

1. Parish: Needham Market (former hamlet of Barking)

Meaning: a) Poor homestead/village with a market
b) Enclosure of Haydda's people with market (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** **BOSMERE (- 1327), BOSEMERE AND CLAYDON**

Deanery: Bosmere

Union: Bosmere and Claydon

RDC/UDC: Bosmere and Claydon R.D. (1901-1934), Gipping R.D. (1934-1974), Mid-Suffolk D.C. (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Separate from Barking and acquiring civil parish status (1901), separated ecclesiastically (1907)
Civil boundary change (1907), gains part of Creeting St. Mary
Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 451 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a. Deep weel drained loam and sandy soils, locally flinty, in places over gravel, slight risk water erosion
b. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
c. Stoneless clay soils mostly overlying peat by river, variably affected by groundwater, risk of localised flooding

5. **Types of farming:**

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 fertilising agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in

1937 Main crops: preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
Urbanised area

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 River Gipping forms natural boundary to NE. Railway runs parallel to the river from NW – SE

Small compact town development spaced along line of Stowmarket to Ipswich road, to west of railway. Church situated in centre of High St.

Probable influences on development have been its market, its position on a main road and the rail and river links.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 102, 1801 – 257, 1851 – 312, 1871 – 319, 1901 – 354, 1951 – 464, 1981 – 1,319

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Badley, Barking, Baylham and Creting St. Mary Ipswich – Bury St. Edmunds Turnpike Road. Tollhouse situated next to the Bull Inn.

1844 Coaches from the Swan Inn to Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge and Ipswich twice daily
Ominibus from Stowmarket to Ipswich Monday and Thursday
Carriers and mail cart to Ipswich and Stowmarket daily
Wagons to Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

1891 Carriers to Ipswich daily

1912 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

A45 bypass constructed (1970's) removed heavy vehicles from town centre and eased congestion

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Ipswich – Bury St. Edmunds line, opened (1845), closed (1967), re-opened (1971)

Water: River Gipping: Canalised (1789), Navigation Act (1790): River became navigable to Ipswich

9. Population:

1086 — Not recorded
1327 — 64 taxpayers paid £4. 4s. 7d.
(includes Barking)
1524 — 63 taxpayers paid £20. 13s. 10d.
1603 — Not recorded
1674 — 155 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 1,348 inhabitants
1831 — 1,466 inhabitants
1851 — 1,367 inhabitants
1871 — 1,842 inhabitants (includes Barking and Darmsden)
1901 — 1,657 inhabitants (includes Barking and Darmsden)
1931 — 1,366 inhabitants
1951 — 1,493 inhabitants
1971 — 1,935 inhabitants
1981 — 3,424 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy in Barking (1831), Vicarage (1891)

1254 Not recorded
1291 Not recorded
1535 Not recorded
1831 No glebe house, gross income £91 p.a.
1844 Valued £91
1891 Valued £74
Ecclesiastical parish formed (1901)
Vicarage house built (1903)
1912 Nett value £200 p.a. with residence

Patrons: Rector of Barking (1844), Earl of Ashburnham (1831),
Parishioners (1912)

11. Church St. John Baptist

(Chancel, nave, clerestory, S. porch, aisles, W. turret)

Formerly a chapel of ease to Barking: in existence (1251)
1458-1478 Built at expense of Bishop Grey of Ely
1644 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) ordered removal of
2 iron crosses in chapel and 1 stoneling cross
1833 S. porch and turret built
1901 Given parish church status

Note: Unique nave roof (15th cent.)

Seats: 350 (1915)

Tabernacle of St. Thomas Martyr: in existence (1460)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1 person burned at Bury St. Edmunds for his beliefs (1558)
Rev. Thomas James ejected from Needham (circa 1662) described as 'very pious, good man of the Congregational persuasion'.
Congregational meeting house built (1717), cleaned and repaired (1793)
New chapel built (1838). United Reform church by (1979)
Congregational group formed (1662) by the Rev. John Fairfax.
'History of Congregationalism in Suffolk' by T.J. Hosken. (Needham Market – see p. 228)

1891 Friends Meeting House and Plymouth Brethren meeting house. Wesleyan Methodist chapel built (1905)
Quaker Meeting house and cottages established (1704) from bequest of Hester Browning, rebuilt (1786), disused since (1914/18), used as sorting office (1979)

13. Manorial:

Barking cum Needham

1066/1086 Manor of 7 carucates belonging to Abbot of St. Etheldreda, valued £20, vested in the Bishopric
1561 Vested in the Crown for pension to the Bishop of £135. 7s. 2d.
1611 Sir Francis Needham owns
17th cent. Francis Theobald owns
circa 1690 Rev. Joseph Gascoigne owns
circa 1754 John Crowley owns (linked to Badley and Darmsden)
circa 1756 John, Earl of Ashburnham owns (linked to Badley)

Sub-manor:

Overhall

1609 held by Kings College, Cambridge

14. Markets/Fairs

Needham Market grew in prominence due to its favourable position close to the main through road in a corner of Barking parish.
1226 Grant of market and fair
Circa 1618 Market held on Wednesday. Fair held on St. Judes Day (October)
1679 Small market due to proximity to Stowmarket

14. Markets/fairs (cont'd)

1759	Fair for toys held on October 28 th
1792	Market remained on Wednesday but ceased to exist shortly after this date Fair held November 8 th for toys Unsuccessful attempt to re-establish market (1838)
1844	Annual cattle fair held on 12/13 th October
1891	Pleasure fair held October 12 th . Formerly Annual fair for toys and pedlery held on 28 th /29 th October

15. Real property:

1844	£2,314 rental value
1891	£6,165 rateable value (includes Barking and Darmsden)
1912	£5,178 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Not recorded
1912	Earl of Ashburnham, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844	Rev. G.A. Paske M.A. and Rev. C. Rawlins B.A.
1912	Rev. C.B. Dundas B.A. and Rev. J.F. Vincent-Fernie B.A.

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 barber, 1 tailor, 1 labourer, 1 butcher
1550–1599	2 clothiers, 4 yeomen, 6 weavers, 3 husbandmen, 1 wheelwright, 1 labourer, 3 glovers, 1 butcher
1600–1649	10 clothiers, 2 yeomen, 1 maltster, 1 carpenter, 3 weavers, 1 spinster, 1 mercer, 1 wheelwright, 1 grocer, 1 victualler/inn holder, 1 tanner, 1 fisherman, 1 cordwinder, 1 butcher, 2 woollen weavers, 1 hop man
1650–1699	1 seaman, 5 clothiers, 4 yeomen, 2 maltsters, 2 carpenters, 1 barber, 1 tailor, 2 cloth workers, 1 husbandman, 2 spinsters, 1 grocer, 1 victualler/inn holder, 1 linen weaver, 1 schoolmaster, 3 tanners, 1 woollen draper, 1 glass maker, 1 baker, 1 Glover, 2 blacksmiths, 2 woollen weavers, 1 linen draper, 1 clerk
1679	Trade in Blues and Broad cloths, Ruffia and Turkey ware. Poor women employed in spinning wool and making bone lace.
18 th /19 th cent.	Malting and milling centre developed as result of rail and river traffic.
1831	123 in agriculture, 122 in retail trade, 18 professionals, 40 in labouring, 64 in domestic service, 31 others

18. Occupations (cont'd):

- 19th cent. Brickmaking was thriving industry. Brick yards in Barrets Lane
- 1844 Auctioneer, ironmonger/crown glue manufacturer, wheelwright, tea dealer, dressing machine maker, glover, rake and hurdle maker, 4 farmers, solicitor's clerk, bank agent, mousetrap maker, basket maker, 5 academics, 6 bakers, 2 beerhouse keepers, 4 blacksmiths, 13 boot/shoemakers, 6 butchers, 2 cabiner makers, bricklayer, tinner/brazier, cooper, hairdresser, vet, brickmaker/lime burner, 2 attorneys, 1 banker, 7 inns and taverns, 3 chemists, 2 confectioners, 3 corn millers, 3 gardeners, 4 grocer/drapers, 2 joiners, 2 maltsters/corn merchants, 3 milliners, 5 painter/plumber/glaziers, 2 saddlers, 4 shopkeepers, 2 straw hat makers, 3 surgeons, 5 tailors, 2 watchmakers
- 1912 Public officers, fire brigade (captain and 9 men), police officer, school teachers, station master, tailor, 2 butchers, 3 grocer/drapers, bankers, 4 shopkeepers, school attendance officer, 4 boot/shoemakers, flour merchant/manufacturer, millwright, 2 coal merchants, hotel owner, deputy registrar, harness maker, 2 builders, baker, children's home officers, maltsters, coffee tavern owner, millers, plumber, 2 beer retailers, general smiths, 3 dressmakers, blacksmith, 2 watchmakers, 2 chemists, ham and bacon curer, vet, painters, 2 surgeons, carrier, 2 solicitors, 2 grocers, farmer, coach builder, cycle maker, 2 apartment owners, thatcher, horsedealer/baker, 5 publicans, threshing machine owner, tobacconist, telephone call office, cycle agent, basket maker, coal/corn/cake and seed merchant, registrar, stationer, 2 ironmongers, butcher/farmer, farmer, furniture broker, bricklayer, outfitter, musical instrument dealer.

19. Education:

- Bequest by Francis Theobald (1632) for education (Grammar School)
Grammar school constructed in part from materials of the former Guildhall, Barking
37 attend (1833), 17 free
Foundation re-organised (1873)
30-40 attend (1892). Accommodation for 20 borders
- 1833 4 daily schools (91 attend), 1 Sunday school, established (1827), 64 attend

19. Education (cont'd):

1844 5 academics
Amalgamated Elementary schools (National and British schools amalgamated 1885), 225 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 260, closed (1982)
New primary school opened (1982)
Ladies boarding school run by Mrs. Elizabeth Burt (1891)
Middle school recorded (1974)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£120. 10s. 0d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£154. 16s. 8½d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£511. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£576. 2s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£722. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£688. 19s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Theobalds Charity:

1632 By will of Francis Theobald: Re-use of materials of Guildhall for building of workhouse or school.
Provision of Education

Almshouses:

1840 2 tenements (origins unknown) occupied by 8 poor persons. Deeds date from (1784). 9 acres let at £18 p.a.

Town Lands:

1840 21½ acres + arable land in Creeting let at £40. 12s. 6d. p.a. for distribution on St. Thomas's Day among the poor of Needham Market and Barking

Cottage Home:

Built (1858), occupied rent free by 4 inmates:
Benefaction of Mrs. Lucy Maw

22. Other institutions:

Guild of Holy Trinity, St. John Baptist and St. Thomas (1458)
Guild of St. Margaret (1460)
Guild with no land, stock of ready money £9 (1546)
Guildhall in existence (1632), to be taken down and materials used to build schoolhouse

22. Other institutions (cont'd):

Almshouses (origins unknown) repaired (1836), accommodates 8 persons.
Almshouse (North end High Street) built (1858)
Alexander & Co. Bank (now Barclays), opened 1744) in house opposite the church, removed (1756) to present position in former weavers cottage/paper warehouse connected to paper mill.
Post office
Gas works erected near rail station (1847)
Town Hall built (1866) also accommodates police station and court building, demolished (1978)
Conservative Association meets monthly at Swan Hotel (1891) (100 members), Chess Club held here in winter (1891)
Young Men's Christian Association (1891)
Reading room opened (1883)
Petty Sessions held at Town Hall alternate Wednesdays (1891)
Suffolk Provident Society (1891)
Institute built (1907), has attached bowling green
Oddfellows Lodge meets at Swan Hotel (1912)
Fire Brigade; compliment of Captain and 9 men (1912)
Postal Telephone Service (1912)
4 Pest houses built (1743)
Workhouse in existence (1688)
7 Friendly Societies (1803) (204 members)
Needham Market Society formed (1966), 84 members (1979)
Community Centre in School Street built (circa 1980)
Mid Suffolk Council Offices opened (1982)

23. Recreation:

17th cent. 2 inn holders/victuallers
The Fleece Inn and The Crown Inn public houses
Theatre/playhouse situated near Lion Land (circa 1830)
The George Inn in existence (1832)
1844 2 beerhouses, 7 inns and taverns
1891 Coffee tavern, opened (1883), converted from former school house (also known as the Temperance Hotel)
Cricket and football grounds near to grammar school
The Swan Hotel (internally 16th cent., externally 18th/19th cent.), known as The Kings Head (1600), renovated (circa 1974)
The Rampant Horse commercial hotel
3 beer retailers
The Three Tuns, The Kings Head (formerly the White Horse)

23. Recreation (cont'd):

1912 The Swan Hotel, 2 beer retailers, The Lion public house (renovated 1975)
The Bull Inn (has corner post dated 1485)
The Rampant Horse, The Three Tuns public houses
The Kings Head public house (closed 1927)
Station Field Recreation area opened (circa 1982)

- 24. Personal:** Samuel Read: (circa 1815-1883), native of parish: water-colour artist sent to Crimea to provide sketches for the Illustrated London News (1853)
Edmund Pole: burned at Bury St. Edmunds for his beliefs (1558)

25. Other information:

Parish contains deep lake covering approximately 40 acres called Bosmere. Town said to be deeply affected by plague (1685). Town said to have been 'isolated due to plague (1663/65) believed to have destroyed principal trade of wool-combing. The severity of the plague here led to the erection of barriers at either end of town beyond which no-one was allowed to pass. Town described as being deserted with grass growing in the streets.

Town lighted by gas (1891)

Water supply from local wells (1891)

The Causeway: 1 mile length of pathway leading from centre of Needham to Barking church. Used for funeral processions (- 1902). Said to have been constructed by a lady living at Barking Hall (no dates)

'The Story of Needham Market Church' (1956)

The poverty of the town led to comment by Thomas Fuller (1662) that 'They are said to be in th highway to Needham who haste to poverty'.

Richard Beacham was placed in stocks for theft of 'burying cloth' (1611)

Weaving and wool-combing sheds existed in Church Street, Hawks Mill Street and in the High Street.

Charity Houses, Bridge Street: used as sick houses in times of epidemic.

Convalescence was taken in the 'airing houses' at Darmsden.

'Rambles round....Needham Market' by E.W. Platten (1925)

Camping land in existence (1476)

Map based on Penningtons map (1772). 'History of Suffolk' by D. Dymond and P. Northeast, opposite page 43

Vast increase in housing development (1979)

Old garage showroom and workshop converted into 3 house Tudor Mews (1975).

Buildings dated from 1400's, believed to be the original Kings Head public house.

Hawks Mill: dates from (1884), Grade II listed

Figure of woodwose or wild man found behind plaster in malting (1979)

Privately owned museum of bygones established in Longueville House (1984)
'A Living Museum' by M.D. Gates. East Anglian Magazine, Vol. 41 p.296 (1982)

25. Other information (cont'd) :

'Conservation in Needham Market' (1970): Townscape appraisal and policy statement by East Suffolk County Council Planning Dept.

'Notes on Needham Market Church' by E.T. Linwood (1920) PSIA Vol. XVII p.136

'The Chapel of St. John the Baptist, Needham Market' by W.H. Sewell (1871) PSIA Vol. IV p.245

Case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest (1844)