

# 1. Parish: Holbrook

**Meaning:** Hollow brook (brook running in deep ravine)

**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:** 2,028 acres land (including 267 acres wood and plantation), 26 acres inland water, 46 acres tidal water, 329 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:**

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:	Roots, wheat, barley
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 River Stour and Holbrook Bay form natural boundary to

South. Moderate development centred mainly around a triangular road formation and along road to Holbrook Mills.

Church situated separately to south of main Development.

Secondary settlement at Royal Hospital School and Lower Holbrook.

Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 79 , 1801 – 59, 1851 – 177,  
1871 – 180, 1901 – 178, 1951 – 343,  
1981 – 519

## 8. **Communications:**

Road: To Stutton, Woolverstone and Harkstead  
1844 Carrier to Ipswich on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.  
1891 Carriers to Ipswich daily (except Wednesday).  
1912 Carriers to Ipswich daily.

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

Water: River Stour: made navigable by Act of Parliament 1705.  
Jetty built for barges (no date). Last barge travelled as far as Dedham (1928).

## 9. **Population:**

1086 – 4 recorded  
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £1 15s. 4d.  
1524 – 47 taxpayers paid £7 6s. 8d.  
1603 – 84 adults  
1674 – 80 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 447 inhabitants  
1831 – 762 inhabitants  
1851 – 857 inhabitants  
1871 – 821 inhabitants  
1901 – 720 inhabitants  
1931 – 945 inhabitants  
1951 – 1,076 inhabitants  
1971 – 1,986 inhabitants  
1981 – 2,143 inhabitants

## 10. **Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.

1291 Valued £6 13s. 4d.  
 1535 Valued £11 11s. 3d.  
 1831 1 curate, stipend £60.p.a. Glebe house. Gross  
 Income £436 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of  
 Freston.  
 6 acres glebe. £490 10s. p.a. awarded in lieu of Tithes  
 1838.  
 Rectory house (commodious mansion) built 1822  
 by Rev. Thomas Holmes, enlarged 1870.  
 1912 Nett value £254 p.a. 2 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Mr. Justice Clinch (1603), J.B. Wilkinson (1831),  
 Rev. J.B. Wilkinson (1844)

**11. Church**

All Saints

(Chancel, nave, aisles, vestry, S. porch, S.W. tower)

12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>  
 cent. Doorway on north side  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel, nave and tower  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent. S. aisle  
 1863/64 Restoration, N. aisle built

**Seats:** 400 (1831)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1603 4 recusants  
 1844 Wesleyan chapel listed

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Godman under patronage of  
 Edeva  
 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Count Alan and held by  
 Odo  
 1240 Earl Warren owns  
 1271 Linked to Nacton, Walton and Bentley (Richard de  
 Holbroke).  
 Passes by marriage to Sir John Fastolf (14<sup>th</sup> cent.)  
 (Linked to Levington, Nacton, Bentley, Holton St. Mary  
 and Capel St. Mary)  
 1477 John Bemey owns  
 1558 Sir Robert Southwell died seised  
 1589 John Clench owns  
 c.18<sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Thurston owns  
 c.19<sup>th</sup> cent. Linked to Erwarton, Freston and Harkstead  
 (Charles Berners)

Custom is to the youngest son; tenant by the courtesy; gives heriot

service of the best beast.

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£2,438 rental value
1891	£3,395 rateable value
1912	£3,360 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1673	Sir William Beversham
1606	Thomas Clench, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1639	John Clench, Sheriff of Suffolk
1680	3 gents
1844	J. Berners, Mrs. Reade, Rev. J.B. Wilkinson MA
1891	B.B.H. Rodwell, QC, DL, JP
1912	Col. K.D. Murray, JP, W.H. Rodwell, JP, Rev. M. Washington, MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599	5 husbandmen, 2 yeomen, 1 sailor, 1 carpenter, 2 fishermen, 1 tinker, 1 butcher, 1 blacksmith, 1 collarmaker 1 shoemaker
1600–1649	9 husbandmen, 15 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 gelder, 3 fishermen, 1 boatwright, 1 locksmith
1650–1699	2 husbandmen, 1 seaman, 10 yeomen, 1 cooper, 2 tailors, 1 fisherman, 1 spinster
1831	159 in agriculture, 40 in retail trade, 7 professionals, 2 labourers, 38 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	3 school teachers, gardener, beerhouse keeper, 2 tailors, Corn miller/maltster, fishmonger, straw hat maker, bricklayer, pork dealer, cooper, 2 butchers, victualler, Carrier, 2 blacksmiths, plumber/glazier, farrier, 6 farmers, 2 joiners, 3 shoemakers, 4 shopkeepers, 2 surgeons, 2 wheelwrights
1912	Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmaster, 2 surgeons, 2 market gardeners, beer retailer, 7 farmers, master mariner, 2 carriers, brick and tile makers, (Holbrook Creek Brick Works), grocer, 2 bootmakers, plumber, builder, hawker, wheelwright, butcher, vet, shopkeeper, blacksmith, publican, miller, bricklayer

**19. Education:**

1818	1 school (32 attend) 2 small day and boarding schools (62 attend) 1 Sunday school on Dr. Bells system (60 attend)
1833	1 infants school (71 attend), 1 evening school (36 attend), Infant girls' school established 1829 (42 attend), Boys' day school (42 attend)
1844	2 national schools, average attendance 1891 170 2 'respectable' boarding schools listed Public elementary school built 1860, average Attendance 1912 136

## 20. Poor relief:

1776	£121 13s. 0d.
1803	£166
1818	£660 8s.
1830	£411 19s.
1832	£326 11s.
1834	£276 6s.

## 21. Charities:

### Poor's Money

£30 given for poor in 1662 (interest on this money received in 1840). £20 from sale of workhouse 1802.  
£50 p.a. applied to purchase of coals for poor.

### Lost Charity

1840	Reputedly £40 p.a. was given for poor. Lost through Insolvency.
1912	Interest on £1,000 distributed annually under will of Mrs. Catherine Deane to sick and deserving poor. Interest on £10 under Clench and Herring charities Distributed among poor annually.

## 22. Other institutions:

	Village Club and Reading Room built 1880 on site Donated by B.B.H. Rodwell (1 <sup>st</sup> stone laid by Lady Henniker)
1912	Police officer listed Royal Hospital School (part of Greenwich Hospital Established in 1712, moved to its present site 1933. Site donated by Gifford Sherman Read 1846–1929. Booklet of photographs of the school and related Buildings in R.O. (no dates).

## 23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Compasses public house  
1844 1 beerhouse  
1891–1912 2 beerhouses/retailers

**24. Personal:**

John Reade: d. 1843 had been a chief judge in India and Sheriff of Suffolk 1830  
John Clench: 1<sup>st</sup> Recorder of Ipswich 1574, Baron of the Exchequer 1581, Justice of the Queen's Bench 1591–1602, died 1607  
Thomas Clench: HP for Suffolk 1620

**25. Other information:**

Expansion by 100 private and council houses 1964–  
Possesses of 400 acres of wood and plantation 1973.