

1. Parish: Freston

Meaning: The Frisian's enclosure/homestead

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: 1,457 acres land, 3 acres of water, 16 acres tidal water, 78 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		9 acres meadow, 1 mill, 3 cattle, 3 pigs, 101 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising 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, oats, barley, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1953 Small well spaced development with no obvious centre. Church isolated. Scattered farms.

River Orwell forms natural boundary to N.E.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 24, 1801 – 21 , 1851 – 46,
1871 – 58, 1901 –56 , 1951 – 65,
1981 – 58

8. **Communications:**

Roads: To Woolverstone, Holbrook and Wherstead
1891 Carriers pass through to Ipswich daily.

Rail: 1891 3 miles Bentley station. Bentley–Hadleigh line
Opened 1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for
goods 1965.
Colchester–Ipswich line, opened 1849, station closed for
passengers 1966, closed for goods 1964.

Water: River Orwell: Navigable river to Ipswich.

9. **Population:**

1086 – 29 recorded
1327 – 9 taxpayers paid £0 15s. 6d.
1524 – 15 taxpayers paid £2 18s. 10d.
1603 – 52 adults
1674 – 25 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 142 inhabitants
1831 – 183 inhabitants
1851 – 250 inhabitants
1871 – 263 inhabitants
1901 – 254 inhabitants
1931 – 217 inhabitants
1951 – 236 inhabitants
1971 – 194 inhabitants
1981 – 151 inhabitants

10. **Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £2 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £4 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £6 7s. 6d.
1603 Parson also holds living of Wherstead. Value £6 7s. 6d.
1831 1 curate. Stipend £60 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income
£379 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Holbrook.
23 acres 5P glebe. Tithes commuted for £376 p.a. 1841.
Old rectory house (Freston House) enlarged 1870.
New rectory house built 1887.
1891 12 acres glebe.
1912 Nett value £272 p.a. 12 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: J. Bond (1831), Mrs. E.M. Durrant (1891)

11. Church St. Peter
(Chancel, nave, vestry, S. Porch, W. tower)

1086 1 church
14th cent. Main structure, including tower
1597 Chancel window is decayed in glass
1875 Restoration, vestry added

Seats: 160 (1831)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 2 persons excommunicated for not attending church
1839 1 house set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 6 carucates held by Robert son of Wymart
1086 Manor of 6 carucates belonging to Richard, son of Count
Gilbert and held by Roger of Abenon

Freston

1234 Philip de Freston owns passing by marriage and
inheritance to the Latimer family 15th cent.
1553 Thomas Gooding owns
1635 John Havers owns
18th cent. John Wright
19th cent. Linked to Erwarton, Harkstead and Holbrook (C. Berners)

Sub-manors:

Bonds/Bonds Hall

1330 Linked to Trimley St. Mary and Harkstead (Nicholas
Bonds)
16th cent. Linked to Brookford, Stoneham, Tattlingstone and
Woolverstone (Thomas Gawdy)
1609 Leonard Pillet owns
1646 Benjamin Cutler owns
17th/18th
cent. Rev. Charles Beaumont owns
1822 Linked to Nacton (Philip Bowes Vere Broke)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,763 rental value

1891 £1,857 rateable value
1912 £1,496 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680 1 gent
1844 E.B. Venn

18. Occupations:

1550–1549 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen
1550–1599 2 husbandmen
1600–1649 4 yeomen, 1 labourer, 2 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1
 glover
1650–1699 2 twill weavers, 6 yeomen, 1 cordwainer
1831 40 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1
 labourer, 13 in domestic service
1844 Wheelwright, victualler/blacksmith, joiner, 5
 farmers
1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmistress, shopkeeper, 2
 farmers, wheelwright, blacksmith, 2 farm bailiffs,
 publican, hurdle maker

19. Education:

1818 1 school run at expense of rector's wife (15 attend)
1833 1 Sunday school (23 attend)
 National school built 1843
1912 Public Elementary school. Average attendance 46

20. Poor relief:

1776 £78 5s. 0d.
1803 £79 9s. 6d.
1818 £298 7s.
1830 £205 13s.
1832 £218 8s.
1834 £183 1s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society (48 members)

23. Recreation:

1844 The Boot public house
1891/1912 The Boot Inn

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Freston Tower:

Quadrangular building 6 storeys high 10' x 12' in area believed to have been a pleasure retreat, built by the Latimer family c.1561, overlooking the Orwell. Other possible definitions are a 'standing' or 'look-out' tower. Said to have been used by small pox victims 1772–1779. Photograph in 'East Suffolk', by Barker. Article in PSIA, Vol. II, p.270.

Lych Gate:

Erected 1897 by public subscription to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

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