

# 1. Parish: Stonham Aspal (formerly Stonham Antegan)

**Meaning:** Meadow/enclosure by/with a stony ground (held by Roger de Aspale (1292)) (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Bosmere (- 1327), Bosmere and Claydon

**Deanery:** Bosmere

**Union:** Bosmere and Claydon

**RDC/UDC:** Bosemere and Claydon R.D. (1894-1934), Gipping R.D. (1934-1974), Mid-Suffolk D.C. (1974 -)

## Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1883), 35 acres 33P land, 1 farmhouse and a cottage gained from Mickfield Abolished ecclesiastically (1973) to create Stonham Aspal with Mickfield  
Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division  
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,474 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

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

5. **Types of farming:**

|           |             |  |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| 1086      |             | 8 acres meadow, wood for 80 pigs, 1 horse, 3 cattle, 36 pigs   |
| 1500–1640 | Thirsk:     | Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying 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, mangold-wurtzel   |
| 1969      | Trist:      | More intenswive cereal growing and sugar beet  |

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Small ribbon type development along Earl Stonham road, Church centrally situated. Secondary settlements at Three Crossways, East End and Mill Green. Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 66, 1801 – 78, 1851 – 171  
1871 – 158, 1901 – 143, 1951 – 154,  
1981 – 179

**8. Communications:**

Road: Roads to Mickfield, Earl Stonham, Crowfield and Pettaugh  
Roman road: Colchester – Caister  
A140 London – Norwich road  
1844 Carrier to Ipswich  
1891/1912 Carriers to Ipswich Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Rail: 1891 5 miles Needham Market station: Ipswich – Bury St.  
Edmunds Line, opened (1845), station closed (1967),  
re-opened (1971)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 27 recorded  
1327 — 32 taxpayers paid £3. 9s.  
(includes Mickfield)  
1524 — 42 taxpayers paid £5. 7s. 1d.  
1603 — 102 adults  
1674 — 70 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 578 inhabitants  
1831 — 612 inhabitants  
1851 — 814 inhabitants  
1871 — 701 inhabitants  
1901 — 647 inhabitants  
1931 — 519 inhabitants  
1951 — 491 inhabitants  
1971 — 436 inhabitants  
1981 — 515 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.  
1291 Valued £16. 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £19. 10s. 2½d  
Parsonage rebuilt by Jeremiah Holt (1612)  
Rectory house built (1790)  
1831 Curate, stipend £60. Glebe house, gross income  
£530 p.a.

Incumbent also holds Prebend in Norwich Cathedral and Rectory of Wetheringsett  
 1844 50 acres glebe. Tithes commuted (1837) for £666. 10s. p.a.  
 1891 Valued £650  
 1912 Nett value £368 p.a. 40 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Sir Arthur Capell (1603), Sir W.F.F. Middleton (1831), Lord de Saumarez (1891), Lady de Saumarez (1912)

**11. Church** **St. Mary and St. Lambert**  
 (dedication unusual – only one other known in England at Burneston in Yorkshire)  
 (Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, N.porch, S.tower)

1086 Church + 14 acres land  
 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure including tower  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Nave widened at expense of 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Aisle, clerestory. Tower top (1742/3)  
 1871 Restoration

**Seats:** 400 (1915)

NOTE: Tower formerly contained 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Door with sanctuary knocker – both have disappeared

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

Rector (Henry Bradshaw) deprived of the living (1536) because of his married status. He refused to obey the order to renounce his wife. Reinstated (1558).

1597 1 person excommunicated for contempt in the church. Primitive Methodist chapel built (1868)

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Asthelmer a free man under patronage ad under Edric  
 1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Roger of Rames  
 1066 Manor of 90 acres held by Alvin a free man  
 1086 Manor of 90 acres belonging to Roger of Rames

**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 of 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                                 |

### **Stonham Aspall al Stonham Antegan**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | Copinger identifies this as one of the manors of Roger de Poitou (1086)    |
| 1275                   | Peter de Nereford owns   |
| 1312                   | Roger de Aspall owns   |
| circa 1409             | Sir Edmund Thorp owns (linked to Stradbroke)                               |
| 1464                   | Simon Baxter owns  |
| circa 1474             | Elizabeth Tilney owns  |
| circa 1507             | Sir William Capel owns (linked to Icklingham)                              |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> cent. | Sir Jacob Garrard owns   |
| 1774                   | William Middleton owns (linked to Barham, Baylham, Bramford and Mickfield) |
| 1909                   | Lord de Saumarez owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)       |

### **Sub-Manors:**

### **Stonham Aspal called Broughton, Manor de Broughton's Hall al Easke Stonham al Stonham Antigayne al Stonham Edmunds al Broughtons**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> cent. | Robert Stonham owns  |
| 1606                   | Sir Robert Broughton owns (linked to Stansfield and Stradishall)     |
| 1536                   | Sir John Heveningham died seised (linked to Heveningham and Cockley) |
| 1593                   | John Malby owns  |
| 1659                   | Sir Jacob Garrard owns (absorbed by main manor)                      |

1698 Anthony Wingfield owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
circa 1774 William Middleton owns (re-absorbed by main manor)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £3,229 rental value  
1891 £3,146 rateable value  
1912 £2,633 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 Land sub-divided  
1912 Lord de Saumarez, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679 Stonham: Mr. Blomfield.  
Stonham Aspal: Anthony Morgan  
1844 Rev. R. Leggett B.A. and Rev. C. Shorting M.A.  
1891 Col. D.A. Campbell and Rev. J.G. Pooley M.A.  
1912 Rev. A.W. Darwin M.A.

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 6 husbandmen, 8 yeomen, 1 labourer  
1600–1649 5 husbandmen, 28 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 2 butchers,  
1 spinster, 1 blacksmith  
1650–1699 1 husbandman, 13 yeomen, 1 cordwinder, 1 linen  
weaver, 3 spinsters  
1831 121 in agriculture, 28 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 43 in  
domestic service, 8 others  
1844 Tailor, grocer/draper/ironmonger/druggist,  
bricklayer/whiting manufacturer, cabinet maker,  
shoemaker, book-keeper, corn miller, traveller, joiner,  
ladies schoolmistress, carrier, grocer/draper, bricklayer, 2  
school teachers, blacksmith, wheelwright/victualler, tailor,  
17 farmers, butcher/cattle dealer  
1912 Sub-postmaster, teachers, 14 farmers, 2 carriers, hurdle  
maker, thatcher, 2 grocers, butcher, general dealer,  
baker/shopkeeper, publican/blacksmith, poultry dealer,  
thrashing machine owner, bootmaker, beer retailer,  
carpenter  
Kelly's Jigsaw Puzzle Centre established in parish (circa  
1962)

**19. Education:**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1612 | School founded by Rev. John Metcalf, free to all boys of this parish and Pettaugh (20 attend – 1818)  |
| 1818 | 1 day school (10-20 girls attend), 1 endowed school   |
| 1833 | Endowed school (20-30 boys attend), 2 daily schools (30 attend), 1 day and Sunday school (30 attend)  |
| 1844 | Girls' Free school held in the Town House and Ladies Boarding school also in existence<br>Church of England school built (1842), 100+ attend (1891) |
| 1912 | Public Elementary (Church of England) school incorporating endowed free school, average attendance 105  |

**20. Poor relief:**

|      |                |                      |
|------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1776 | £159. 19s. 4d. | spent on poor relief |
| 1803 | £198. 3s. 3½d  | spent on poor relief |
| 1818 | £457. 1s.      | spent on poor relief |
| 1830 | £652. 11s.     | spent on poor relief |
| 1832 | £790. 19s.     | spent on poor relief |
| 1834 | £866. 3s.      | spent on poor relief |

**21. Charities:**

**Metcalf's Charity:**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1612 | by will of Rev. John Metcalf. Endowments of land and property applied to maintenance of almspeople, education and repairs to church and highway + other various causes. |
|------|---|

**22. Other institutions:**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1803 | 1 Friendly Society (37 members)<br>Town House in existence (1600), situated in SE corner of churchyard.<br>Removed to East End Road (1873) |
|------|--|

NOTE: Rollers were placed under the wooden foundations and the original town house was physically removed to its new site.

**23. Recreation:**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1844      | The Ten Bells public house (16 <sup>th</sup> cent.), renovated (1983) |
| 1891/1912 | Beerhouse/retailer, The Ten Bells public house                        |

## 24. Personal:

Anthony Wingfield: churchyard contains a monument to him. Last of this family line reputedly died in the Parish (1762)

Mary Matilda Betham: (1776-1852), native of parish; painter of miniatures, post and letter writer. Volume of her letters to Charles Lamb and Coleridge are contained in 'A House of Letters' published (1906). She also wrote a 'Biographical Dictionary of Celebrated Women'.

Rev. W. Betham: (1784), schoolmaster at Grammar school; author of 'Pedigrees of the Sovereigns of the World' and 'The Baronetage of England'.

## 25. Other information:

Several cases of incendiarism recorded (1822), one which affected the schoolroom.

Case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest (1844)

Broughton Hall: ancient mansion (probably 16<sup>th</sup> cent.), moated, former seat of the Wingfield family.

Illustration reproducing pattern of dwellings in the parish (16<sup>th</sup> cent.) 'Suffolk Landscape' by N. Scarfe, opposite p. 212, based on survey (1971).

Identifies 3 greens at Hazell Green, Mill Green and Broad Green

Windmill standing at Mill Green (1908), due for demolition (1909)

A mill first mentioned (1452)

A mill at La Roode was pulled down (1640)

'The History of Stonham Aspal: extracts from school magazine (1954-59)

Village stocks last recorded (1823)

2 pairs of handcuffs and 2 truncheons belonging to the parish constable hang on the vestry wall.

The village pound: formerly situated at junction of B1115 (Tap Road) with the Norwich road to Debenham.

'A Romano-British Bath-house at Stonham Aspal' by N. Smedley and E.J. Owles. PSIA Vol.30 p. 221. Contains plan/section drawings, illustrations of finds and photographs.

'The Houses of Stonham Aspal: A Survey' by D. Penrose and P. Hill. Suffolk Review Vol.4 p.8

Mill Green has previously been known as Wissing Green, Winson Green and Northern Green.'Ubeston Hall in Stonham Aspal' by D. Charnen.

Suffolk Review Vol.4 p.46.

Manor house, main part dating from (circa 1503), wings are probably (late 16<sup>th</sup>, early 17<sup>th</sup> cent.)

'The Earliest Register of Stonham Aspal (1541-1557)'. East Anglian Notes and Queries, New Series Vol.VII p.75-7 and 93-5.

'Ancient Painted Glass at Stonham Aspal' by H. Watling. East Anglian Notes and Queries, New Series Vol.VI p.45

Former grammar school was situated on site now occupied by Usher's House Garage

Best Kept Village sign unveiled (1980)

Camping lands situated near the church (possible site of Medieval sports field)