

# 1. Parish: Little 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:** 1,070 acres (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		1 acre meadow
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.  
 Small compact settlement situated slightly to east of the church.  
 Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 13, 1801 – 17, 1851 – 30, 1871 – 35, 1901 – 36, 1951 – 40, 1981 – 107

**8. Communications:**

Road:	Roads to Bramford, Nettleshead and Somersham
	1891 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
	1912 Carriers to Ipswich daily
Rail:	1891 2 miles 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 — none recorded  
 1327 — 14 taxpayers paid £1. 9s.  
 1524 — 20 taxpayers paid £2. 16s. 2d.  
 1603 — 50 adults  
 1674 — 13 households  
 1676 — Not recorded  
 1801 — 115 inhabitants  
 1831 — 102 inhabitants  
 1851 — 139 inhabitants  
 1871 — 144 inhabitants  
 1901 — 156 inhabitants  
 1931 — 146 inhabitants  
 1951 — 150 inhabitants  
 1971 — 300 inhabitants  
 1981 — 304 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (united with Nettlestead (1891))**

1254	Valued £8
1291	Valued £10
	Portion of St. Trinity, Ipswich 8s. 8d.
	Portion of John of Aldham 13s. 4d.
	<u>£11. 2s. 0d.</u>
1535	Valued £10. 13s. 4d.
1831	Curate, stipend £60 p.a. Glebe house, gross income £280 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Gosbeck and Vicarage of Wherstead.
1844	35 acres 20P glebe
	Modus of £253 p.a. in lieu of tithes (1839)
1891	Rectory house close to church
1912	Joint nett value £220 p.a. 3 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Lord Wentworth (1603), S. Jackson (1831), Postle Jackson (1844), Rev. J. Jackson (1891), Rev. W.A. French (1912)

**11. Church**      **St. Mary**  
(Chancel, nave, south porch, west tower)

12 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Chancel
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure
1868	Restoration

Seats:            150 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

Note: Copinger enters this as being out of the Manor of 1½ carucaets held in (1066) by Leofstan under patronage of the Abbot of Ely and in (1086) belonging to Roger of Poitou and held by Albert. This however is entered under Great Blakenham and therefore not been substantiated by this study.

1220	Thomas de Ardern owns
1298	Robert de Tybetot owns (linked to Bramford, Nettlestead and Somersham)
1528	Sir Richard Wentworth owns
1643/48	William Lodge owns (linked to Nettlestead)
1764	Rt. Hon. Francis Vernon, Lord Orwell owns (linked to Stonham PArva)
1831	James Reid died seised
1855	Rev. Sir Thomas Gery Cullum owns

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,302 rental value
1891	£1,202 rateable value
1912	£1,194 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844	Mrs. Maynelli, J. Elliston and B. Morgan, principle owners
1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Not recorded

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679	Blakenham: John Harwell
1891	Rev. J. Jackson MA
1912	Rev. W.A. French B.A., Lt. F. Henderson RN, CMG, DSO, FRGS.

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599	1 husbandman
1600–1649	1 yeoman
1650–1699	1 weaver, 1 clerk
1831	26 in agriculture, 1 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1 in labouring, 9 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	5 farmers, lime burner, hurdle maker
1912	Police officer, whiting manufacturer, 4 farmers

**19. Education:**

1833	1 daily school (established 1831) (15 girls attend)
1891	Children attend school in Claydon and Somersham

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£33. 13s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£42. 2s. 3½d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£109. 10s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£138. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£171. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£142. 7s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

1912          Police officer listed

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Parish contains extensive chalk pits and lime kilns (1891), disused by  
(1912)

**Archaeological Sites**

Church of St. Mary (CRN 4483)

Ring Ditch (CRN 4479)

Rectilinear enclosure (CRN 4482)

Stray finds: Rom. pottery (CRN 4480)

Scatter finds: Med. pottery (CRN 4481)