

1. Parish: Willisham

Meaning: Wiglaf's meadow/enclosure

2. Hundred: Bosmere (–1327), Bosemere 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 loses detached parts to Nettlestead, Offton and Somersham in rationalisation of boundaries, gains detached part of Offton.
Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division
Ipswich County Court District

3. Area: 940 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed:

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

5. Types of farming:

1086		7 acres 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.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Very small well spaced development from church to Willisham Tye (on northern boundary)
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 10, 1801 –20, 1851 –44 ,
1871 – 46, 1901 – 37, 1951 – 35,
1981 – 71

8. Communications:

Road: To Barking, Somersham and Ringshall
1891 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
1912 Carrier passes through to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 3 miles Claydon station: Ipswich–Bury St. Edmunds
Line opened 1845, station closed 1963

9. Population:

1086 – 22 recorded
1327 – 19 taxpayers paid £1 9s.
1524 – 13 taxpayers paid £2 16s.
1603 – 50 adults
1674 – 16 households
1676 – not recorded
1801 – 154 inhabitants
1831 – 224 inhabitants
1851 – 213 inhabitants
1871 – 204 inhabitants
1901 – 141 inhabitants
1931 – 119 inhabitants
1951 – 120 inhabitants
1971 – 254 inhabitants
1981 – 215 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy 1831, Vicarage 1891

1254 Valued £5 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £5 6s. 8d.
Portion of Martin of Willisham £1 6s. 8d.
£6 13s. 4d.
Anciently appropriated to Trinity Priory, Ipswich
1535 Valued as part of Spiritual holdings of St. Trinity, Ipswich
(8s. 8d.)
1603 Curate, stipend £6
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £56 p.a.
1844 Incumbent received £13 p.a. from impropiator and has
25 acres land purchased with the aid of Queen Anne's

Bounty.
Tithes commuted 1839 for £142 10s. p.a.
1912 Nett value £50 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Flowton and resides in that parish.

Patrons: T. Myers (1831), Rev. E.B. Sparke (1891), H.M. Upcher (1912)

11. Church **St. Mary**
(Chancel, nave, S. Porch, W. belfry)

1086 Church + 32 acres land
1644 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) ordered steps Levelled and fond removed
1878 Rebuilt on old foundations

Seats: 100 (1915)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1597 Lay person reads the service but does not wear surplice

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Aelfled a free woman under Patronage of Harold
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou and Held by Albert
1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Wigulf a free man
1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Roger of Poitou
1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Tehodoric a free man
1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to Roger of Poitou

Willsham Hall

c.1182 Albert Greilly owns
1304 William de la Mote owns
1375 Sir Robert de Ferrers owns
c.1488 Sir Ralph Greystock owns
1510 John Basset owns
c.1558 William Lord Windsor owns
c.1620 Robert Brownrigg owns
1764 Peter Upcher owns
1839 Thomas Myers owns
1844 Rev. Edward Bowyer Sparke

14. Markets/Fairs

1227 Grant of market

15. Real property:

1844	£1,049 rental value
1891	£895 rateable value
1912	£676 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Rev. E.B. Sparke, principal owner
1891	Exors. Of Rev. Sparke, principal owner
1912	Mr. Upcher, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1679	Robert Brownrigg
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18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 husbandman
1600–1649	4 yeomen, 1 weaver, 3 husbandmen
1650–1699	1 house carpenter
1831	40 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 6 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	3 farmers, lime burner, bricklayer, shopkeeper, beerhouse keeper, victualler
1912	3 farmers, shopkeeper, beer retailer, thatcher

19. Education:

1891/1912	Children attend school at Offton
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20. Poor relief:

1776	£39 1s. 8d.
1803	£52 8s. 8d.
1818	£130 4s.
1830	£161 2s.
1832	£195 9s.
1834	£130 6s.

21. Charities:

Kirk's Charity:

1610	by bequest of George Kirk: 1 acre 3R 17P let at £4 10s. for distribution among poor
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Brownrigg's Gift:

1661	by gift of John Brownrigg: Rent-charge of 12s. p.a. from Willisham Hall estate distributed with Kirks Charity.
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Boby Charity:

c.1912 by will of William Boby: £4 6s. 8d. p.a. distributed in coals at Christmas

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society (41 members)

23. Recreation:

1844 Beerhouse, The Shoulder of Mutton public house
1891/1912 Beer retailer

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Willisham Hall: assessed as having 11 hearths 1674. Destroyed by fire 1934. East Anglian Miscellany 1918, p.44.

Willisham Parish Registers: East Anglian Miscellany 1934, p.17. Believed Destroyed in above-mentioned fire.