

1. Parish: East Bergholt

Meaning: Copse by a hill

2. **Hundred:** Samford

Deanery: Samford

Union: Samford

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

Other administrative details:

Chapelry of Brantham attached to East Bergholt. Separate ecclesiastical identity 1843

Civil boundary change (exchanges parts with Dedham, Essex) 1938

Samford Petty Sessional Division

Hadleigh County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,119 acres (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 loam over clay.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		12 acres meadow, woodland for 1,000 pigs, 1 mill, 1 cob, 10 cattle, 29 pigs, 85 sheep, 26 goats
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 as preparation for corn and rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

Complaints of “a great deal” of land (formerly common property) had been enclosed 1549.
1816 Enclosure of Town Heath: Award and map deposited in Town Chest 1818

7. Settlement:

Well spaced, small town development. River Stour crosses parish to south. Wet lands restricting development in this area. Church relatively central to development. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 262, 1801 – 159, 1851 – 337, 1871 – 320, 1901 – 318, 1951 – 523, 1981 – 961

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Holton St. Mary, Brantham, Bentley and Stratford St. Mary.

1844 Carriers to Ipswich on Saturday, Wednesday and Friday
Carriers to Colchester on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

1891 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday and Friday
Carrier to Colchester on Wednesday and Saturday

1912 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday and Friday
Carrier to Colchester on Wednesday and Saturday
Brake to Ipswich every Tuesday
Carrier to Manningtree station daily

Rail: 1891 3 miles Manningtree station. Liverpool Street–Norwich line opened 1846. Branch line to Harwich opened 1854

Water: River Stour: Made navigable by Act of Parliament 1705
Last barge travelled as far as Dedham 1928

9. Population:

1086 — 70 recorded
1327 — 41 taxpayers paid £4 8s. 3d.
1524 — 126 taxpayers paid £50 6s.
1603 — 600 adults (includes Brantham)
1674 — 263 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 970 inhabitants
1831 — 1,360 inhabitants
1851 — 1,467 inhabitants
1871 — 1,320 inhabitants
1901 — 1,397 inhabitants
1931 — 1,474 inhabitants

1951 — 1,715 inhabitants
1971 — 2,725 inhabitants
1981 — 2,757 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Brantham cum Bergholt valued £16
1291 Not listed
1535 Valued £25 10s. (includes Brantham)
1831 1 curate, stipend £108 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £1,120 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of St. Mary, Holton. Modus of £820 p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes 1837
1844 45 acres joint glebe
Union severed with Brantham 1854
1891 Rectory house described as fine old mansion
1912 Nett value £500 p.a. 13 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

William Cardnall (1603), J. Rowley (1831), Rev. J. Rowley (1844), Emmanuel College, Cambridge (1891)

11. Church St. Mary

(chancel, side chapels, nave, clerestory, aisles, south porch and upper chamber, unfinished tower)

14/15th cent. Main structure
1442/43 Documents mention new aisle
15th cent. Wall paintings of Resurrection
1525 Tower left unfinished
1597 Church is decayed in timber and lead
1643 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed Parish Registers and removed 80lbs weight of brass from the monuments
1867 Restoration

Seats: 800 (1831)

Bell House Single storied with pyramidal roof (louvered at top) stands in churchyard for the bells (believed medieval structure). Suggested date: 1541.

11a. Other Religious Institutions

St. Mary's Abbey

Founded 1598 by the Lady Mary Percy in Brussels. Moved to East Bergholt c.1857 where it remained until c.1974.

12. Nonconformity etc:

- 1532 1 person burned at Catawade for his religious beliefs
- 1555 1 person burned at Ipswich “for the true defence of Christ’s Gospel”
- 1606 2 persons – recusants refusing to attend church
Independent chapel formed 1689, rebuilt 1857
Primitive Methodist chapel built 1838

13. Manorial:

- 1066 Manor of 13 carucates held by Harold
- 1086 Manor of 13 carucates belonging to the King

There were outliers of this manor in Shelley, Bentley and Shotley. While it held jurisdiction in Bramford, Holbrook, Wherstead, Chelmondiston, Capel St. Mary, Higham, Raydon, Burstall, Wenham, Tatingstone, Toft, Erwarton and Belstead.

- 1315 Philip de Orebyn was Lord of Bergholt

Illarius/New Hall

- 14th cent. Links with Cowling (Philip Tilney)
- c.1530s Edmund Knevitt owns
- 1542 Robert Reynolds owns
- 16th cent. Links with Trimley St. Mary and Walton (Thomas Lambe)
- 1717 Links with Great Livermere and Lawshall (Nathaniel Acton)
- 1796 John Reade owns
- 1811 Links with Brantham
- 1862 William Sidney Calvert owns

Sub-Manors:

Oldhall/Adehall

- 14th cent. Linked to Sutton and Raydon (Sir John de Sutton)
- 1355 Serjeants Accounts of lands amongst Ministers Accounts in P.R.O.
- 1393 4 messuages, 70½ acres land, 19 acres and 32 acres meadow, 52 acres 1R pasture, 1 fishery and 17s. 3d. rent.
- 1425 Linked to Somerton, Preston, Lavenham, Cockfield, Ramsholt, Copdock and Tatingstone (John de Vere, Earl of Oxford)
- 1582 William Cardinall owns
- 1642 Henry Parker owns
- 1730 Henry Hankey owns
- 1777 Richard Rigby owns
- c.1862 Absorbed by main manor (W.S. Calvert)
Custom of Borough English prevails

Spencers

13 th cent.	Roger Dakeny owns
1286	John de la Mare owns passing by marriage and inheritance to John, Lord Roos 1414
16 th cent.	Absorbed by main manor (Thomas Lambe)

Commandry's al St. John's

12 th cent.	Peter Liscamp owns (gave manor to the Knights Templar)
13 th cent.	Templars claim warren, view of frankpledge and assize of bread and beer
No date	Vested in Hospitallers of Battisford
16 th cent.	Granted for benefit of Cardinals College, Oxford
1544	Absorbed by Oldhall (John de Vere, Earl of Oxford)

Extent of Manor of East Bergholt in Inquis p.m. of Isabella de
Maydenhath 1318

14. Markets/Fairs:

1759	Fair held on Wednesday after St. Swithins for toys Parish formerly had a market – decayed sometime in 18 th cent.
1844	Fair for toys etc., on 1 st Wednesday in July
1891	Fair on last Wednesday and Thursday in July – obsolete by 1912

15. Real property:

1844	£5,846 rental value
1891	£6,139 rateable value
1912	£8,510 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/91	Land sub-divided
1912	C.C. Eley and Sir A.C. Hughes, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

1673	Robert Cardinall, Robert Clarke, and Henry Parker
1716	Joseph Chaplin, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1718	Edward Clarke, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1844	Rev. T. Clarke MA, Sir R. Hughes, Dowager Countess Morton, C. Rowley, C.T. Oakes, Rev. J. Rowley MA
1891	Capt. H.E. Lacon JP, Sir A. Hughes, Mrs. Peel, C. Eley, C.A.D. Halford

1912 H.E. Chorley JP, C.C. Eley JP, A. Harwood JP, T. Robertson JP, Gen. Sir R.M. Jennings and Lady M. Hughes

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 clothier, 1 husbandman, 1 candle maker, 1 shoemaker, 1 smith

1550–1599 6 clothiers, 7 weavers, 5 husbandmen, 1 carpenter, 1 yeoman, 1 barber, 1 blacksmith, 2 shearmen (one who cuts woollen cloth), 1 baker, 1 glover

1600–1649 14 clothiers, 11 weavers, 2 clothworkers, 1 brewer, 8 husbandmen, 2 carpenters, 1 cooper, 7 yeomen, 1 labourer, 2 shoemakers, blacksmith, 1 shearman, 1 fisherman, 1 butcher, 1 smith

1650–1699 13 clothiers, 1 maltster, 3 clothworkers, 3 husbandmen, 1 cooper, 7 yeomen, 3 spinsters, 1 tailor, 1 shoemaker, 1 blacksmith, 1 seamstress, 1 mason, 1 innholder, 2 clerks, 1 butcher

1831 199 in agriculture, 1 in manufacturing, 92 in retail trade, 33 professionals, 63 in domestic service, 4 others
Watermills: 33 in 1562, 1 in 1844
Formerly had considerable manufacture in flannel and baize (decayed c.1741)

1844 Furniture broker, linen/woollen draper, 2 plumber/glaziers, corn miller/coal and corn merchant, vessel owner, worsted manufacturer, hairdresser, timber bender, land surveyor, 2 bakers, straw hat maker, 2 coopers, cattle dealer, harness maker, road surveyor, surgeon, milliner, 4 inns, 4 academies, 4 blacksmiths, 3 bricklayers, 3 butchers, draper, 9 grocers, 14 farmers, 5 joiners, 6 shoemakers, 3 tailors, 2 carriers

1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, public officers, schoolmaster, carpenter, 2 plumbers, 2 builders, 19 farmers, bank, fancy repository, 3 bakers, carrier, surgeon, miller (steam), confectioner, 2 butchers, cab proprietor, solicitor, 3 beer retailers, 2 gardeners, threshing machine proprietor, jobbing gardener, coal merchant, 4 publicans, 2 artists, shoemaker, 2 apartment housekeepers, grocer/draper, farm bailiff, 3 insurance agents, market gardener, shoeing/general smith, jobmaster, dressmaker, bootmaker, head gamekeeper, pork butcher, cycle agent, boarding housekeeper, wheelwright, saddler, engraver, grocer, ironmonger/china dealer

19. Education:

1818 Grammar school: Founded by Mrs. Lettice Dykes and Mr. E. Lambe 1588. 72 boys and some girls attend 1867. Daily school of Industry (70 girls attend)

- 1833 1 Sunday school
40 pupils attend Grammar School above.
1 Infant school established 1824 (30 attend)
1 daily Presbyterian school (15 attend)
3 other daily schools (68 attend)
2 boarding schools (20 attend)
1 day and Sunday National school (70–80 attend)
1 Sunday school (established church) (36 attend)
1 Sunday school (Presbyterian) with lending library attached (46 attend)
- 1844 Free Grammar school rebuilt 1831
4 Academies listed
National school built 1873 near old school (used for infants)
Average attendance (mixed scholars and infants) 180
1891
Enlarged 1902 and 1911, average attendance 1912 224.
Preparatory school listed
- 1891
1956/57 Secondary Modern school built. Converted to Comprehensive School 1976

20. Poor relief:

1776	£170 6s. 6d.
1803	£381 8s. 3d.
1818	£819 8s. 3d.
1830	£425 16s.
1832	£425 16s.
1834	£393 18s.

21. Charities:

Town Lands:

Six cottages at Burnt Oaks let at £17 p.a.
13 acres 5R 1P let at £39 p.a. and £80 annuity. Income to repairs and necessary outgoings and purchase of linen for the poor according to their needs 1840

The School:

- 1589 by deed of Edward Lambe. Bequeathed land for use of free school.
1589 by Indenture of Lettice Dykes. Conveyed land and property for education

Clarke's Charity:

- 1720 by will of Edward Clarke: 3 cottages on East Bergholt Heath and rent charge of £12 p.a. from messuage and farm in Tattingstone, for use of 3 poor industrious widows.

Chaplin's Charity:

1725 by will of Joseph Chaplin. Rents from estate consisting of cottage, barn, 14 acres 0R 13P and 2 acre allotment 1817 (£30 in 1817) applied to provision of clothing and parochial relief.

Mitchell's Charity/Poor's Allotment:

1758 by indenture of Elizabeth Mitchell. Moneys for distribution in bread to poor, surplus distributed as the rector and churchwardens think fit 1840
1815 Allotment of 2 acres awarded at enclosure

White's Charity:

£2 8s. 2d. p.a. applied to bread.

22. Other institutions:

Chapel of St. Mary on Bridge of Cattiwade founded by Hugh, Rector of Bergholt 13th cent.
Workhouse first mentioned 1734. Inmates transferred to Tattlingstone 1768
1803 2 Friendly Societies (106 members)
1891 Police officer listed
1912 Barclays bank. Village Club listed
20th cent. Flatford Mill Field Centre

23. Recreation:

1582/83 Fine of 6d. for dealing as victualler without licence
1603/04 Fine for 3d. for allowing unlawful game of 'Coyting'
1604/05 Fine of 3d. for allowing unlawful game of 'playing at the tables (backgammon)' for bread and drink.
1691 Inn holder listed
1844 Beer house. 4 public houses (The Hare and Hounds, The Kings Head, Red Lion and The White Horse)
1891 3 beerhouses. 4 public houses (The Hare and Hounds, The Kings Head, Red Lion and The White Horse)
1912 3 beer retailers, 4 public houses The Hare and Hounds, The Kings Head, Red Lion and The White Horse)
1976 7 public houses

24. Personal:

c.1422 William White, ex priest and Lollard made East Bergholt his main residence
1532 Robert Dednam, hanged at Catawade. Religious martyr.
1555 Robert Samuel, burned at Ipswich. Religious martyr.

1776–1837 John Constable RA, born East Bergholt. One of founders of English School of landscape painting. Lived for time at Flatford Mill. Constable memorial window in parish church. 'The Birthplace of John Constable RA' produced by A. Hynard. Numerous books written on John Constable and his paintings.

25. Other information:

East Bergholt Place: 17th cent. mansion overlooking River Stour.

'Bits About Bergholt' by A Villager 1874.

'East Bergholt in Suffolk' by T.F. Paterson.

Lawsuit between East Bergholt and Capel St. Mary re. repairs to bridge 1688.

Town Booke 1686–1703, in existence 1874.

Men from Bergholt went to Ipswich to defend Queen Mary against Duke of Northumberland 1553.

Flatford Mill: called water or fulling mill 1536/37 (made famous in Constable's paintings)

St. Mary's Franciscan Friary converted into community home 1974.

Petition of weavers of Ipswich, Hadleigh, Lavenham and Bergholt state that clothiers have their own looms and weavers/fullers in their own houses so master weavers are rendered destitute 1539.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest (culprit apprehended) 1843/44.