1 miller, 1
mariner
1831 52 in agriculture, 3 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 6
labourers, 21 in domestic service
1844 Victualler, wheelwright/wood dealer, blacksmith, 7
farmers
1912 Police officer, schoolmistress, blacksmith, 4 farmers,
wheelwright, bricklayer, publican, gardener

19. Education:

1812 1 day school converted into Sunday school (24 attend)
1823 1 Sunday school (20 attend)
National school built 1856 by Lady Harland, average
Attendance 1912 43

20. Poor relief:

1776	£68 3s. 6d.
1803	£93 2s.
1818	£276 11s.
1830	£191 3s.
1832	£192 16s.
1834	£153 8s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1912 Police officer listed

23. Recreation:

1624 1 inn holder recorded
Spinning match held at The Ostrich public house, 1774,
prizes included a kettle, ½lb tea and some blue ribbons
'Camping' match held in field near The Ostrich public
house 1791

1844 The Ostrich public house believed built c.1612

1891/1912 Public house as above

1929–1966 Lifeboat Inn in existence on the Wherstead Road

24. Personal:

Chief Justice Edward Coke: 17th cent. Lord Chief Justice of his Majesty's Pleas at Westminster. Occupied Bourn Hall. 2 engravings (one dated 1792) in R.O. Bourn Brook and its mills made over to him by Ipswich Corporation in payment for undisclosed act.

25. Other information:

Wherstead Park: (formerly Wherstead Lodge). Foundation stone laid 1792 by member of Harland family.

Headquarters of Eastern Electricity Board 20th cent.

Ostrich Public House: Takes its name from the crest of Lord Chief Justice Coke of Bourn Hall 17th cent.

'Some Materials for a History of Wherstead', by F. Barham Zincke 1893.

Town House in existence c.1792.

Case of assisted emigration to Canada 1832 of Sam Rich and his family from Wherstead. Copy account to the Church wardens and Overseers contained in above book by F.B. Zincke.

Bourn Bridge widened 1891.

100 persons from N. Suffolk emigrated to Canada from Wherstead 1836.

