

Parish Description

The Parish of Boreham is located 3.7 miles north east from the City of Chelmsford and covers an area of approximately 6 sq. miles (3840 acres) and has a population of approximately 5,000.

A semi-rural community Boreham has been in existence as a settlement since Roman times, with both Roman and Saxon remains being found in the area, there is also a mention of the Manor of Boreham in the Domesday Book spelt 'Borham'

The village, which lies on a Roman Road, has at its Centre the church of St Andrews, a Norman church (Grade 1 listed). In the roads around the church there are number of period properties including a public house, the Queens Head, which dates from the 15th century. Boreham is very fortunate to have over 50 buildings in the parish which are of special architectural and historical interest.

Boreham is a thriving community with a Village Hall, two recreation grounds, a parade of shops which contains a general store, charity shop, hairdressers and a post office. Also located within the village are a primary school, a doctor's surgery with dispensing chemist, together with several other shops including a family run butchers shop, a gun shop, village store, a barber and two further public houses, the Six Bells and the Lion Inn. The residents of Boreham benefit from numerous community groups and activities for all ages. During the summer one of the largest Boot Sales in East Anglia is run on farmland at the edge of the village.

The parish contains some light industry mainly in the Waltham Road area at the eastern edge of the village.

To the west of Boreham lies the A12, which runs along the northern edge of the village. This road is the main trunk road linking Chelmsford to London in the west and rest of East Anglia. Along-side this section of the road sits and the Boreham Interchange which is a service facility with a BP petrol station, a McDonalds restaurant, and a Travel Lodge motel. On the opposite side of the A12 is a Premier Inn Premier and The Grange public house.

Local legend holds that highwayman Dick Turpin rode down the route than now forms part of the A12 on his famous ride from London to York although historians now believe the ride never occurred.

The Greater Anglia railway line, which runs between Liverpool Street and Norwich, passes the village following the same route as the A12.

There are some fine walks in the countryside immediately outside the village some of which provide links to North Springfield, Little Baddow and Hatfield Peverel.

The farmland surrounding the village is slightly hilly and is mostly used for cereal farming although there are a few woods and an Osier bed. A stream skirts the Village and flows into the Chelmer River.

The majority of houses in the village are modest three or four bedroom homes, with many of these being built in the 1970's. There are some areas of social housing but the majority are owner occupier or privately rented. A small two storey block of flats with a resident warden are rented to the elderly. Any recent developments have concentrated on using brown field or infill land within the village envelope. One large scale development currently only in the outline planning stage will see a significant number of houses (estimated at 140) being built on farmland at the eastern end of the village

Boreham Statistics

According to the 2011 Census Boreham has 20% more Higher and Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional households than the national average. The percentage of residents in Boreham rating their health as 'very bad' is less than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of Boreham is generally better than the average person in England. Boreham also has a higher rate of home ownership, either outright or via a mortgage than the national average, which suggests that Boreham is a relatively affluent area.

Also, according to the Country of Birth data from the 2011 census, Boreham has a higher level of residents born in the UK than the national average and a lower rate of residents either born in other EU countries or outside the EU, and therefore does not have a significant immigrant population.

The latest report from the Department of Works and Pensions states that the rate of unemployment in Boreham is both lower than the average for Essex and lower than the national average, suggesting that finding a job in this area maybe easier than most places. The rate of claiming any benefit (which includes in work benefits) is more than 10% lower in Boreham than the national average, suggesting higher salaries than the average in the area.

The population of Boreham as a whole, is older than the national average. However, the population of Boreham is younger than the Essex average.

Notable sites within the Parish

1. Boreham House

Built in 1728 as a private mansion for Sir Benjamin Hoare, the house has had several alterations and has had a number of uses during its existence. Now a listed building it has, since 2008, been operated as a wedding venue.



2. Boreham Airfield

Built in 1943 the airfield opened in 1944 for the use of the United States Army Airforce. During its occupation it was primarily used by the 394th Bombardment Group flying B26's (Marauders) and as a Troop Transport Airfield for the deployment of British Paratroopers into Germany. It was closed in 1945. Today the airfield is partially used as for gravel extraction and home to the Essex Police Support Unit and Police Helicopter Unit. A Memorial for the 61 Aircrew who died while flying from Boreham Airfield is located at the entrance to the site.



3. New Hall

Located 1 mile north west of the village New Hall School, once a palace of Henry VIII. The king rebuilt the original house in brick and gave his new palace the name 'Beaulieu'. It now operates as a Catholic public school for both boarder and day pupils.

