

1. Parish: Bromeswell

Meaning: Broom covered hill (Ekwall)

2. Hundred: Wilford

Deanery: Wilford (- 1972), Woodbridge (1972 -)

Union: Woodbridge

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Woodbridge RD (1894 – 1934), Deben RD (1934 – 1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Civil Boundary Change (1956)

Woodbridge Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. Area:

1,785 acres land, 4 acres water, 6 acres tidal water, 19 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

Deep well drained sandy soil, some very acid with bleacher sub-surface especially under heath and woodland. Risk of wind erosion. Some clay soil with peaty surface. Sand pits. Problem of acidity and trace elements deficiency.

5. Types of farming:

1086 1500–1640	Thirsk:	2 cobs, 6 pigs, 57 sheep, 19 acres meadow Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop
1804	Young:	“This corner of Suffolk practices better husbandry than elsewhere”... identified as carrot growing region.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils, rotation usually of turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass
19 th cent. 1937	Main crops:	Large tract of heath grazed by sheep Wheat, barley, turnips, rye, peas. Large portion of heathland
1969	Trist:	Dairying has been replaced by arable farming

6. Enclosure:

148 acres Bromeswell Heath reclaimed (1952 – 1955)

7. Settlement:

1983 Moderately narrow, well spaced development with concentration around Church. Secondary development appears around junction of road through village with Melton/Wantidsen road. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 14, 1801 – 21, 1851 – 53, 1871 – 55, 1901 – 49, 1951 – 85, 1981 – 105

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Melton, Wantidsen and Eyke

Rail: 1891 1 mile Melton station: Ipswich – Lowestoft line, opened (1859), closed for passengers (1955), closed for goods (1965), used for coal traffic (1984)

Water: River Deben

9. Population:

1086 — 85 recorded

1327 — 25 taxpayers paid £1. 9s. 7d. (includes Ramsholt)

1524 — 21 taxpayers paid £1. 12s. 8d.

1603 — 75 adults

1674 — 20 households

1676 — Not recorded

1801 — 143 inhabitants

1831 — 178 inhabitants

1851 — 226 inhabitants

1871 — 219 inhabitants

1901 — 214 inhabitants

1931 — 268 inhabitants

1951 — 256 inhabitants

1971 — 312 inhabitants

1981 — 287 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £3. 6s. 8d.

1291 Valued £3. 6s. 8d.

Portion to the Prior of Bromholm 5s. £3. 11s. 8d.

1535 Valued £4. 15s. 7½d.

Rector not resident and neglects divine service in this parish (1597). Incumbent is also vicar of Aldeburgh. 1 curate.

1831 Curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for residence.
Gross income £150 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectory of
Semer. Tithes commuted for £270 p.a. (1842)
1912 Nett value £165. 6 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: The King (1603), Marquis of Bristol (1831 -)

11. Church St. Edmund
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, embattled W. tower)

1086 Church + 6 acres land, valued 6d.
Church + 16 acres land, valued 2s.
Norman S. doorway
15th cent. Main structure
16th cent. S. porch
1960's Fibre-glass angels added to roof
Note: Unusual type of hammer beam/ arch braced collar
roof

Seats: 60 (1912)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Ralph of Beaufour held by
6 free men

Bromeswell Manor:

13th cent. William de Caniso of Edwardstone owns
1307 Roger de Bigot, Earl of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous
manors throughout Suffolk)
1609 Sir Michael Stanhope owns (linked to Hollesley and
Ufford)
Mid 17th Sir Henry Wood owns (linked to Blythford)
19th cent. Nathaniel Barnardiston of Ryues, Sudbury owns (linked to
Alpheton)

Sub-Manors:

Staverton with Bromeswell:

1086 Belonging to Roger Malet passing to Roger Bigot (linked
to Framlingham and main manor)
1529 Belonging to Prior and Convent of Butley
1601 Sir Michael Stanhope owns
1669 Sir Henry Wood owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£887 rental value
1891	£1,454 rateable value
1912	£1,862 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Marquis of Bristol, principle owner
1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Marquis of Bristol and J.C. Lomax, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 husbandman, 1 yeoman, 1 carpenter, 1 roper
1600–1649	9 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 linen weaver, 1 weaver
1650–1699	4 husbandmen, 1 sackcloth weaver
1831	36 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 1 in domestic service
1844	Victualler, 5 farmers
1912	Teacher, coal merchant, publican, shopkeeper, farmer, cattle dealer, fruit grower/market gardener

19. Education:

1833	3 daily schools (13 attend one school, 43 attend the other two) 1 Sunday school (30 attend) School built (1846) (30 attend), average attendance (1912) 15
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20. Poor relief:

1776	£27. 16s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£58. 13s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£192. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£218. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£170. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£119. 18s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Lands:

1840	6 acres let at £5. 2s. p.a.
1654	Rents were used for aid/relief of poor indigent inhabitants
1894	Churchwardens manage and rents used for church repairs

Sir M. Stanhope's Dole:

1618/19 Yearly rents of £5 p.a. from his estate for distribution among the poor

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society (12 members)

23. Recreation:

1844/1912 THE CHERRY TREE public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Archaeological sites:

Church of St. Edmund (CRN 769)

Stray finds: Med. Pottery (CRN 784)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 787)

Coin (CRN 3585)

Sax. Pottery (CRN 292)

I.A. Pottery (CRN 7502)

B.A. Spearhead (CRN 3033)

Axe (CRN 790, 793)

Palstave (CRN 792, 794, 795)

Neo. Arrowhead (CRN 788)

Pal. Artefact (CRN 3558)

Scatter finds: Sax. Pottery kiln (CRN 785)

Pottery (CRN 295)

Bowl (CRN 3032)

Med. Pottery kiln (CRN 786)

Pottery (CRN 293, 296, 306)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 290, 294)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 291, 305, 5045, 789)

I.A. Pottery (CRN 7494, 347)