

## 1. Parish: Great Bricett

**Meaning:** Dwelling/fold/possibly frequented by gadflies? (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:

Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division  
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 926 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		8 acres meadow, wood for 10 pigs, 5 cobs, 15 cattle, 65 pigs, 182 sheep, 2 oxen
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, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Length of Roman road forms part of northern boundary.

Wattisham airfield intrudes into northern sector of parish. Small ribbon type development along link road extending northward from the main B1078 road. Church and hall centrally situated. Secondary settlement at Green Street Green.

Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 23, 1801 – 35, 1851 – 57, 1871 – 53, 1901 – 51, 1951 – 43, 1981 – 112

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Ringshall, Offton, Nedging with Naughton  
1891 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday  
1912 Carrier to Ipswich daily

**Rail:** 1891 5 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 — 28 recorded (includes Little Bricett)  
1327 — 24 taxpayers paid £2. 5s. 8d. (includes Little Bricett)  
1524 — Not recorded  
1603 — 87 adults  
1674 — 42 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 224 inhabitants  
1831 — 284 inhabitants  
1851 — 236 inhabitants  
1871 — 257 inhabitants  
1901 — 202 inhabitants  
1931 — 141 inhabitants  
1951 — 254 inhabitants  
1971 — 361 inhabitants  
1981 — 319 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Curacy (1831), Vicarage (1891)**

1254 Valued £3. 6s. 8d.  
1291 Valued £6.  
1535 Not recorded  
1603 Curate, stipend £14  
1831 No glebe house. Gross income £100 p.a. Incumbent also holds Perpetual Curacy of Wattisham.  
1844 Valued £100  
1874/75 Vicarage house built (1874/75)  
1891 Tithes valued at £200 p.a. 7 glebe

1912            Nett value £160 p.a. 7 acres glebe and residence.  
Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Wattisham.

**Patrons:**

Kings College Cambridge (1489- )

**11. Church        Saints Mary and Lawrence**  
(Chancel, nave, tower)

1086            45 acres belonging to a church  
Church + 15 acres  
Norman        North and South doorway, blocked slit window in north  
wall and round arch window in south wall.  
Church is fragment of monastic church of alien priory.  
Originally contained transepts and east apses (12<sup>th</sup> cent.),  
discovered by excavation (1926).  
12<sup>th</sup> cent.       East end made straight, 2<sup>nd</sup> transepts built to north and  
south.  
14<sup>th</sup> cent.       Main structure.  
1868/1907     Restoration

**Seats:**            200 (1915)

**11a. Other Religious Institutions**

**Alien Priory: St. Leonard**

Austin Canons:

1114-19        Founded by Ralph Fitz-Brian and his wife, Emma  
Cell to Nobiliac, France and placed under protection of  
Herbert de Lozinga, 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Norwich  
1291            Valued £16. 7s. 1½d. Income was over £21 p.a.  
4-6 canons maintained  
1381            6 canons  
Circa 1414     Suppressed by statute of Leicester  
1416            Burnt down  
1444            Granted to Kings College, Cambridge.

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597            Minister does not wear surplice

**13. Manorial:**

**Bricett:**

1066            Manor of 1 carucate held by Bondi, a free man

- 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Richard, son of Count Gilbert and held by Roger
- 1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Ascell, a free man under patronage of Leofric Hobbesson
- 1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to William, brother of Roger Auberville

**Great Bricett Manor:**

- 1066 Manor of 2 carucates 4 acres held by Leofstan
- 1086 Manor of 2 carucates 4 acres belonging to Ranulf Peverel and held by Ralph, son of Brian
- 1096 Ralph FitzBrian held as of the Honor of Peverel
- Manor given to the church on foundation of alien priory
- 1426 Granted to Kings College, Cambridge

**14. Markets/Fairs**

- 1135 Grant of market to be held on Tuesday and 2 fairs held on the festivals of St. Leonard and St. Lawrence
- 1597 Fayre time requested
- Circa 1618 Fair held in June on Midsummer Day
- 1759 Fair held on 5<sup>th</sup> July for butter, sheep and toys
- 1891 Fair formerly held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July

**15. Real property:**

- 1844 £878 rental value
- 1891 £996 rateable value
- 1912 £727 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

- 1844/91 Land sub-divided
- 1912 Kings College Cambridge, Principle owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

- 1912 Rev. T.O. Wonnacott MA

**18. Occupations:**

- 1550–1599 1 yeoman, 4 husbandmen, 1 tailor
- 1600–1649 3 yeomen, 1 husbandman
- 1650–1699 1 yeoman, 1 butcher
- 1831 48 in agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 6 in domestic service
- 1844 Corn miller, farmer, 2 blacksmiths, wheelwright, shopkeeper
- 1912 Sub-postmaster, teacher, shopkeeper, miller, 3 farmers, carpenter, beer retailer, blacksmith

**19. Education:**

1833 1 Sunday school (est. 1827) (40 attend)  
National School built (1870), 53 attend (1891), enlarged  
(1893), average attendance (1912) 48

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£103. 16s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£131. 19s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£364. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£328. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£519. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£350. 7s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1891/1912 Beer retailer

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

**Great Bricett Hall:** incorporates western range of residential buildings of Priory, joins church via west door. Unique example of 13<sup>th</sup> cent. carved wood partition of 4 arches (one with dogtooth moulding), discovered during renovation work (1956). Formerly the priors house on western side of cloisters. Moated site of original manor house is in field near by.

Brief Notes on Discoveries at Gt. Bricett Priory' by P.G.M. Dickenson. Suffolk Review Vol. 1 p.41

'Excavations on the site of the Augustinian Alien Priory of Gt. Bricett' by F.H. Fairweather (1927). PSIA Vol. XIX p.99

**Archaeological Sites**

Med. Priory (CRN 5318)

Med. moated site (CRN 5319)

Stray finds: Rom. coin (CRN 5320)

Scatter finds: Rom. brick (CRN 5321)

Scatter (CRN 5322)