

1. Parish: Bramfield

Meaning: Broom Field (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Blything

Deanery: Dunwich (- 1868), Dunwich (South) (1868 – 1914), S. Dunwich (1914 – 1972), Halesworth (1972 -)

Union: Blything

RDC/UDC: Blything RD (1894 – 1934), Blyth RD (1934 – 1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division
Halesworth County Court District

3. Area: 2,601 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid. Risk wind erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086		wood for 300 pigs, 7 acres meadow, 1 cob, 8 cattle, 24 pigs, 30 goats
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where main crop is barley. Sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening.
1818	Marshall:	Management uniform. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, peas, roots, sugar beet
1969	Trist:	Deficiencies in minerals are overcome and these lands are now more suited to arable farming with wide range of produce grown

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1982 Large compact development following line of Wenhaston to Darsham road, east of railway. This and wet lands to the north probably affected development. Railway snakes across parish from N-S. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 48, 1801 – 62, 1851 – 167, 1871 – 143,
1901 – 126, 1951 – 153, 1981 – 149

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Walpole, Thorington, Wenhaston and Darsham
1844 Turnpike Road. Coach and carrier pass through to
London daily
Rail: 1912 2½ miles Halesworth station: East Suffolk Railway
opened (1854), closed (1965)
Air:

9. Population:

1086 — 43 recorded
1327 — 33 taxpayers paid £3. 5s. 8d. (includes Peasenhall and
Welles)
1524 — 35 taxpayers paid £7. 0s. 7d.
1603 — 180 adults
1674 — 61 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 552 inhabitants
1831 — 667 inhabitants
1851 — 740 inhabitants
1871 — 653 inhabitants
1901 — 535 inhabitants
1931 — 491 inhabitants
1951 — 484 inhabitants
1971 — 454 inhabitants
1981 — 412 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254 Valued £14. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
To the Vicar £4. 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £6. 7s. 6d.
- 1541 Tithes –early appropriated to Blythborough Priory –
retained 2 acres glebe (no date)
1650 Valued £50
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £172. p.a. Incumbent also
holds Perpetual Curacy of Bruisyard
1844 Modus of £210 p.a. in lieu of vicarial tithes, Great tithes
commuted for £420 p.a. (in impropriation of R. Haward)
1891 Valued £163. Good vicarage house. 4 acres glebe
1912 Valued £150 p.a.

Patrons:

1308-1514 Prior and Convent of Blythborough, 1546 R. Freston/J. Cookes,
1562-1587 Hopton family, 1603 Thomas Elmye, 1831 the
Crown, 1891 Lord Chancellor

11. Church St. Andrew
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, round tower standing 18' SW of nave)

1086 Church + 28 acres free land, ½ plough valued 3s.
Norman Tower
Circa 1340 Rebuilt (thatched)
1810 & 1871 Restoration
1888 Vestry added

Seats: 200

1281 Chapel (distinct from church) mentioned. Priory of St. Osyth having rights over (V.C.H. I p.92)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1841 Congregational chapel built
1851 Primitive Methodist chapel built

13. Manorial:

Bramfield

1066 manor of 7 carucates held by Manni Swart
1086 Manor of 7 carucates belonging to Count Alan
1269 Linked to Shottisham (John de Vallibus) (licensed to hold market, fair and free warren)
1310 Linked to Herringswell, Dalham, Bredfield and Dallinghoo (Walter de Norwich)
- 1541 Part of endowment of Mettingham College
1541 Sir Anthony Denny owns
1562 Linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Nicholas Bacon)
Post 1635 Linked to Henham (Rous family)
1848 Linked to Eye (Earl of Stradbroke)

Sub-Manors:

Brook Hall

Manor house built by water-course which anciently provided its only approach
- 1541 Formed part of possessions of Mettingham College
1541 Absorbed by main manor (Sir Anthony Denny)

14. Markets/Fairs

1269 License to hold market and fair

15. Real property:

1844 £3,300 rental value
1891 £3,683 rateable value
1912 £3,867 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1912 Land always sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Reginald Rabbet
1778 Reginald Rabet, High Sheriff
1844 Dowager Lady Middleton

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 husbandman, 1 yeoman, 1 carpenter, 1 vicar
1550-1599 7 husbandmen, 6 yeomen, 1 copy holder, 1 weaver, 1 labourer
1600-1649 1 husbandman, 14 yeomen, 1 cordwainer, 1 weaver, 1 spinster
1650-1699 7 yeomen, 1 maltster, 1 cordwainer, 1 tailor, 1 linen weaver, 1 wheelwright
1844 2 vets, 2 schoolmistresses, beerhousekeeper, draper, straw hat maker, 2 grocer/drapers, plumber/glazier, butcher, 2 victuallers, tailor, 2 blacksmiths, 3 boot/shoemakers, 2 bricklayers, 19 farmers, 2 millers, 2 joiners, 2 wheelwrights
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, miller(wind), 20 farmers, 3 bricklayers, tailor/woollen draper, hawker, 2 beer retailers, butcher/publican, decorator, 2 boot makers, dressmaker, 2 grocer/drapers, carpenter, vermin destroyer, blacksmith/cycle agent

19. Education:

1818 Endowed school: Founded 1701 by Thomas Neal and united with school founded by Mrs. Elizabeth Archer (1716) (43 attend 13 free (1833))
1833 1 daily school established (1832) (15 girls attend)
1 Sunday school (45 attend)
1872 National school built (120 attend), average attendance (1912) 118
1971 Bramfield House Residential school (40 boys attend)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£71. 19s. 11d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£168. 16s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£401	spent on poor relief
1830	£748. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£519	spent on poor relief
1834	£641. 16s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Neale's and Archer's Charities

1701	by will of Thomas Neale. Town house to be built for four poor persons (built 1723)
1716	by will of Elizabeth Archer. Bequest to education

Town Estate

1840	Cottage and 2 acres let at £8 p.a. to general accounts administered by churchwardens
------	--

22. Other institutions:

1803	Friendly Society (61 members)
1723	Almshouses for 8 poor persons built in accordance with will of Thomas Neale (1701). Demolished (1968). Six new houses built on same site
1891	Reading Room and library

23. Recreation:

1844	THE SWAN AND THE QUEENS HEAD public houses 1 beerhouse
1891	As above
1912	THE SWAN public house, 2 beer retailers

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Circa 16th cent. Brook Hall built, taken down (1805). Modern mansion built 1 mile north of ancient site.

Poll tax of 12d per head (over age of 12 years) continued to be collected by the vicar till 1805

Bramfield Oak: said to have been way-mark used by Roger Bigot (1174) – fell due to old age and decay (1843)

1912 Breast plates and helmets of Stuart period preserved in the church.

Bramfield Hall: Part of staircase sold to U.S.A. (1899). Re-fronted (circa 1720's), originally Tudor building. 18th century alterations

Castle Hard: ancient British earthwork – circular fosse 270' in diameter, interior entrance to the west

'Bramfield, Church and Village Through the Centuries' by Margaret E.O. Smith (1945)

Parish contains 12 large stones and 8 smaller stones arranged in circular pattern.

The 'Bell' public house (no dates) reputedly only place where ancient game of Ringing the Bull is played (Swinging steel ring, suspended from ceiling, onto hook high on the wall of public bar)

Archaeological Sites

Med. circular earthwork, possible fosse and bailey (CRN 1946)

Circular enclosure (CRN 1948)

Stray finds: Med. pottery (CRN 1947)

B.A. hoard (in British Museum) (CRN 1949)

Scatter finds: Med. pottery (CRN 741)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 1950)