

1. Parish: Bramford

Meaning: Broom ford (Ekwall)

2. Hundred:

Bosmere (- 1327), part Bosmere and Claydon/part Ipswich Borough

Deanery: Bosmere

Union: Bosmere and Claydon

RDC/UDC: Bosmere and Claydon RD (1894 – 1934), Gipping RD (1934 – 1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Separated ecclesiastically from Burstall and amalgamate with Sproughton (1962)

Ecclesiastical boundary change (1868) to help create Ipswich All Saints
Civil boundary change (1894), loses part to Ipswich and part to Whitton cum Thurleston

Loses further land to Ipswich (1934 and 1952)

Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,244 acres land, 16 acres water (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a) Deep well drained loam and sandy soils, locally flinty, in places over gravel, slight risk water erosion
- b) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- c) Stoneless clay soils mostly overlying peat by river, variably affected by groundwater, risk of localized flooding

5. Types of farming:

1086 52 acres meadow, 3 mills, 32 pigs, 120 sheep, 6 cobs, 24 cattle

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 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, oats

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1977 River Gipping flows through eastern sector close to railway line, both following a N-S path. Eastern boundary abuts Ipswich Borough.
 Large compact development to west of river and between two river crossing points. Church situated in southern sector of development. Small secondary settlement to east of railway and river.
 Chalk pits, Bramford Common, wetlands and small industrial area occupy northern sector of parish.
 Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 72, 1801 – 162, 1851 – 205, 1871 – 251, 1901 – 253, 1951 – 775, 1981 – 908

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Ipswich, Burstall, Lt. Blakenham, Gt. Blakenham, Claydon and Sproughton

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Ipswich – Bury St. Edmunds line, opened (1845), line to Norwich opened (1849), station closed (1955)

Water: River Gipping: Canalized (1789)
 Navigation Act (1790), river became navigable to Ipswich

9. Population:

1086 — 100 recorded
 1327 — 52 taxpayers paid £5. 8s. 2d. (includes Burstall)
 1524 — Not recorded
 1603 — 340 adults
 1674 — 117 households
 1676 — Not recorded
 1801 — 762 inhabitants
 1831 — 874 inhabitants
 1851 — 997 inhabitants

1871 — 1,200 inhabitants
 1901 — 1,200 inhabitants
 1931 — 2,197 inhabitants
 1951 — 1,339 inhabitants
 1971 — 2,201 inhabitants
 1981 — 2,535 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Burstall)

1254 Valued £33. 6s. 8d.
 1291 Valued £46. 13s. 4d.
 1535 Valued £13. 3s. 4d. Curacy of Burstall annexed to
 1831 Glebe house. Gross income £81 p.a. Incumbent also
 holds Rectory of Byton, Hereford
 Vicarage built (1870)
 1891 Valued £300 p.a.
 1912 Joint nett income £215 p.a. 9 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

Battle Abbey (1541), Dean/Chapter Christs Church, Canterbury (1603 -)

11. Church St. Mary
 (Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisle, porches, W. tower)

1086 Church + 80 acres free land, 1 plough
 Church + 30 acres free land
 12/13th cent. S. porch and priest's door on S. side
 14th cent. Tower (believed built before the nave)
 Main structure
 15th cent. N. porch
 1644 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) ordered removal of
 cross from steeple and steps to be leveled. Destroyed
 841 superstitious pictures and 3 inscriptions
 1864/65 Restoration including chancel arch
 1896 Vestry added
 Note: Glacial boulder forms foundation of NE tower
 buttress; visible above floor level

Seats: 350 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 1 person has not received communion for 12 years
 1 person has not attended church for 2 years
 1842 Wesleyan chapel built, converted to 3 cottages (1873)
 Large new Wesleyan chapel built (1873)

13. Manorial:

Note: One of the main manors of Bramford was granted to the Prior of Ely (1246/47) and accounts (1285 and 1297-1299) are preserved. However it has proved impossible to identify which manor this refers to.

1066 Manor of 12 carucates held by King Edward
1086 Manor of 12 carucates belonging to the King
1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Brown, a free man under patronage
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to the King

Note: Copinger identifies a further manor of 12 carucates belonging to Walter the Deacon. This however relates to an unidentified Domesday Vill of Brutuna and as this has not been found in any source to be connected with Bramford it cannot be substantiated by this study.

Bramford/Carlton

1066 Manor of 10 carucates held by Stigand
1086 Manor of 10 carucates belonging to the King
13th cent. Vested in Robert de Rheims
Circa 1294 Robert de Tibetot owns (linked to Gt. Blakenham, Nettlestead and Somersham)
17th cent. John Acton owns (linked to Baylham)
Circa 1836 Sir William Middleton owns (linked to Barham, Baylham, Mickfield and Stonham Aspal)
1909 Lady Loraine owns

Sub-Manors:

Lovetot

1277 John de Lovetot owns (linked to santon Downham)
1365 John de Tibetot owns (absorbed by main manor)
16th cent. Sir Henry Wentworth owns
Circa 1628 Peter Alston owns
1747 George Thomas owns
1885 Mr. Tacon owns
1906 Mr. Andrew Sandbach owns

Norman's with Beverlies

1520 Anna Bouchier owns
1596 William Acton owns (by 17th cent. absorbed by main manor)

Overtye

1367 Sir John Tibetot owns (absorbed by main manor)
1550 Thomas, Lord Wentworth owns (linked to Coddenham,
Flowton, Somersham, Burstall and Flixton)

Pricketts

Circa 1596 W. Borlas owns
Circa 1616 William Acton died seised (absorbed by main manor)

Weylands

1277 Thomas de Weyland owns (linked to Clopton, Lt.
Cornard, Onehouse, Gt. and Lt. Welnetham and
Witnessham)
Circa 1404 William Bothe owns
Circa 1596 W. Borlas owns (absorbed into Fricketts)
1596 William Acton owns (absorbed into main manor)

Kentons

1537 Arthur Rushe died seised (linked to Pakefield and
Playford)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £4,096 rental value
1891 £6,752 rateable value
1912 £7,906 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Not recorded
1891/1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1631 John Acton, High Sheriff
1677 John Acton, High Sheriff
1679 William Acton
1844 Dowager Lady Harriet Middleton and Rev. G. Naylor BA
1891 Rev. H.E.T. Cruso MA and William Frasier JP
1912 Rev. F.C.B. Butler MA, Rev. C.H. Fitch BA, Rear Admiral
Sir L. Loraine JP and Edward Packard JP
G. Fiske JP

18. Occupations:

1500-1549	1 blacksmith
1550-1599	5 husbandmen, 1 servant, 5 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 1 clerk, 1 wheelwright
1600-1649	5 husbandmen, 4 tailors, 17 yeomen, 1 innkeeper, 2 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 1 limeburner, 1 brickmaker, 1 collar maker
1650-1699	2 husbandmen, 10 yeomen, 1 innkeeper, 1 blacksmith, 1 carpenter, 1 lime burner, 1 millwright, 2 wheelwrights, 2 spinsters
Early 18 th C.	Paper mill owned by Edward Johnson; removed to Creeting All Saints (1771)
1831	122 in agriculture, 54 in retail trade, 5 professionals, 2 in labouring, 46 in domestic service, 14 others
1844	Blacksmith, cattle dealer, baker/flour dealer, 2 saddlers, school master and mistress, bricklayer, corn miller, 2 joiners, 3 victuallers, 2 tailors, butcher, maltster, wheelwright, cooper, 4 shoemakers, 3 shopkeepers, 12 farmers, brickmaker
1891	Chalk pits and extensive manure and cement works
1912	Sub-postmaster, teacher, police officer, station master, 3 beer retailers, bakers, brick and tile makers, blacksmith, 2 millers, bricklayer, carpenter, 2 publicans, 9 farmers, agricultural chemist, 2 butchers, 2 shopkeepers, hairdresser, farm bailiff, bootmaker, manufacturing chemist, coal merchant, saddler, nurseryman/shopkeeper, builders, grocer/draper, teacher of music

19. Education:

1818	1 day and Sunday school on Madras system (85 – 138 attend)
1833	2 daily schools (79 attend), 2 Sunday schools (77 attend)
1844	Schoolmaster and mistress recorded National school built (1860), enlarged (1873 and 1897), 180 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 228

20. Poor relief:

1776	£215. 9s. 0d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£368. 2s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£700. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£888. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,180	spent on poor relief
1834	£797. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Acton's Charity:

1703 William Acton. Cottage + 14 acres let at £20 p.a. made tithe free at expense of Nathaniel Lee Acton (1796), distributed among poor according to family size

Brooke's Charity:

1840 by will of Francis Brooke: £5 p.a. distributed among poor

Poors Houses:

1840 3 tenements occupied by 6 poor widows

Leggatt Bequest:

1912 by will of Miss Leggatt: £200 for the church and £200 for the school

22. Other institutions:

1803 2 Friendly Societies (96 members)
1844 Poor houses (3 tenements) occupied by 6 widows
1891 Almshouse occupied by 4 widows
1912 Police officer listed

23. Recreation:

1844 THE CROWN, THE ANGEL INN and THE COCK public houses
1891 2 beer retailers, THE CROWN, THE ANGEL INN and THE COCK public houses
1912 3 beer retailers, THE ANGEL INN and THE COCK public houses

24. Personal:

John Beale: (circa 1656) native of parish. Nonconformist minister of Dunmow (1623). Author of 'The Journal of a Thankful Christian'.

25. Other information:

Bramford House: (1693/94)
Parish contains common (tye) of 10 acres (1844)
Bramford Hall: built by John Acton (17th cent.) heightened (early 19th cent.) stands in park of 300 acres, well wooded with formal grounds of 20 acres

'The fractured flints of the Eocene "Bull-head" bed at Coe's pit,
Bramford (1913)'. Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society
Vol. 1 p.397

Archaeological Sites

Ring ditches (CRN 4486, 4489, 4490, 4491)

Med. well (CRN 4493)

PMed. well (CRN 4497)

Round barrow (CRN 4501, 4509)

Oval enclosure (CRN 4506)

Rom. Road (CRN 4510)

Stray finds: Rom. Pottery (CRN 4487, 4496, 4505, 4515)

Pal. Bone (CRN 4492)

Worked flint (CRN 4495, 4512)

B.A. pottery (CRN 4494)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 4498, 4513, 4514)

I.A. coin (CRN 4502)

Sax. Pin (CRN 4504)

Pottery (CRN 4516)

Scatter finds: Pal. Worked flint (CRN 4484)

Mes. Axe (CRN 4485)

Med. Pottery (CRN 4488, 4499, 4507, 4508)

Burnt flint patches (CRN 4500)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 4503, 2278, 2320)