

# 1. Parish: Brome

**Meaning:** Broom (used collectively) (Ekwall)

**2. Hundred: Hartismere**

**Deanery:** Hartismere (17<sup>th</sup> cent. – 1897), Hartismere (North) (1897 – 1931), N. Hartismere (1931 – 1972), Hartismere (1972)

**Union:** Hartismere

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Hartismere RD ( - 1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974 - )

**Other administrative details:**

Abolished as ecclesiastical parish (17<sup>th</sup> cent.) to create Brome and Oakley  
Hartismere Petty Sessional Division  
Eye County Court District

**3. Area:** 908 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a) Fine loam over clay soil, subject to seasonal waterlogging
  - b) Deep well drained coarse loam over clay, some gravel
  - c) Some deep sandy soils affected by groundwater

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		1 cob, 10 pigs, 40 sheep
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 crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	4 course system.: wheat, barley, clover, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

1808 Brome Common enclosed, Enclosure Act (1808): yearly payment of £15 charged on an allotment in Brome

1812 243 acres in Brome, Oakley, Thrandeston, Yaxley and Eye enclosed under Private Lands Act (1808)

**7. Settlement:**

Dispersed parish with three main centres of habitation: a) the church, b) Brome street and c) Brome Hall  
Eye airfield is situated in SW corner of parish and could have influenced development in this area, Brome Park passes through eastern boundary and the course of the Roman road which marks the western boundary passes from NE-SW.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 27, 1801 – 32, 1851 – 43, 1871 – 70, 1901 – 67, 1951 – 72, 1981 – 101

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Oakley, Thrandeston, Scole and Yaxley  
1844 Carriers to Ipswich

**Rail:** 1891 2 miles Eye station: Mellis – Eye line, opened (1867), closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964)  
3 miles Diss station: Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849), still operational

**Air:** Eye Airfield: constructed by US Army as Class 'A' heavy bomber station (1943), transferred to RAF Bomber Command (1945), sold for industrial development (1962/63)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 63 recorded  
1327 — 20 taxpayers paid £1. 11s. 4d.  
1524 — 17 taxpayers paid £8. 13s. 2d.  
1603 — 80 adults  
1674 — 37 households  
1676 — 104 adults recorded  
1801 — 278 inhabitants  
1831 — 377 inhabitants  
1851 — 314 inhabitants  
1871 — 296 inhabitants  
1901 — 297 inhabitants  
1931 — 230 inhabitants  
1951 — 211 inhabitants  
1971 — 215 inhabitants  
1981 — 265 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (with Oakley)**

1254 Valued £6  
Pension to Prior of Thetford 13s. 4d.  
Goods of Prior of Thetford in Brome and Oakley £8

1291	Title of the Prior of Eye 6s. 8d. <u>£15. 0s. 0d.</u> Valued £10 Portion to Prior Teff (Thetford) 13s. 4d.
1535	Portion to Prior of Eye 5s. <u>£10. 18s. 4d.</u> Valued £10. 0s. 2½d. Parsonage house was thatched (1800)
1831	Curate, stipend £121 p.a. Glebe house, Joint valued £562 p.a.
1912	Joint nett value £310. 48 acres glebe and residence
<b>Patrons:</b>	Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1603), Sir E. Kerrison (1831), Dowager Lady Bateman (1912)

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

1086	½ church + 14 acres, valued 2s.
Norman	Tower, upper stages added (1875)
1375 – 1550	Chancel and nave
1857 – 1863	Almost completely rebuilt
	Note: Main point of interest – Cornwallis tombs of 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> cent.

**Seats:**            300 (200 free)

**Private Chapel:**

Brome Hall (nothing known)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1603	3 recusants, 9 non-conformists
1676	4 non-conformists
	House set aside for worship (1832)
	Newly erected chapel (1833)

**13. Manorial:**

1066	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Anund
1086	manor of 60 acres belonging to the King
1066	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Goda under patronage of Stigand
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger Bigot
1066	Manor of 60 acres held by Aelfric under patronage of Gyrth
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Roger Bigot and held by Hugh

### **Brome Hall/Davillers**

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	1 messuage with garden and underwood, 50 acres arable land, 2 acres meadow, 2 acres pasture in hands of Bartholomew D'Avillers held by Serjeanty of the King
1330	Some confusion as to descent
1550	Sir Thomas Cornwallis owns (linked to Palgrave, Stuston, Thrandeston and Westhorpe)
1644	Estates sequestered
1823	Matthias Kerrison owns (linked to Braiseworth)
1827	Gen. Sir E. Kerrison owns (linked to Oakley and Thelneston)

### **Sub-Manors:**

#### **Ling Hall**

1263	Hugh de Cressy died seised
1595	Sir Thomas Cornwallis owns (absorbed by main manor)

#### **Monk's Brome**

12 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Appears to have been held by Prior of Thetford
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Granted to 1 <sup>st</sup> Duke of Norfolk and later John Cornwallis (absorbed by main manor)

#### **14. Markets/Fairs**

Grant of market and fair (1253)

#### **15. Real property:**

1844	£1,743 rental value
1891	£1,398 rateable value
1912	£1,197 rateable value

#### **16. Land ownership:**

1844	Lt. Gen. Sir E. Kerrison, principle owner
1891	Lady Bateman, principle owner
1912	Dowager Lady Bateman, principle owner

#### **17. Resident gentry:**

1550	Sir Thomas Cornwallis, High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk
1680	1 Lord
17 <sup>th</sup> cent.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lord Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk
1912	Dowager Lady Bateman

**18. Occupations:**

1500-1549	2 husbandmen, 2 yeomen
1550-1599	3 yeomen, 1 clerk
1600-1649	2 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 1 husbandman
1650-1699	1 husbandman, 1 rector, 1 carpenter
1831	66 in agriculture, 1 in manufacturing, 17 in retail trade, 1 professional, 25 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	Tailor/drapery, 2 blacksmiths, miller, victualler, carpenter, relieving officer, teacher, carrier, shoemaker, agent to Sir E. Kerrison, 4 farmers, 1 grocer
1912	Sub-postmaster, 5 farmers, builder/wheelwright, stone mason, shopkeeper, farm bailiff, publican, thatcher/shopkeeper

**19. Education:**

	1 schoolmaster/tutor recorded (1691/93)
1818	1 day school (22 attend), 1 Sunday school (40 attend)
1833	Children attend school in Oakley
1844	1 schoolmaster listed
1891	National schoolmaster listed
1912	Public Elementary school in existence, average attendance 82

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£58. 17s. 0d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£153. 9s. 1½d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£345. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£267. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£277. 18s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£263. 11s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Goldsmith's Gift:**

1683	by will of John Goldsmith: £3 p.a. fro lands at Tivetshall to the poor on 21 <sup>st</sup> December
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**Fuel Money:**

1808	£15 charged on allotment for providing fuel for poor
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**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1844-1912	THE SWAN public house
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**24. Personal:**

Thomas Cornwallis, Sheriff of London (1378)

Thomas Cornwallis, Member of Queen Mary's Privy Council, Treasurer and Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household (1548)

**25. Other information:**

Brome Hall: built by Sir Thomas Cornwallis (1550), said to have been obtained by the loss of Calais. Demolished (1963)

'Brome Hall' by the Hon. A.R. Bateman-Hanbury. PSIA Vol. XIV p.227

Dower House built as part of Cornwallis Estate. Renamed 'Oaksmere' – hotel and restaurant (1983)

Brome Hall Estate sold (1953)

**Archaeological sites:**

Med. Moated sites (CRN 3923, 3924)

Med. Cross (CRN 3925)

Stray finds:           Pal.   Worked flint (CRN 3926)  
                              Neo.   Axe (CRN 3927)  
                              Rom.  Misc. (CRN 3928)