

1. Parish: Somersham

Meaning: Sumor's meadow/enclosure

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:

Civil boundary change 1884, gains detached parts of Nettlestead and Willisham in rationalization of boundaries Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division Ipswich County Court District

3. Area: 1,095 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained loam and sandy soils, locally flinty, places over gravel, slight risk water erosion
- b. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- c. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay, some calcareous clay soils

5. Types of farming:

1086		4 oxen, 1 acre meadow
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. 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, fruits
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1973 Moderate sized compact development close to northern boundary with Nettlestead. Church situated on extreme eastern edge of settlement.
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 29, 1801 – 50, 1851 – 104,
 1871 – 98, 1901 – 86, 1951 – 106,
 1981 – 253

8. Communications:

Road: To Elmsett, Flowton, Offton, Nettlestead and
 Lt. Blakenham
 1891 Carriers pass through to Ipswich
 1912 Carrier to Ipswich daily

Rail: 1891 2½ miles Bramford station: Ipswich– Bury St.
 Edmunds line, opened 1845, line to Norwich opened
 1849, station closed 1955

9. Population:

1086 – 10 recorded
1327 – 27 taxpayers paid £2 14s. 3d.
 (included with Flowton)
1524 – 31 taxpayers paid £2 13s. 4d.
1603 – 120 adults
1674 – 53 households
1676 – not recorded
1801 – 298 inhabitants
1831 – 446 inhabitants
1851 – 422 inhabitants
1871 – 372 inhabitants
1901 – 362 inhabitants
1931 – 307 inhabitants
1951 – 349 inhabitants
1971 – 600 inhabitants
1981 – 660 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £5 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £8.
 Portion of Monastery of Thetford in same £1 6s. 8d.

£9 6s. 8d

1535 Valued £8.
Residence built 1817, enlarged 1835
1831 Curate, stipend £51 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £255 p.a.
Incumbent also holds Perpetual Curacy of Higham
1844 32 acres 31P glebe. Modus of £280 p.a. in lieu of tithes 1839
Incumbent also holds Offton
1891 Incumbent also holds Willisham
1912 Nett income £193 p.a. 31 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: The King (1603), Rev. N.J. Stubbin (1831), Rev. J. Travies (1891)
Exors. Late J.C. McCoan (1912)

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

1086 4th part of church + 7½ acres land
c.1300– Tower, nave and chancel
1340
14th/15th Main structure
cent.
14th cent. Timber framed S. porch
1644 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed pictures and glass + holy water font.

Seats: 200 (1915)

Note: Church maintains gallows for sacring bell; S. side Tie-beam, stretching across chancel over altar rails

12. Nonconformity etc:

Independent and Baptist chapels
1891 Baptist chapel built 1815, seats 400 (1912)

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Leofcild
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Roger of Auberville
1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Wulfwin a free man
1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Isaac

Somersham Manor

1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Leofson a free man under patronage of Leofric Hobbesson
1086 manor of 30 acres belonging to Roger Bigot and held by William

1198	Geoffrey de Amerley owns
1273	Robert de Tibetot and John de Bathon own (linked to Lt. Blakenham, Bramford and Nettlestead)
1316	John de Bohun owns (linked to Elmsett)
1483	Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham owns (linked to Offton, Gazeley, Haverhill, Moulton and Cavenham)
c.1550	Thomas, Lord Wentworth owns (linked to Bramford, Coddensham, Flowton, Burstall and Flixton)
1649	Richard Glandville owns (linked to Elmsett)
1855	James Sparrow owns
1861	Rev. Newman John Stubbings owns

Sub-manors:

Woodhouse

c.1550	Thomas, Lord Wentworth owns (absorbed by main manor)
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14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,252 rental value
1891	£1,349 rateable value
1912	£1,146 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1891	Rev. G. Langley MA
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18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 yeoman, 4 husbandmen
1550–1599	1 tailor, 1 shoemaker
1600–1649	8 yeomen, 1 wheelwright, 1 carpenter
1650–1699	6 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 spinster, 1 spindle maker, 1 labourer, 1 draper
1831	81 in agriculture, 15 in retail trade, 1 professional, 4 in domestic service, 5 others
1844	Shopkeeper, plumber/glazier, corn miller, 2 beerhouses, shoemaker, 2 farmers, blacksmith, wheelwright, butcher, blacksmith/shopkeeper, tailor/shopkeeper, schoolmaster, victualler, carpenter, bricklayer

1912 Sub-postmaster, teacher, insurance agent, 4 farmers, shopkeeper, publican, 2 beer retailers, 2 shoemakers, grocer/pork butcher, farm bailiff, farrier, grocer/draper

19. Education:

1818 1 Sunday school (40 attend)
 1833 3 daily school (56 attend), 1 Sunday school (established church) (33 attend), 1 independent school (36 attend)
 1844 Schoolmaster listed
 Board school built 1877, average attendance 1891 90, enlarged 1906 and 1909, average attendance 1912 131
 Day school run by Miss Sarah Morling 1891

20. Poor relief:

1776 £52 4s. 8d.
 1803 £72 17s. 8d.
 1818 £194 1s.
 1830 £222
 1832 £261 4s.
 1834 £212 3s.

21. Charities:

Town Land Origin unknown: 1 acre 3R let at £4. 15s. p.a. 1840 distributed at Christmas among poor in accordance with size of family

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society (41 members)

23. Recreation:

1844 2 beerhouses, The Duke of Marlborough public house
 1891/1912 2 beerhouse, The Marlborough Head public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

£300 worth of timber from Somersham Park went into building of Clare Hall, Cambridge.
 Record of unusual finds discovered in house during restoration. East Anglian Miscellany 1950, p.38.
 Post Mill in working order 1825.
 2 cases of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1843 and 1844.
 Village sign unveiled 1983.