

## 1. Parish: Earl Stonham

**Meaning:** Meadow/enclosure by/with a stone or stony ground (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:** 2,550 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086	Earl Stonham and Little Stonham:	33½ acres meadow, wood for 245 pigs, 1½ acres woodland, 26 cattle, 10 pigs, 256 sheep, 73 goats, part of a mill, 6 cobs.
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:	Beans, barley, wheat, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Line of Roman road (Colchester – Caister) crosses eastern sector of parish N-S with some settlement along its length.  
Well dispersed development clustered at various points: a) the church; b) Broad Green; c) Forward Green; and d) Middlewood Green.  
Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 56, 1801 – 85, 1851 – 173, 1871 – 163,  
1901 – 139, 1951 – 154, 1981 – 174

**8. Communications:**

Road: Roads to Stowupland, Mendlesham, Stonham Aspal, Creeting St. Peter and Creeting St. Mary.  
1891 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday  
Carrier to Stowmarket Thursday  
1912 Carrier to Ipswich Tuesday and Saturday  
Carrier to Stowmarket Thursday  
Rail: 1891 2½ miles Needham Market station: Ipswich – Bury St. Edmunds line, opened (1845), station closed (1967), re-opened (1971)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 143 recorded (includes Stonham Parva)  
1327 — 29 taxpayers paid £2. 8s. 8d.  
1524 — 49 taxpayers paid £3. 7s. 1d.  
1603 — 102 adults  
1674 — 60 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 575 inhabitants  
1831 — 757 inhabitants  
1851 — 860 inhabitants  
1871 — 685 inhabitants  
1901 — 574 inhabitants  
1931 — 502 inhabitants  
1951 — 486 inhabitants  
1971 — 470 inhabitants  
1981 — 519 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £16. 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £20  
1535 Valued £17. 2s. 6d.

1603	Valued £17. 7s. 2d. Incumbent also holds Stonham Parva
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £538 p.a. Modus of £659 p.a. in lieu of tithes (1839)
1844	33 acres glebe
1912	Nett value £371 p.a. 32 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

Pembroke Hall, Cambridge (1831- )

## 11. Church

Stonham: 1086 3<sup>rd</sup> part of church and 5 acres (2 identical entries),  
3<sup>rd</sup> part of church and 4 acres, 2 churches and 3 acres,  
church: 7½ acres valued 15d., 4<sup>th</sup> part of church and 7½  
acres valued 15d., church and 16 acres ½ plough, church  
and 20 acres (9 men granted there for their souls)

### St. Mary

(Cruciform church: chancel, nave with clerestory,  
transepts, south porch, west tower)

Norman	Traces, south side chancel Speculated church had central tower (13 <sup>th</sup> cent.)
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure, nave widened
15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Tower, clerestory and very richly decorated timber roof.
1874/75	Restoration
1890	Structural restoration

**Seats:** 240 (1915)

## 12. Nonconformity etc:

	1 person burned at Ipswich for religious beliefs (1537)
1912	Meting room for the Brethren near Forward Green

## 13. Manorial:

### Stonham:

1066	Manor of 60 acres held by Brown
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Roger Bigot and held by Warengar
1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Wulfric, a thane
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou
1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Wulfmer, a thane, under patronage of Harold
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou
1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Aelfled, under patronage of Harold

1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Roger of Poitou
1066	Manor of 40 acres held by Wulfwin, a free man, under patronage of Wulfmer
1086	Manor of 40 acres belonging to Roger of Poitou
1066	Manor of 60 acres held by Wulfward, a free man
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds and held by Ailbold[?] the Priest.
1066	Manor of 20 acres held by Leofwin, a free man, under patronage Edric of Laxfield
1086	Manor of 20 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux and held by Roger Bigot
1066	Manor of 60 acres held by Wulfric, a free man, under patronage of Abbot of Ely
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux.
1066	Manor of 90 acres held by Aelfric, a free man of Edric
1086	Manor of 90 acres belonging to Judicael the Priest

### **Earl Stonham Manor:**

1107	William Bigot owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1338	Thomas de Brotherton, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to Bromeswell, Ramsholt, Hollesley, Shottisham and Kelsale)
Circa 1524	Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1587	Valued at £40 p.a.
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir Thomas Rede owns
1594	Sir Stephan Soame owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
17 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Thomas Goodall owns
1745	Thomas Driver owns
1829	Timothy Holmes owns
1875	John Hayward owns (linked to Haughley)

### **Sub-Manors:**

#### **Creeting apud Montem al Derebolt's**

16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir Philip Bothe owns (linked to Barham)
1535	Sir Andrew Windsor owns
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Goodhall owns (annexed to main manor)
1837	Nicholas Hankey Smith owns

### **Filliols Manor**

Circa 1588	Thomas Keble owns
------------	-------------------

## **14. Markets/Fairs**

1327 Grant of market and fair

**15. Real property:**

1844 £3,572 rental value  
1891 £2,921 rateable value  
1912 £2,859 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679 Thomas Goodhall, Mr. Blomfield (Stonham)  
1891 Rev. J. Castley MA  
1912 Rev. B.G. Ashwin MA

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 6 yeomen, 1 cooper, 2 husbandmen, 1 shoemaker  
1600–1649 12 yeomen, 1 cooper, 1 tailor, 5 husbandmen, 1 clothier,  
1 butcher  
1650–1699 1 spinster, 21 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 scrivener, 2  
husbandmen, 1 blacksmith, 2 clerks  
1831 146 in agriculture, 40 in retail trade, 1 professional, 39 in  
domestic service, 3 others  
1844 Farrier/victauler, bricklayer, beerhouse keeper/baker,  
corn miller, joiner, schoolmaster, 4 blacksmiths, 17  
farmers, 4 grocer/drapers, 4 shoemakers  
1912 2 sub-postmasters, teacher, 17 farmers, grocer,  
wheelwright, poultry farmer, poultry dealer, shopkeeper,  
publican, pork butcher, carrier/grocer, builder 2 bakers,  
bootmaker, 2 blacksmiths, cycle agent, 3 beer retailers,  
bricklayer

**19. Education:**

1597 1 person teaches school  
1599 Endowments to maintain school and apprenticing  
1818 Endowed school (8 boys taught and clothed)  
1833 Endowed school (12 boys attend, 8 free), 4 daily schools  
(50 attend), 2 Sunday schools established (1818) (50  
attend)  
1844 Guildhall used as schoolhouse (8 free pupils are taught  
and clothed)  
School built (1869)  
Public Elementary school, enlarged (1907), average  
attendance (1912) 92.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£121. 8s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£156. 12s. 4¼d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£485. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£554. 9s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£640. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£846. 9s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Charity Estates:**

1840 67 acres 1R and schoolhouse let at £90. 1s. p.a. applied to a general account.

**22. Other institutions:**

1803 Guild with no land. Stock of ready money 13s. 4d. (1546)  
Friendly Society (43 members)  
1844 Guildhall in existence used as schoolhouse. Occupied as cottage (1891)  
Parish room built near church (1896)

**23. Recreation:**

1844 The Angel public house, beerhouse  
1891/1912 The Angel public house, 3 beer retailers

**24. Personal:**

James Bird: (1788-1839), born at Beerbolt Hall, Earl Stonham. Poet – works include 'The Vale of Slaughden' (1819), 'Dunwich: A Tale of a Splendid City' (1828), 'Framlingham: A Narrative of the Castle' (1831)  
Thomas Driver of Deerbolts Hall: High Sheriff of Suffolk (1726)

**25. Other information:**

Well sunk on Forward Green (1886)  
Parish was site of Roman Station. It has been suggested as possible site of Roman station Sitomagus.  
Deerbolt hall: ancient seat of Driver family. Present hall is a Queen Anne brick house of 9 bays and 2 storeys.  
'Earl Stonham and the Ship Monmey' East Anglian Notes and Queries, New Series Vol. VI p.337  
Case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest reposted at public house causing damage to property valued £250 (1844)

**Archaeological Sites**

Med church/whetstone (CRN 4210)  
Med. pottery/soilmark – building (CRN 4222)  
Barrow (CRN 4211)  
Med. moated sites (CRN 4217, 4218)  
Rom. pottery (CRN 7455) (documentary evidence)  
Stray finds: Rom. coin (CRN 4212)  
                  Pottery (CRN 4224)  
                  Mes. Axe (CRN 4219)  
                  Neo. axe (4220)  
                  Med. quern (CRN 4224)  
Scatter finds: Rom. bottle (CRN 4209)  
                  Coin (CRN 4213, 4215)  
                  Pottery (CRN 4214, 4216, 4223)