

1. Parish: Great Wenham (also known as Wenham Combusta or Brent Wenham)

2. **Meaning:** Pasture, meadow (Ekwall)
Hundred: Smaford

Deanery: Samford (-1946), Hadleigh (1946-)

Union: Samford

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

Other Administrative details:

Samford Petty Division
Hadleigh County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,133 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay, and similar soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous soils especially on steeper slopes.
- b. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loams, some with calcareous clay subsoils.
- c. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk of water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		22 acres meadow, 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 75 pigs, 164 sheep, woodland for 18 pigs, 1 mill
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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide Variations of crop management and techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and roatation 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:

1958/1972 Dismantled railway crosses parish W-E. Raydon airfield (disused) occupies central position on western border and probably influenced development in this area. Small we spaced development along road to East Bergholt. Church relatively centrally situated. Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 21, 1801 – 23, 1851 – 55, 1871 – 60,

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Little Wenham, Capel St Mary and Holten St Mary.
1844 Carrier to Ipswich listed
1891 Carriers to Ipswich on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 2 miles Raydon station. Bently - Hadleigh line, opened (1847), closed for passengers (1932), closed for goods (1965).

Air: Raydon Airfield: Built (1942/3) as Class 'A' standard bomber base of USAF but was never used as such. Use transferred to RAF (1945), part sold (1952), remainder of station closed (1958), land sold and returned to agricultural use (1960/62)

9. Population:

1086 – 64 recorded (Includes little Wenham)

1327 – 26 taxpayers paid £2. 2s. 8d.

1524 – 12 taxpayers paid £4. 11s.

1603 – 70 adults

1674 – 21 households

1676 – not listed

1801 – 170 inhabitants

1831 – 181 inhabitants

1851 – 269 inhabitants

1871 – 282 inhabitants

1901 – 184 inhabitants

1931 – 169 inhabitants

1951 – 339 inhabitants

1971 – 176 inhabitants

1981 – 159 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £8

1291 Wenham Conbust alia secular Rector valued £8. 13s. 4d.

1535 Valued £8. 13.s 4d.

1831 Glebe house, gross income £234 p.a.

16 acres glabe (mostly in other parishes), £275 p.a.

Awarded in lieu of tithes (1843)

1891 16 acres glebe. Commodious residence believed built (circa 16th cent.), enlarged (1869)

1912 Nett value £160 p.a.

PATRONS: Mr Wentworth (1603), J. Ashley (1831), Rev. D.C Whalley (1844), Bishop of Norwich (1891)

11. Church **St John**
(Chancel, nave, S porch, W Tower)

1086 WENHAM: 4th part of Church + 6 acres land, church + 20 acres free land, ½ plough, part of church

13th cent Main structure

14th cent Chancel

15th cent Tower

1842/1868 Restorations

Note: Sword, helmet and banners of the east family held in the church.

Seating Capacity Unknown

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

WENHAM

1066 Manor of 24 acres held by Algar, a free man

1086 Manor of 24 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux

1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Wulfric, a free man

1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux

WENHAM MAGNA/BREND WENHAM

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Tuneman, a thane of King Edward, under patronage of Harold.

1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Bishop of Bayeux

1281 Priory of Leighs, Essex owns

1536 Sir Richard Cavendish owns

1587 Linked to Bucklesham, Felixstowe, Nacton, Boulge, Dallinghoo and Great Bealings (Henry Seckford)

1672 Linked to Higham and Raydon (Maurice Shelton)

Passing to Nathaniel Parker and Sir Phillip Parker in 1696 (linked to Erwarton and Wherstead)

1885 Linked to Wenham Parva (T.F. Robinson)

SUB-MANORS:

BOYTON HALL: Very little known

14. Market/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £1,294 rental value

1891 £1,348 rateable value
1912 £1,136 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 A. Mann and C.C Eley principal owners.

17. Resident gentry:

1844 John Marven Syer

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 2 yeomen, 3 husbandmen
1600–1649 2 yeomen, 2 husbandman, 1 bricklayer
1650–1699 6 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 carpenter
1831 45 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 5 in domestic service,
1844 Carrier, shopkeeper, maltster, 5 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, 5 farmers, wheelwright, publican, land agent

19. Education:

1818 1 Sunday school, 100 attend
1833 1 daily school, 12 attend
1912 Children attend school at Capel St. Mary

20. Poor relief:

1776 £21. 19s 6d. Spent on poor relief
1803 £82. 14s. 6d.
1818 £86. 9s.
1830 £57. 16s
1832 £73. 14s.
1834 £56

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1891/1912 THE QUEEN'S HEAD public house

24. Personal:

Matthew Hopkins:
Born circa 1619, the son of James Hopkins, Vicar of Great Wenham. Known
as the Witchfinder General. d. 1647 (buried in Mistley)

25. Other information:

Wenham Place: Fragment of large 15th century building (1981)
1843/44 1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest (culprit apprehended)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Med. Moated sites (CRN 5127, 5129)

Rom. Inhumation (CRN 5128)

Church of St. John (CRN 5130)

Note: CRN = Computer Record No.