

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 Battsford Hall), the school (on road called Battsford Straight) and the Punch Bowl Inn (on NW boundary with Combs)
Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 32, 1801 – 59, 1851 – 107, 1871 – 102, 1901 – 88, 1951 – 110, 1981 – 158

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 Battsford, £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 Battsford (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 Battsford
1271 Henry III granted Knights a market, fair and free warren in their lands at Battsford
1275 Granted 40 acres land and 6 acres wood by William de Batesford
1338 Half the church of Battsford, 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 Battsford 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. Coddendam 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 (lined 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 Battsford

15. Real property:

1844	£1,680 rental value
1891	£1,848 rateable value
1912	£1,543 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	D. Harwood, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1655	Martin Salter, High Sheriff
1679	Mr. Arnold and Thomas Salter
1912	S.T. Harwood JP

18. Occupations:

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

19. Education:

1818 1 daily school on Lancastrian system (40 attend)

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 incendiarism 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.