1. **Parish: Battisford**

   **Meaning:** Baetti's ford

2. **Hundred:** Bosmere (−1327), Bosmere and Claydon

   **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:**

   Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division
   Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,581 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

   **Mixed:**
   a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
   b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay, some calcareous clay soils
   c. Stoneless clay soils, mostly overlying peat by river, variably affected by groundwater, risk of localized flooding

5. **Types of farming:**

   1086  4 oxen, 18 acres meadow, wood for 35 pigs, 1 cob, 4 cattle, 32 pigs, 32 sheep, 16 goats
   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, beans
   1969  Trist:  More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

   c.1812  Approximately 157 acres at Battisford Tye Common, Battisford enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1810
7. ** Settlement:**

1958 Small dispersed settlement with clusters of development at the church (near Battisford Hall), the school (on road called Battisford Straight) and the Punch Bowl Inn (on NW boundary with Combs) Few scattered farms


8. **Communications:**

**Road:** To Little Finborough, Ringshall, Barking and Combs

**Rail:** 1891 3 miles Needham Market station: Ipswich–Bury St. Edmunds line opened 1845, station closed 1967, re-opened 1971

9. **Population:**

1086 – 27 recorded  
1327 – 24 taxpayers paid £3 3s. 10d. (including Badley)  
1524 – 18 taxpayers paid £2 3s.  
1603 – 100 adults  
1674 – 45 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 290 inhabitants  
1831 – 436 inhabitants  
1851 – 496 inhabitants  
1871 – 495 inhabitants  
1901 – 390 inhabitants  
1931 – 410 inhabitants  
1951 – 386 inhabitants  
1971 – 387 inhabitants  
1981 – 465 inhabitants

10. **Benefice:** **Vicarage**

1254 Valued £7 6s. 8d.  
1291 To vicar of Church of Battisford, £4 6s. 8d.  
1535 Valued £8 0s. 7½d.  
1720 Valued £45  
1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £312 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectory of Creeting St. Peter  
1842 Tithes commuted for £400 5s. p.a.  
1891 Incumbent resides at Needham Market  
1912 Nett value £210 p.a. 1 acre glebe. Incumbent also holds Little Finborough and resides in Needham Market
Patrons: Robert Barker (1603), Rev. Edward Paske (1844), G. Paske (1831), Church Patronage Trust (1912)

11. Church **St. Mary** (Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 12th part of church
½ church + 20 acres Battisford (entered under Ringshall)
½ church + 20 acres
c.1300 Nave, S. porch and chancel
14th cent. Main structure
18th cent. W. gallery
1902 Restoration
1975 W. tower has disappeared

Seats: 240 (1915)

Other religious institutions:

Commandry of the Knights Hospitallers

Order of St. John of Jerusalem

Founder and foundation date unknown
1154–1189 King Henry II gave his lands and appurtenances in East Bergholt to the Knights of Battisford
1271 Henry III granted Knights a market, fair and free warren in their lands at Battisford
1275 Granted 40 acres land and 6 acres wood by William de Batesford
1338 Half the church of Battisford, valued 10 marks p.a. appropriated to the Hospitallers. They also appear to have the appropriation of the Rectory of Badley, valued £10 p.a.
Gross income £93 10s. 7d.
The Commandry held a preceptor, 1 brother-knight, 1 corrody-holder, a salaried chaplain (20s.) and 8 others (each receiving 6s. 8d. p.a.) including 2 lads (5s.) and a page (3s.)
Prior Philip de Thame drew up report for Supreme Grand Master in which Battisford bailiwick comprised:
Manor house, dovehouse, windmill, 40 acres valued 12d., 60 acres valued 6d. and 100 acres valued 4d. 1 acres arable land, 4½ acres meadow, 4 acres pasture, 7 acres underwood, 1 windmill + various rents. 2 outlying areas in Coddenham and Mellis. In all amounting to a value of £93 10s. 8d.
This institution was the Suffolk Commandry which sought annual contributions throughout the country ("the fraria"). This gave them their largest source of income – £50 1338
Lands and property (i.e. Coddenham Mill) produced £14 8s. 9d. 1338. Details of expenditure can be found on p.121 Victoria County History Vol. II

1534 Valued £53 10s.
1540 Dissolved
1543 Granted to Sir Richard Gresham
Moated site occupied by Manor House Farm. Re-used material visible in chimney stacks
Most recent excavations 1988 have proved that the present building was erected over the former commandry building.
East Anglian Miscellany 1919, pp.78/9, 82, 85, 89 and 90. East Anglian Miscellany 1925, p.76.

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Aelfric a free man
1086 Manor of 2 carucates 10 acres belonging to Hugh de Montford and held by Roger of Candos
1066 Manor of 1 carucate 20 acres held by Cynric a free man
1086 Manor of 1 carucate 20 acres belonging to Eudo, a son of Spirwic and held by Iarnagot

**Battisford/Bishop's Hall**

12th cent. William Gernun owns
1262 Philip de Columbers owns (linked to Stowmarket)
1317 Bishop of Norwich owns
1545 Sir Richard Gresham owns (linked to Combs, Hoxne, Ringshall)
c.1609 John Barker owns (linked to Ringshall, Nacton and Walton)
c.1655 Martin Salter owns
1806 Charles Broome owns

**Sub-manors:**

**Lyngges/Ling's**

1433 William Wrangle owns
15th cent. Bishop of Norwich owns
1516 James Hobart owns
1819 Absorbed by main manor at date unknown

**Commandry of St. Johns**

−1543 Knights Hospitallers/Knights of St. John of Jerusalem
1543 Sir Richard Gresham owns (absorbed by main manor)
17th cent. Thomas Knapp owns
1693  Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1707  Sir Samuel Barnardiston owns (linked to Brightwell and Waldringfield)
1847  William Matthew Raikes owns
1879  Frederick Hayward owns

**Milding Hall**

c.1516  Sir James Hobart owns (absorbed into Lyngges)

14. **Markets/Fairs**

1271  Grant of market and fair to Knights Hospitallers to be held on their land in Battisford

15. **Real property:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>£1,680 rental value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>£1,848 rateable value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>£1,543 rateable value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. **Land ownership:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1844/1891</td>
<td>Land sub-divided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>D. Harwood, principle owner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. **Resident gentry:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1655</td>
<td>Martin Salter, High Sheriff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1679</td>
<td>Mr. Arnold and Thomas Salter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>S.T. Harwood JP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. **Occupations:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1550–1599</td>
<td>4 yeomen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1649</td>
<td>6 husbandmen, 10 yeomen, 1 clothier, 1 cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1650–1699</td>
<td>7 yeomen, 1 cordwainer, 1 bricklayer, 1 tailor, 1 blacksmith, 1 clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>89 in agriculture, 17 in retail trade, 9 in domestic service, 3 others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>Shopkeeper, 5 farmers, 2 blacksmiths, bricklayer, wheelwright, parish clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>sub-postmaster, school teacher, 11 farmers, blacksmith, farm bailiff, 3 shopkeepers, shoemaker, private gardener, gamekeeper, wheelwright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. **Education:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>1 daily school on Lancastrian system (40 attend)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1833 2 daily schools (47 attend), 1 Dissenters Sunday school (70 attend)
1843 Small school built by subscription
1873 School Board established
Board school built, 80 attend 1891, enlarged 1892, average attendance 1912 123

20. Poor relief:

1776 £62 18s. 4d.
1803 £80 16s. 11d.
1818 £166 7s.
1830 £259 10s.
1832 £314 11s.
1834 £245 6s.

21. Charities:

Rusts Charity

1685 by will of Walter Rust: £1 p.a. rent-charge from Valley Farm distributed in bread

22. Other institutions:

Free church band formed 1891/94
Parish council formed 1896
Post office moved to Boundary House, Bowl Corner 1983
Community Centre 1980’s

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

Sir Thoma Gresham: (d. 1579), Lord of manor 16th cent.: founder of Royal Exchange, London

25. Other information:

1 case of incendiariism due to agrarian unrest 1844.

Sir Thomas Gresham used local timbers from the common to build the frame of the Royal Exchange, London 1566. Framework was erected and dismantled on Battisford Tye prior to erection in London.

Local tradition establishes an underground passage travelling between the church and the Old Hall.

St. Johns Manor house: Tudor building incorporating materials from the Commandry. Recent excavations 1988 have confirmed the theory that the house was built over the Hospitaller’s building. Extensively restored 1984/5.
Battisford Hall: rebuilt c.1655 by Martin Salter, pulled down 1757/64, formerly situated to SE of present Hall.