

1. Parish: Somerton

Meaning: Sumarlioi's homestead (Ekwall)
County: Suffolk

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (-1864), Sudbury (Western) (1864-1884),
Horningsheath (1884-1914), Horringer (1914-1972),
Sudbury (1972-)

Union: Sudbury

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Melford RD (-1974), Babergh DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1885) part transferred to Boxted,
part of Hartest transferred to Somerton
Melford Petty Sessional Division
Sudbury County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,015 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Some slowly permeable calcareous/ non
calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

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
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet, better loams attract orchard and soft fruit growers

6. Enclosure:

7. **Settlement:** 1953 Small scattered development around church
Secondary settlement at Somerton Hall and Manor Farm. Some scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 14, 1801 – 23, 1851 – 25, 1871 – 33,

1901 – 22, 1951 – 34, 1981 – 23

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Hartest and Boxted
1891 Carrier to Sudbury on Monday and Friday,

Rail: 1891 6 miles Glemsford station: Stour Valley line, opened
(1868), closed for goods (1966), closed for passengers (1967)

9. Population:

1086 — 10 recorded
1327 — 13 taxpayers paid £1. 6s. 3d.
1524 — 17 taxpayers paid £1. 8s. 4d.
1603 — 60 adults
1674 — 15 households
1676 — 93 adults
1801 — 117 inhabitants
1831 — 141 inhabitants
1851 — 136 inhabitants
1871 — 168 inhabitants
1901 — 100 inhabitants
1931 — 71 inhabitants
1951 — 114 inhabitants
1971 — 63 inhabitants
1981 — 64 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Portion of parson £5. 6s. 8d.
Portion of Canonry (Collegiate church) of Thetford
13s. 4d. £ 6. 0s. 0d.
1291 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
Portion of Canon Teff (Thetford) 13s. 4d. £7. 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £6. 16s. 8d.
1831 1 curate, stipend £40 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income
£218 p.a.
Incumbent also holds Rectories of Hartest with Boxted
and Stansfield
39 acres 2R 11P glebe. Tithes commuted for £300 p.a.
(1839)
1912 Nett value £180. 35 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Edward Copley (1603), Dowager Duchess of Devonshire
(1831), Marquis of Devonshire (1844/1912)

11. Church All Saints
(Chancel, S. chapel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

13th cent. Arcade of 2 arches

14th cent. Chancel and chapel (with shafted squint leading to chancel (13th cent.))
 N. doorway, nave (11/12th cent.)
 Norman buttress (flat) on S. side of church
 15/16th cent. Tower and porch
 1883/1901 Restoration

Seats: Not known

12. Nonconformity etc.:

1593 1 person refused communion
 1611 2 persons not receiving communion
 1676 1 dissenter
 3 houses set aside for worship (1835)

13. Manorial:

Somerton Manor:

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Starker under King Edward
 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert, son of Corbucion and held by Roger in jurisdiction of St. Edmunds
 12th cent. Richard Neville owns (linked to Newton)
 1460 Baron Neville of Montague owns
 1493/94 Earls of Oxford owns (linked to Preston, Lavenham and Cockfield) valued £4
 1557 Richard Poley owns (linked to Boxted, Preston and Hartest)
 1905 John George Weller Poley owns

Sub-Manors

Hores

1428/16th cent. Drury family of Hawstead own (linked to Acton, Gt. Waldingfield, Lawshall and Cockfield)

14. Market/Fairs

Charter for market and fair granted to 'Sumertune' (1225)
 Fair held on July 31st for toys (1759)

15. Real property:

1844 £1,149 rental value
 1891 £1,189 rateable value

1912 £728 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 J.G.W. Poley, J.J. Marsh and Lieut. Col. O.H. Oakes,
principal owners.

17. Resident gentry:

1844 J.E. Hale and Rev. J. Maddy DD
1912 Rev. W.P. Ireland MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 weaver, 1 petty chapman
1600–1649 10 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 blacksmith, 1 tanner
2 clerks, 2 weavers
1650–1699 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 yarnman (probably a yarn
spinner), 1 doctor of medicine, 1 clerk, 1 clothier.
1831 33 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 3 in domestic service, 2
others
1844 4 farmers
1912 Beer retailer, 4 farmers, threshing machine owner

19. Education:

1818/1833 1 Sunday school (25-30 attend)
1912 Children attend school at Hartest

20. Poor relief:

1776	£69. 13s. 8d	spent on poor relief
1803	£185. 2s. 1¾ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£224. 10s	spent on poor relief
1830	£223. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£201. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£110. 6s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Poley's Charity:

1572 Deed of John Poley: One fifth rents distributed annually among
poor

22. Other institutions:

Guild of St. Thomas (1524)

1912 4 almshouses built and endowed by trustees of Miss Finetta Hale

23. Recreation:

1891/1912 1 beerhouse/retailer

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Archaeological Sites:

Church of All Saints

Scatter finds: Rom. pottery