

# 1. Parish: Flowton

**Meaning:** Floki's homestead/village (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:**

Civil boundary change (1884), gains part of Nettlestead in rationalization of boundaries.

Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division  
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 492 (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		10 acres meadow, 8 cattle, 60 sheep
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.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, clover
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1973 Very small compact development close to northern boundary. Church centrally situated.  
Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 19, 1801 – 18, 1851 – 36, 1871 – 37, 1901 – 27, 1951 – 33, 1981 – 37

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Elmsett, Burstall, Somersham, Bramford.

**Rail:** 1891 6½ miles Hadleigh station: Bentley-Hadleigh line, opened (1847), closed for passengers (1932), closed for goods (1965)

1912 2 miles Bramford station: Ipswich-Bury St. Edmunds line, opened (1845), line to Norwich opened (1849), station closed (1955)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 9 recorded

1327 — 27 taxpayers paid £2. 14s. 3d. (includes Somersham)

1524 — 12 taxpayers paid £1. 8s. 9d.

1603 — 49 adults

1674 — 21 households

1676 — Not recorded

1801 — 121 inhabitants

1831 — 185 inhabitants

1851 — 178 inhabitants

1871 — 156 inhabitants

1901 — 129 inhabitants

1931 — 116 inhabitants

1951 — 110 inhabitants

1971 — 112 inhabitants

1981 — 115 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £3

1291 Portion of Colchester in church £1. 4s.

1535 Valued £3. 9s. 9½d.

Parsonage houses are in “great decaye” (1597)

1720 Valued £26. 14s.

1831 No glebe house. Gross income £140 p.a.

Modus of £140 p.a. in lieu of tithes (1839)

Rectory house built (1845)

1891 27 acres glebe

1912 Nett value £90 p.a. 25 acres glebe and residence.

Incumbent also holds Willisham.

**Patrons:**

Sir Robert Drewrye (1603), H.S. Thornton (1831), Mrs. E. Thornton (1912)

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

Circa 1300    Main structure including tower  
1597          Chancel is “decayed of tiling”  
1644          Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed holy  
                 water font in chancel  
1879          Restoration

**Seats:**                      160 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Minister does not wear surplice (1597)  
William Franklin ejected by Suffolk Committee for  
Scandalous Ministers (1644)

**13. Manorial:**

1066          Manor of 20 acres held by Godman  
1086          Manor of 20 acres belonging to Roger de Auberville and  
                 held by Godman

**Flowton Manor**

1066          Manor of 2 carucates held by Godman under patronage  
                 of Withgar  
1086          Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Richard, son of Count  
                 Gilbert and held by Germund  
1428          William de Clopton owns  
1458          Thomas Bendish owns (linked to Hadleigh)  
16<sup>th</sup> cent.      Sir Thomas Wentworth owns (linked to Bramford,  
                 Coddensham, Somersham, Burstall and Flixton)  
1909          C.H.C. Henniker owns

**Sub-Manors:**

**Archers**

1357          Roger le Archer owns  
1458          Thomas Bendish owns (absorbed by main manor)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£578 rental value
1891	£585 rateable value
1912	£527 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Lord Henniker and H. Fiske, principle owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

**18. Occupations:**

1500-1549	1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen
1550-1599	2 yeomen, 4 husbandmen
1600-1649	4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 minister
1650-1699	2 yeomen
1831	37 in agriculture, 3 in retail trade, 3 others
1844	Bricklayer, corn miller, 7 farmers
1912	6 farmers, shopkeeper

**19. Education:**

1818	1 daily school (30 attend)
1833	1 Sunday school (61 attend)
1891	Children attend school at Somersham

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£44. 3. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£55. 4s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£159. 9s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£182. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£220. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£186. 18s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Poors Land:**

1674	Benefaction of Robert Deerhaugh and William Vesey: 5 acres 3R let at £8. 8s. p.a. distributed among poor
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**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

'A Great Suffolk Character' by Donald Roper. East Anglian Magazine  
Vol. 40 p.282.

Refers to Barney Witt (1880-1956), who was 6' tall,  
weighed 16 stone, carries a 14lb. walking stick and a  
solid silver watch in his waistcoat pocket which was 1"  
thick x 5" across. A man of humour and ceaseless worker  
for charity.

**25. Other information:**

'Parish papers of Flowton'. Assessment of parish (circa 1643).

**Archaeological Sites**

Church of St. Mary (CRN 5275)

Ring ditch (CRN 3714)

Stray finds: B.A. axe (CRN 742)