

1. Parish: Barnham

Meaning: Beorn's homestead

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackburne (–1972), Ixworth (1972–)

Union: Thetford

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Brandon RD (1894–1935),
Thingoe RD (1935–74), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional division
Thetford County Court district

3. **Area:** 5,291 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Well drained calcareous/non calcareous sandy soils. Risk wind erosion.
- b. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or woodland. Risk wind erosion.
- c. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by ground water. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion near river.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		3 acres meadow, 3 mills, 9 cattle, 28 pigs, 510 sheep, 2 cobs, 12 wild mares, 2 oxen
1283		357 quarters to crops (2,856 bushels), 66 head horses, 195 cattle, 26 pigs, 2,525 sheep*
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, Barley main cash crop
1813	Young:	5,302 acres of arable land, meadow, pasture, Heath and sheepwalks
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, turnips
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands

6. **Enclosure:**

7. Settlement:

1950 Little Ouse river flows across parish from E-W forming natural boundary to North for part of its length.
Small compact parish around centrally situated church. Much of parish is covered by heathland or plantation particularly in western sector.
Few scattered farms.
NOTE: 9 parish boundaries converge at site of shrunken mere at Rymer Point (SE point of Barnham parish boundary), creating a radial effect.
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 43, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 76, 1871 – 88, 1901 – 97, 1951 – 115, 1981 – 191

8. Communications:

Roads: To Ingham, Euston, Elveden and Thetford
1891 Carrier to Thetford on Saturdays

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Thetford–Bury St Edmunds line, opened 1876, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.
Station converted to offices for scrapyards 1977.

Air: RAF Honington built 1935, opened 1937, remains active RAF station.

Water: Little Ouse river: tributary of Great Ouse made navigable by Acts designed to improve navigation 1670 although there is some evidence to suggest the Little Ouse was used for trade purposes earlier than this. Declined due to rail transport and general silting of the river c.1850s.

9. Population:

1086 – 36 recorded
1327 – 28 taxpayers paid £4 4s. 10d.
1524 – Membrane either missing or illegible
1603 – St Martin's – 72 adults
 St Gregory's – 60 adults
1662 – 41 householders paid £4 19s.*
1674 – 57 householders
1676 – 140 adults
1801 – 303 inhabitants
1831 – 384 inhabitants
1851 – 445 inhabitants
1871 – 434 inhabitants
1901 – 382 inhabitants
1931 – 340 inhabitants
1951 – 513 inhabitants
1971 – 724 inhabitants
1981 – 748 inhabitants

*The Hearth Tax Return for the Hundred of Blackbourne 1662' transcribed by S Colman, PSIA Vol XXXII, part 2, p.168.

10. Benefice: Curacy (consolidated with Euston) 1873

1254	St Martins – valued £5 6s. 8d. St Gregory – valued £5
1291	St Martins – valued £8 13s. 4d. St Gregory – valued £8
1341	Valued £16 13s. 4d.
1535	St Martins – valued £8 5s. 6d. St Gregory – valued £7 11s. 10d. Parishes consolidated 1639
1662	Parsonage house has 2 hearths
1831	1 curate, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house. Joint gross income £676 p.a.
1844	Tithes commuted for £400 p.a. Rent charge of £435 2s. 3d. to the rector in lieu of tithes 1887
1912	Joint nett value £510 p.a. 101 acres glebe and residence

Note: Sir Henry Crofts united the two livings by special licence of Charles I

Patrons: Sir John Croftes (1603), Duke of Grafton (1831–)

11. Church: St Gregory
(Chancel, nave, N aisle/transept, S porch, W tower)

1086	Barnham: ½ church + 8 acres land
14 th cent.	Main structure (fine piscina in chancel)
1864	Aisle added, extensive restoration

Seats: 150 appropriated, 210 free (1873)

St Martin

1086	Barnham: ½ church + 8 acres land Church ruinous by 17 th cent. Tower remained standing *used as animal shelter)
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12. Nonconformity etc:

1606	1 person negligent in attending church and receiving communion (also accused of incest with his niece)
c.1640	John Crofts ejected by Committee for Scandalous Ministers 1640–44. The 'intruded' minister, John Legate, subsequently complained that Crofts has arrested him for detaining tithes and had seized the church by force. Legate was said to have 'garrisoned' his home with Norfolk men because of the violence levelled against him by Croft and his supporters.
1676	1 nonconformist
1798–1817	3 houses set aside for worship Meeting house established 1817 Primitive Methodist chapel built 1884, seats 100. Rebuilt 1894, offered for sale as private dwelling 1986. Booklet on Barnham Chapel 1970.

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 2 carucates held by Skuli, a thane
1086	Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Earl Hugh
1066	Manor of 1 carucate held by Aethelwy of Thetford
1086	Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Roger Bigot and held by Stanhard
1066	Manor of ½ carucate held by Bosten
1086	Manor of ½ carucate belonging to William of Warenne and held by Hugh, son of Gold.

Barnham al Pleyfords

12 th cent.	Reginald le Brun gave to monks of Thetford
1195	Prior of Thetford renounced, 1 carucate of land to John L'Estrange as a result of land dispute
1364	Tenement called Pleyfords standing near rectory house of St. Martin's parish
1549	John Perient owns although this is disputed and it could have been granted to Robert Drury (possible links with Somerton, Cockfield and Chedburgh)
1589	Thomas Croftes owns (linked to Ixworth Thorpe)
1905	Duke of Grafton (A.C. Lennox FitzRoy) owns (linked to Euston, Honington and Sapiston)

Sub-Manors:

Calthorp

13 th cent.	William Calthorpe held on the Honours of Georges
15 th cent.	Peyton family owns
15/16 th cent.	Included avowson of church of St Martin. Manor valued £6 13s. 4d.
1548	Sir John Croftes owns (linked to Wangford, Ampton, Bardwell, Lt. Livermere and West Stow) becoming absorbed by main manor by 1589 under Thomas Croftes (linked to Ixworth Thorpe)

Baggotts Manor

13 th cent.	Simon de Walton, Bishop of Norwich owns passing by marriage and inheritance to the Shirley family
1277	Owned with the advowson of St Gregory
c.1517	Thomas Croftes owns becoming absorbed 1 st by Calthorpe and then by the main manor
c.1757	Charles Lennox, Duke of Grafton owns (linked to Euston, Honington and Sapiston)
1905	A.C. Lennox FitzRoy (Duke of Grafton) owns absorbed by main manor

14. Market/Fair:

15. Real Property:

1844 – £1,254 rental value
1891 – £2,189 rateable value
1912 – £2,105 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Duke of Grafton, sole owner
1912 Duke of Grafton, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680 1 gent
1891 Rev. Lord C.E. FitzRoy

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 husbandman, 1 clerk, 1 weaver
1550–1599 5 yeomen, 5 shepherds, 5 husbandmen
1600–1649 6 yeomen, 1 shepherd, 6 husbandmen, 3 labourers,
1 cook, 1 miller, 1 collar maker, 1 tailor, 1 rector
1650–1699 13 yeomen, 11 shepherds, 1 spinster, 3 husbandmen,
1 cordwainer, 1 carpenter
1831 77 in agriculture, 15 in retail trade, 3 professionals,
5 labourers, 11 in domestic service, 6 others
1844 Corn miller, schoolmistress, carpenter, victualler,
Shoemaker, beer seller, shopkeeper, blacksmith,
4 farmers
1912 Tile and brick field belonging to Duke of Grafton.
Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, shopkeeper/newsagent,
shoeing smith, coal dealer, pork butcher, warrener,
miller, 2 shopkeepers, station master, saddler/asst
overseer, farm bailiff, 2 farmers, publican, corn mill
Gorse Industrial Estate 1980s

19. Education:

1818 1 school (18 pupils paid for by Duke of Grafton)
2 Dames schools (15 attend)
1 school held in winter (16 attend)
1 Methodist Sunday school (14 attend)
1833 1 daily school (30–40 attend)(27 assisted places)
1 Sunday school (39 attend)
1844 Small school supported by Duke of Grafton and the rector
for education of poor children. Schoolmistress listed.
1891 2 schools supported as above
1912 Public Elementary school, average attendance 67

20. Poor relief:

1776 £ 49 5s. 11d.
1803 £163 9s. 8½d.

1818	£309 12s.
1830	£158 12s.
1832	£208 17s.
1834	£205 18s.

21. Charities:

Poor Land:

1840	Lands from the Duke of Grafton realise 40s p.a. 50s. p.a. paid by rector and Duke of Grafton for distribution among poor in bread.
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22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

1844 –1912	Grafton Arms public house
1844	1 beer seller

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Reputed site of battle between King Edmund and the Danes c.870.

*'A Suffolk Hundred in 1283' by E. Powell 1910. Concentrates on Blackbourn

Hundred – gives land usage, livestock and the taxes paid.

'Bronze Age Burial at Barnham' by A R Edwardson, PSIA Vol XXVII, p.186.

Boundary Cross: stood on border between Barnham and Thetford, base remains. Reputedly used to wash money during times of plague. Also known as the 'Franchise Cross' marking boundary between the Liberty of St Edmund and the Liberty of Thetford.

Parish reputedly held a repeating station of the Yarmouth–London telegraph used during Napoleonic wars 19th cent.

Barnham windmill 19th cent.

IA Fortification excavated 1978.

Catering Squadron of Honington based in Barnham.

List of field names for Barnham St Gregory 1613 in parish folder.

Gorse Industrial Estate situated on former nuclear bomb dump site complete with security fencing and watchtowers.

Village sign erected 1985.