

# 1. Parish: Washbrook (also known as Great Belstead)

**Meaning:** Stream where washing as done/wet place, swamp

2. **Hundred:** Samford

**Deanery:** Samford

**Union:** Samford

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Samford R.D. (-1974), Babergh D.C. (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Civil Boundary change 1884  
Samford Petty Sessional Division  
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,501 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 fine loam over clay.

5. **Types of farming:**

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, 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, turnips.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

## 7. Settlement:

1958 Line of Roman road (A11 London Road) forms boundary, It also forms main street of the settlement (part of which is in Copdock). Small compact development at river crossing at Washbrook Bridge. Church occupies isolated position to the west of the settlement. Secondary settlement at Washbrook Street. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 26, 1801 – 42, 1851 – 105, 1871 – 94, 1901 – 73, 1951 – 95, 1981 – 574

## 8. Communications:

Road: Line of Roman road. A11 London Road. Minor roads to Sproughton, Copdock and Hintlesham.

Rail: 1891 Carriers pass through to Ipswich on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.  
1891 2½ miles Capel station. Bentley–Hadleigh line, opened 1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for goods 1965. Platform and base of station house remain.

Water: Belstead Brook. Bridge crosses.

## 9. Population:

1086 – Belstead – 44 recorded  
1327 – 17 taxpayers paid £1 19s. 8½d.  
1524 – 11 taxpayers paid £2 14s. 6d.  
1603 – 127 adults  
1674 – 26 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 278 inhabitants  
1831 – 418 inhabitants  
1851 – 514 inhabitants  
1871 – 421 inhabitants  
1901 – 283 inhabitants  
1931 – 316 inhabitants  
1951 – 298 inhabitants  
1971 – 480 inhabitants  
1981 – 1,526 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £4  
1291 Valued £8 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £8 6s. 8d.  
1603 Parson also holds living of Hendley. Value £8 6s. 8d.  
Consolidated with Copdock (no date)

- 1831 1 curate, stipend £120 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £497 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectories of Hutton, Essex and Catmere, Berks.  
Joint value £483 p.a. 1835
- 1844 Endowed with all tithes however great tithes of copyhold land pay yearly modus of £52 to Lord Walsingham.  
Tithes commuted for £224 10s. p.a.
- 1912 joint nett value £319. 50 acres glebe, residence in Copdock.
- Patrons: Edmund Knapp (1603), Lord Walsingham (1831)

### **Feldchirche (in Washbrook)**

#### **Vicarage**

- 1254 Valued £2 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £4 13s. 4d. (belonged to Abbey of Albemarl)  
Instituted into AD 1301, 1314 and 1338
- 1535 Belonged to Monastery of Dartford, Kent, no vicar.  
Impropriation of church of Felchurch granted to Nunnery of Dartford, Kent c.1371.

### **11. Church**

#### **St. Mary**

(Chancel, nave, modern S. porch, N. baptistery, W. tower)

- 1086 2 x 4<sup>th</sup> part of church, church + 34 acres free land  
Norman Nave  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure with later additions (stone aroading to Chancel).  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower  
1643 Puritanical vandals (William Dowsing) broke down 26 superstitious pictures, ordered stone cross to be removed and chancel steps leveled.  
1866 Restoration

**Seats:** 200 (1831)

### **Velchurch/Felchurch:**

Dedication unknown  
Impropriated to Abbey of Albemarl  
On Dissolution given to Nunnery of Dartford  
Site in field bordering Sproughton–Copdock road  
Ruins visible c.1764

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Estate of messuage, tenement/farm of 100 acres in Washbrook, Chattisham and Lt. Wenham. Rents applied to use of Quakers.  
Will of Hester Browning of Crowfield 1706  
1844 Baptist chapel listed

**13. Manorial:**

**Belstead**

1066/1086 Manor of 3 carucates 40 acres held by Aelfric of Weinhou  
1086 Manor of 3 carucates 40 acres belonging to Countess of Aumale  
1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Godwin, son of Alei, a thane of Queen Edith's  
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Robert Malet  
1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Toki, a free man under patronage only  
1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Aubrey de Vere  
1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Thuri  
1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Robert of Stratford  
1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Aelfric, a free man  
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux

**Great Belstead/Washbrook/  
Amer/Haker/amor Hall**

1086 Believed to be the lands of the Countess of Albemarle  
1214 Linked to Harkstead (William de Fortibus, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Albemarle)  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Abbey of Albemarle in Normandy own  
c.1371 Nunnery of Dartford, Kent own  
1538 Linked to Harkstead (Sir Percival Hart)  
1650 Linked to Woolverstone (Sir Thomas Bedingfield)  
1764 Linked to Copdock (Thomas de Grey)  
1899 John Hales Tooke owns

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £2,309 rental value  
1891 £1,786 rateable value  
1912 £1,892 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Land sub-divided  
1891 B.H. Tooke principal owner

1912 J.B. Tooke principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1680 1 gent

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 husbandman

1550–1599 4 husbandmen, 4 yeomen, 1 ashburner

1600–1649 1 husbandman, 8 yeomen, 1 plumber, 1 tailor

1650–1699 1 husbandman, 9 yeomen, 1 clerk

1831 86 in agriculture, 25 in retail trade, 9 in domestic service

1844 Shopkeeper, victualler/maltster, relieving officer,  
bricklayer, painter/glazier, joiner, 7 farmers

1912 Shopkeeper, 5 farmers, farm bailiff, grocer, publican,  
bootmaker, harness maker, carpenter/builder

**19. Education:**

1833 1 Sunday school established 1833 (34 attend)

1891 Consolidated with Copdock for educational purposes  
Children attend Copdock Public Elementary School

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £88 5s. 2d.

1803 £127 11s.

1818 £401 14s.

1830 £318 17s.

1832 £271 10s.

1834 £234 16s.

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

Guild having no land, ready money = £6 1524

**23. Recreation:**

1844 The Swan public house

1891/1912 The Brook Inn public house

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**