

1. Parish: Offton (contains hamlet of Little Bricett)

Meaning: Off's homestead/village or the homestead/village of Offa's people

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:

Absorbs Little Bricett pre 1535
Civil boundary change 1884, loses detached part to Nettlestead and Willisham in rationalization of boundaries, gains detached parts of Willisham and Elmsett
Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division
Ipswich County Court District

3. Area: 1,568 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

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

5. Types of farming:

1086		1 acre 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, barley, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1973 Small compact development at junction of Bildeston Road and Castle Road with the road to Somersham. Church situated at eastern end of settlement.
site of Little Bricett believed to be in the region of Tollemache Farm.
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 28, 1801 – 39, 1851 – 87,
1871 – 84, 1901 – 73, 1951 – 69,
1981 – 138

8. Communications:

Road: To Somersham and Great Bricett
1891 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
1912 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 4½ miles Claydon station: Ipswich–Bury St.
Edmunds line, opened 1845, station closed 1963

9. Population:

1086 –27 recorded
1327 – 17 taxpayers paid £1 15s.
1524 – 18 taxpayers paid £1 4s. 1d.
1603 – 86 adults (includes Lt. Bricett from hereon)
1674 – 39 households
1676 – not recorded
1801 – 264 inhabitants
1831 – 399 inhabitants
1851 – 410 inhabitants
1871 – 376 inhabitants
1901 – 308 inhabitants
1931 – 276 inhabitants
1951 – 241 inhabitants
1971 – 278 inhabitants
1981 – 358 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (with Rectory of Little Bricett)

1254 Offton: Valued £6
Lt. Bricett: Valued £2 13s. 4d.
1291 Offton: Valued £8
Lt. Bricett: Portion of Monastery of Thetford in
Church of Lt. Bricett £2 5s.
1503 Lt. Bricett annexed to Offton
1535 Joint value £7 16s. 0½d.

1831 Glebe house in Offton. Joint gross income £125 p.a.
 In receipt of rectorial tithes of Lt. Bricett. Modus of
 £189 p.a.
 £218 10s. awarded to lay impropiator in lieu of Offton
 Rectorial tithes 1839

1891 25 acres glebe

1912 Joint nett value £120 p.a. 27 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Sir Robert Barker (1603), Postle Jackson (1844),
 J.G. Sparrow (1831), W.H. Sparrow (1891),
 Rev. B.J.H. Beridge (1912)

11. Church St. Mary
 (continuous nave and chancel, S.porch, W.tower)

1086 16 acres in lands of the church

Norman S. doorway

14th cent. Tower

14th/15th cents. Main structure

1602 Chancel described as being in ruinous state

1644 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) ordered
 Defacing of font in chancel, steps and crosses both
 Internal and external

1861/887 Restorations

Seats: 150 (1915)

Little Bricett St. Lawrence

1086 54 acres belonging to a church
 Church + 15 acres land

1503 Living consolidated with Offton and church allowed to fall
 into ruins
 Occupied site near to Little Bricett Hall, nothing remains
 1982

12. Nonconformity etc:

1 person suspected of being a witch 1597

13. Manorial:

Offton Castle

1066 Manor of 100 acres held by Siric a free man

1086 manor of 100 acres belonging to Isaac

13th cent. William Talbot owns (linked to Hintlesham)

1257 William de Valance owns, at which time the manor
 appears to have been sub-divided (linked to Exning
 and Mutford)

- 1483 Henry de Stafford, Duke of Buckingham owns (linked to Somersham, Gazeley, Haverhill, Cavenham, Moulton Glanville family owns (no dates)
- 1885 James Cudden owns (linked to Nettlestead)
- 1896 William Sidney Culvert owns (linked to East Bergholt and Clopton)

Sub-manors:

Offton Monks

- 1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Leofeild a free man under patronage of Stigand
- 1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger Bigot and held by Hugh of Houdain
- 1540 Priory of St. Mary Thetford owns
- 1540 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
- 1547 James Ryvett owns (linked to Lt. Bricett and Rattlesden)
- 1574 Robert Barker owns, in which family it remained until (1785) (linked to Falkenham, Kirton, Trimley St. Martin and St. Mary, Combs and Bedfield)

Little Bricett

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 Askill a free man under Patronage of Leofric Hobbesson
- 1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to William, brother of Roger Auberville

Little Bricett/Talmach Hall

- 1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Godwin a free man
- 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Roger of Rames and held by Ansketel
- 1204 Lord William de Fresnets/Freney owns (linked to Rushmere)
- 1227 John de Wachesham owns (linked to Culpho)
- c.1227 Hugh Talmach held of the Honor of Clare
- 1538 Lionel Tollemache and family own (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
- 1538 James Rivett owns (linked to Offton and Rattlesden)
- 1655 Capt. John Bright owns
- 1829 Richard Wilson owns (linked to Wattisham)

1847 Sir R.S. Adair owns (linked to Depden, Cratfield,
Naughton, Fressingfield and Mendham)
1855 Edward Bedford owns

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,560 rental value
1891 £1,726 rateable value
1912 £1,360 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

Little Bricett: William Bright (1679)
Offton: Rev. J.E. Thompson MA (1891)
Rev. J.L. Bennett MA (1912)

18. Occupations:

Little Bricett:

1600–1649 1 yeoman

Offton:

1500–1549 1 husbandman
1550–1599 1 cooper, 3 yeomen, 2 husbandmen
1600–1649 1 cooper, 4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 mason, 1 clerk,
1 tailor
1650–1699 7 yeomen, 1 clerk
1831 66 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 1 professional,
11 in labouring, 14 in domestic service, 10 others
1844 Grocer/drapery, 3 wheelwrights, cattle dealer, 2
shoemakers, blacksmith, carpenter, maltster, thatcher,
victualler, farrier, 10 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, teacher, grocer, 9 farmers, miller,
wheelwright, 2 shopkeepers, blacksmith, carpenter

19. Education:

1818 1 Sunday school on Dr. Bell's system (12 attend)
1833 Daily school (15 attend)
National school built 1872, 62 attend 1891, average
attendance 1912 62

20. Poor relief:

1776 £85 11s. 8d.
1803 £128 7s. 6d.
1818 £299 11s.
1830 £398 7s.
1832 £1,177 17s.
1834 £356 15s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844/1891 The Greyhound public house

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Case of incendiarism due to Agrarian unrest 1844

Castle: said to be built by Offa, King of Mercians 755–796. Square mound surrounded by vestings of moat, remains. Described as having the 'appearance of early beforesed mount adapted to later medieval defence'. Victoria County History Vol. I p.592.

Note of feoffment of Mascall's Farm, Offton, valued £140 16s. 1784