

1. Parish: Great Blakenham

Meaning: Blaca's meadow/enclosure (Ekwall)

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
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 868 acres land, 7 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 overlaying peat by river, variably affected by groundwater, risk of localized flooding
- d) Well drained calcareous course and fine loam over chalk rubble, non calcareous in places, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		22 acres (-1 pole) meadow, 2 mills, 1 cobh, 4 cattle, 11 pigs, 14 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region. Mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pigs 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, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958/77 River Gipping forms natural boundary to east. Rail line clips parish in eastern sector crossing N-S. Small compact development following line of river and railway. Church centrally situated. Clay and chalk pits occupy area on SW boundary. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 19, 1801 – 27, 1851 – 47, 1871 – 54, 1901 – 63, 1951 – 164, 1981 – 221

8. Communications:

Road:	Roads to Baylham, Claydon and Bramford
	1844 Stowmarket turnpike road
	1891 Carriers to Ipswich daily
Rail:	1891 ½ mile Claydon station: Ipswich – Bury St. Edmunds line, opened (1845), station closed (1963)
Water:	River Gipping: Canalized (1789) Navigation Act (1790), river became navigable to Ipswich

9. Population:

1086 — 57 recorded
 1327 — 20 taxpayers paid £1. 6s. 5d.
 1524 — 10 taxpayers paid £1. 10s. 6d.
 1603 — 40 adults
 1674 — 19 households
 1676 — Not recorded
 1801 — 120 inhabitants
 1831 — 192 inhabitants
 1851 — 244 inhabitants
 1871 — 236 inhabitants
 1901 — 305 inhabitants
 1931 — 455 inhabitants
 1951 — 539 inhabitants
 1971 — 500 inhabitants
 1981 — 585 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Valued £4
1291	Valued £5 Portion of Prior of Okeburne in same £2 <u>£7. 0s. 0d.</u>
1535	Valued £6. 16s. 0½d.
1720	Valued £30. 12s.
1831	Curate, stipend £61 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £170 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Whitton and Perpetual Curacy of St. Bennett Fincke, London.
1844	7 acres 2R 29P glebe. Tithes commuted (1840) for £195 p.a. Rectory house built (1850), enlarged (1873)
1912	Nett value £109 p.a. 8½ glebe and residence

Patrons:

Master and Fellows of Eaton College (1603-)

11. Church St. Mary

(Chancel, nave, south porch, west tower)

1086	Church and 1 acre, valued 2d.
Norman	Lower portion of tower and nave
12 th cent.	Main structure, including chancel
14 th cent.	Tower (upper stages)
15 th cent.	South timber porch
1643	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) ordered steps op be leveled.
1837	West gallery built, removed (1876/77)
1876/77	Restoration

Seats: 80 (1915)

11a. Other Religious Institutions

Alien Priory: Benedictine Monks

Circa 1092	founded by Walter Gifford Cell to Abbey of Bec, Normandy but belonging to Okeburne Priory, Wiltshire Endowed with manor and advowson of church of Blakenham Magna and rents from other parishes
1291	Valued £13. 18s. 7¾d.
1414	Suppressed by statute of Leicester
1442	Granted to Provost and Fellows of Eton College

12. Nonconformity etc:

Jeremiah Ravens, rector at Great Blakenham, ejected by the Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers (1644)
Baptist chapel built (1870), seats 200

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 1½ carucates held by Leofstan under patronage of Abbot of Ely
1086 Manor of 1½ carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou and held by Albert

Great Blakenham Manor

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Aelfric, a thane
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to William of Ecouis
11th cent. William Gifford, Earl of Buckingham gave to foundation of alien priory
1442 Granted to Eton College

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,011 rental value
1891 £1,391 rateable value
1912 £2,016 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/91 Land sub-divided
1912 Eton College, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Blakenham: John Harwell

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 1 husbandman
1600–1649 None recorded
1650–1699 1 spinster, 1 wheelwright, 1 maltster
1831 28 in agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 3 in labouring, 16 in domestic service, 2 others
1844 Shoemaker, shopkeeper, 2 victuallers, blacksmith, miller/maltster/corona and coal merchant, 6 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, station master, blacksmith, 2 farmers, shopkeeper, asst. overseer, farm bailiff, coal merchant, grocer, publican

19. Education:

1818 Children attend school in Claydon
1833 Sunday school established (1820) (30 attend)
School Board formed (1873)
Children attend school in Claydon (1891) and (1912)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£45. 14s. 4d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£57. 3s. 1d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£208. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£188. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£228. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£168. 8s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1803 2 Friendly Societies (82 members)
Parish Room built (1898)

23. Recreation:

1844-1912 The Chequers and The Bell public houses

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Gipping weir: built (circa 1800)
Parish contains large water mill (1844)

Archaeological Sites

Ring ditches (CRN 4465, 4466)
Church of St. Mary (CRN 4471)
Med. Priory (CRN 4478)
Stray finds: Rom. coin (CRN 4467, 4474)
Pottery (CRN 4473)
Finger ring (CRN 4475)
Sax. Tweezers (CRN 1170)
Dress fitting (CRN 3434)
Med. Buckle (CRN 1171)
Neo. axe (CRN 4472)
Scatter finds: I.A. coin (CRN 4468)
Rom. coin (CRN 4469)

Metalwork (CRN 1169, 1172)
Sax. Metalwork (CRN 4470)
Med. coin (CRN 1168)
Metalwork (CRN 1173)