

1. Parish: Ringshall

Meaning: Round shelter for Cattle

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:** 2,135 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk of water erosion
- b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay, some calcareous clay soils

5. **Types of farming:**

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, 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:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Section of Roman road forms part of the southern boundary crossing parish SW–NE. Wattisham airfield intrudes into the western sector of parish probably influencing development of this area.
Small well dispersed settlement. Church situated close to Ringshall Hall (not far from NE border)
Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 27, 1801 – 43, 1851 – 72, 1871 – 74
1901 – 66, 1951 – 59, 1981 – 193

8. Communications:

Road: To Wattisham, Battisford, Gt. Bricett, Willisham
and Barking
1891/1912 Carriers pass through to Ipswich Tuesday and
Saturday

Rail: 1891 3½ miles Needham Market station: Ipswich–Bury St
Edmunds line opened 1845, station closed 1967, re-opened
1971

Air: Wattisham airfield: operational 1939, RAF vacated and USAF
took over 1942, remains operational

9. Population:

1086 – 20 recorded
1327 – 18 taxpayers paid £2 18s.
1524 – 22 taxpayers paid £5 8s .6d.
1603 – 136 adults
1674 – 33 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 257 inhabitants
1831 – 337 inhabitants
1851 – 371 inhabitants
1871 – 304 inhabitants
1901 – 243 inhabitants
1931 – 225 inhabitants
1951 – 1,111 inhabitants
1971 – 1,218 inhabitants
1981 – 968 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £8
1291 Valued £10
Portion of Hoxne £1 10s.
Portion of Monastery of Thetford in same £1. £12 10s.
1535 Valued at £11 18s. 1½d.
Valued £7 11s. 3d. p.a. to the priest £6 (1546)
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £522 p.a. Incumbent also
holds Perpetual Curacy of Lt. Finborough
Tithes commuted for £562 p.a. (1839)
Rectory house partially rebuilt (1819)
1891 90 acres glebe
1912 Nett value £320 p.a. 90 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Sir Robert Barker (1603), Pembroke College, Oxford (1831–)

- 11. Church St. Catherine**
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1086 | 12 th part of church in Battsiford
½ church + 15 acres land
½ church + 12 acres land |
| Norman
15/16 th cent. | Tower and windows in nave, inner arch of S. door
Main structure
Tower remodeled c.1300 |
| 1873/79 | Restoration |

Seats: 200 (1915)

11a Other religious Institutions

Free Chapel: Built c.1174
Belonging to the Priory of Norwich, assigned to Hoxne
1294
Suggested cell of a monk 1905
Site marked by Chapel Farm

12. Nonconformity etc:

1891 Small Baptist chapel

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 30 acres held by Wulfmer a free man
1086	Manor of 30 acres belonging to Robert, Count of Mortain
1066	Manor of 1 carucate 40 acres belonging to Godwy a free man
1086	Manor of 1 carucate 40 acres belonging to William brother of Roger of Auberville
1066	Manor of 80 acres held by Wulfric a free man
1086	Manor of 80 acres belonging to to William brother of Roger of Auberville
1066	Manor of 1 carucate 80 acres held by Leofwin a free man of Abbot of Ely
1086	Manor of carucates 80 acres belonging to Roger Bigot and held by William of Bourneville
c.1523	John Blyant owns
c.1548	Sir Richard Gresham owns (Linked to Battsiford, Combs, Hoxne)
1587	John Barker owns (linked to Battsiford, Nacton, Walton)
1750	Peter Lefebure owns
1761	William Watson owns
1783	William Wollaston owns
1822	Alexander Adair owns (linked to Creeting St.

1909 Olave, Mickfield, Depden, Cratfield, Naughton, Fressing Mendham)
 Sir F.E.S. Adair owns (linked to Creeting St Olave, Mickfield, Naughton, Fressingfield, Syleham, and Wingfield)

Sub-manors

Charles Hall

1066	Manor of 100 acres held by Grim a free man under patronage of Abbot of Ely
1086	Manor of 100 acres belonging to Roger Bigot and held by William of Bourneville
1270	Thomas Charles owns (linked to Syleham)
1482	Henry Wentworth died seized (linked to Poslingford)
c.1548	Sir Richard Graham owns (absorbed by main manor)

Rawlins

13 th cent.	Brian de Othurville/Auberville al. Brian de Ringshall owns
c.1548	Sir Richard Graham owns (absorbed by main manor)

Rockell's/Willisham and Rocfells

13 th cent.	Richard de la Rokele and Robert Willisham owns
1428	W Burys owns
c.1548	Sir Richard Graham owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs:

1270	Grant of market and fair to Thomas Charles to be held on Charles Hall Manor
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15. Real property:

1844	£ 2,458 rental value
1891	£ 1,953 rateable value
1912	£ 1,647 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1891	Land divided
1912	Capt. Sir F.E.S. Adair, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Rev. C.E. Parker MA
1891 Rev. E.W. Hawkins MA
1912 Rev. G.C. Blaxland MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 1 husbandman
1600–1649 10 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 sawyer
1650–1699 15 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 millwright
1831 84 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 1 professional, 15 in domestic service, 1 other
1844 2 shoemakers, 11 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, teacher, 15 farmers, shopkeeper, grocer

19. Education:

1833 1 Sunday school established 1821 (66 attended)
1891 School attended by 22 children
1912 Public Elementary school, average attendance 20

20. Poor relief:

1776	£96	14s.	0d.
1803	£120	17s.	6d.
1818	£317	1s.	
1830	£361	7s.	
1832	£459	7s.	
1834	£300	4s.	

Ringshall Poor Rate 1757. East Anglian Miscellany 1901

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

Sir Thomas Gresham (1519? –1579) founder of London Royal Exchange lived in Ringshall (1566) from where he wrote a letter to Sir William Cecil

25. Other information:

Ringshall hall: partially destroyed 1788, what remains is but a fragment of the original 'Ringshall Hall'. East Anglian Miscellany 1918, p.68.

'Ringshall Chapel'. East Anglian Miscellany 1942, p.11 and 14.