

1. Parish: Woolverstone

Meaning: Wulfhere'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: 960 acres land, 56 acres tidal water, 142 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		3 acres meadow, woodland for 15 pigs, 7 cobs, 12 cattle, 30 pigs, 100 sheep, 36 goats
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:	Oats, wheat, barley and roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1973/74 River Orwell and Downham Ranch form natural boundary to North.
Small well spaced development along Chelmondiston – Freston road. Church situated separately on edge of Woolverstone Park, the growth of which probably influenced development. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 42, 1801 – 32, 1851 – 48 , 1871 – 51, 1901 – 70, 1951 – 79, 1981 – 93

8. **Communications:**

Road: To Freston, Chelmondiston and Harkstead
1891 Carriers pass through to Ipswich daily

Rail: 1891 4 miles Ipswich station. Ipswich–Bury St. Edmunds line opened 1846, Ipswich–Norwich Line opened 1849, East Suffolk line opened 1859, extension to Felixstowe opened 1877.

Water: River Orwell: Navigable river to Ipswich

9. **Population:**

1086 – 11 recorded
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £1 13s. 5¾d.
(includes Chelmondiston)
1524 – 13 taxpayers paid £2 14s. 6d.
1603 – 90 adults
1674 – 42 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 241 inhabitants
1831 – 235 inhabitants
1851 – 241 inhabitants
1871 – 245 inhabitants
1901 – 349 inhabitants
1931 – 281 inhabitants
1951 – 261 inhabitants
1971 – 614 inhabitants
1981 – 557 inhabitants

10. **Benefice: Rectory (consolidated with Erwarton)**

1254 Valued £2
1291 Valued £4 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £5 8s. 7d.
1831 1 curate, stipend £60 p.a., no glebe house, gross income £500 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Harkstead
1912 Joint nett value £384. 78 acres glebe

Patrons:

Dionis Catelyn (1603), H.D. Berners (1831), Archideacon Berners (1844)

- 11. Church** St. Michael
(Chancel, nave, modern N. transept, S. Porch, W. tower)
- 1086 Church + 10 acres
14th cent. Main structure including chancel
15th cent. Additions including tower
1899/1890 Restorations (old nave became S. aisle, new nave and chancel built, tower given battlemented parapet and Pinnacles)
- Note: Stands in grounds of Woolverstone Hall Park
- Seats: 200 (1831)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

- 1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Thurstan
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Count Alan
1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Alfred under patronage of Scalpi
1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Robert Gernon

Woolverstone manor/Woolverstone Hall

- 13th cent. Crown demesne land
1291 Hamon de Wolfreston had grant of free warren
1310 Linked to Newton and Wherstead (Robert de Reydon)
1316 Linked to Bucklesham, Brantham, Burstall and Chelmondiston (Sir John Holbroke)
c.1420 Linked to Stutton (Elizabeth Wolverstone)
1580 linked to Brokford, Stonehams, Freston and Tattingstone (Sir Thomas Cawdy)
- c.late
16th cent. Richard and Philip Catelyn owns
early
17th cent. Philip Bacon owns
Mid
17th cent. Linked to Eye, Gislingham, Redlingfield, Stoke Ash, Stuston, Hoxne, Cavenham, Eriswell, Tuddenham and Old Newton (Sir Thomas Bedingfield)
- early
18th cent. John Tyson owns, who became bankrupt in 1720—
John Ward claimed the manor in right of mortgage

1728 Linked to Harkstead (Knox Ward)
 1773 Linked to Erwarton (William Berners)
 Consisted of house and park – present house built circa
 1778, extended 1823
 1910 Linked to Erwarton, Freston, Harkstead and Holbrook
 (C.H. Berners)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,146 rental value
 1891 £1,438 rateable value
 1912 £ 1,572 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Ven. H.D. Berners, principal owner
 1891/1912 C.H. Berners, principal and sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1818 C. Berners, High Sheriff of Suffolk
 1844 Ven. Archdeacon H.D. Berners, Rev. H.R. Bramsell, MA
 1891 C.H. Berners, JP
 1912 C.H. Berners, JP, J.A. Berners, Rev. R.J.U. Todd, MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 husbandman
 1550–1599 1 husbandman, 1 inn dweller
 1600–1649 2 husbandmen, 1 bricklayer, 4 yeomen, 2 trailors,
 1 carpenter, 1 fisherman
 1650–1699 1 husbandman, 1 clerk, 4 yeoman, 1 mariner, 1 spinster
 1831 45 in agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 15 in domestic service,
 7 others
 1844 Farm bailiff, shopkeeper, farmer/corn miller
 1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmaster, land steward,
 gamekeeper, gardener, 1 farmer

19. Education:

1833 1 daily school (40 attend), 1 Sunday school established
 1831 (40 attend)
 National school built 1932 by Ven. H.D. Berners, rebuilt
 1871 by John Berners, enlarged 1889 by Capt. Hugh
 Berners, average attendance 1912 46.

20. Poor relief:

1776 £50 5s. 8d.

1803	£23
1818	£183 19s.
1830	£148 6s.
1832	£143 12s.
1834	£113 4s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1912	Working Men's Club listed
1968/9	Clubhouse for Royal Harwich Yacht Club

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

W. Berners: c.1776. Built Woolverstone Park. Was owner of Berners Street, London

25. Other information:

Woolverstone Hall and Park: Hall built 1776 by William Berners. The original House believed to have stood on site of the stables. Park extends to 400 acres and is stocked with spotted deer 1844.

Obelisk (96' high) surmounted by globe, erected 1793 by Charles Berners as memorial to William Berners d. 1783.

Used as C.L.C. Boarding Grammar School 1975.

'Woolverstone Hall: Some Reflections on the Domestic Architecture of John Johnson 1732–1814' by N. Briggs, PSIA Vol. XXXIV, p.59.

Woolverstone House: designed by Lutyens (Courtyard house).

'The Clergy Rest', built 1886 by Capt. H. Berners.

St. Peter's House built 1901 by C.H. Berners.