

# 1. Parish: Barsham

**Meaning:** Bar's village: possible nickname 'boar'

2. **Hundred:** Wangford

**Deanery:** Wangford (-1914), Beccles (1914-1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1974-)

**Union:** Wangford

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Wangford RD (1894-1934), Wangford RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

## Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1879)  
Beccles Petty Sessional Division  
Beccles and Bungay County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,722 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
  - b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
  - c. Deep peat soils associated with clay over sandy soils in part very acid, high ground water levels, risk of flooding near river

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		5 acres meadow, wood for 24 pigs
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:	Note: Community of independent farmers Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, cauliflowers
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1961 Small development mainly situated along main Bungay – Beccles road. Growth probably influenced by River Waveney and marshes to the north of parish. Main settlement around school, church and rectory  
Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 17, 1801 – 18, 1851 – 43, 1871 – 49, 1901 – 60, 1951 – 43, 1981 – 69

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** A1116 Beccles, Bungay road, roads to Redisham and Ringsfield

**Rail:** 1891 2 miles Beccles station: Ipswich–Beccles line opened 1854, Tivetshall–Lowestoft line opened Beccles 1863, closed 1965

**Water:** River Waveney: Act passed to make Waveney navigable 1670, decline marked by advent of rail 1852

**9. Population:**

1086 – 40 recorded  
1327 – 45 taxpayers paid £1 19s. 7d. (includes Shipmeadow)  
1524 – 13 taxpayers paid £4 7s. 2d.  
1603 – 66 adults  
1674 – 18 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 162 inhabitants  
1831 – 182 inhabitants  
1851 – 207 inhabitants  
1871 – 217 inhabitants  
1901 – 251 inhabitants  
1931 – 235 inhabitants  
1951 – 232 inhabitants  
1971 – 180 inhabitants  
1981 – 189 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £12  
1291 Valued £15 6s. 8d.  
1535 Valued £15 6s. 8d.  
1685 Rectory mostly timber framed  
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £533 p.a.  
Yearly rent of £445 in lieu of tithes. 72 acres glebe + 8 acres surrounding the rectory.  
1855 Rector non-resident

1912            Nett value £300. 80 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:**     Sir Robert Lee (1603), Suckling family (1831–)

**11. Church**

**Holy Trinity**

(Chancel, nave of 3 bays, N. aisle (formerly St. Catherines chapel), S. porch, round W. tower and Middleton chapel

1086            ½ church, 20 acres, valued 3s.  
Saxon          Lower part of tower, upper portion contains octagonal belfry, crowned by spike  
1375            S. porch built by bequest of Dionysia Atte Tye  
11<sup>th</sup> cent.      Chancel, rebuilt 17<sup>th</sup> cent  
Nave with hammer-beam roof  
1785            N. aisle demolished, rebuilt 1908  
1979            Church seriously damaged by fire, under restoration

**Seats:**                    175 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

**13. Manorial:**

**Barsham Hall**

1066            Manor of 35 acres belonging to Leafstan the priest  
1086            Manor of 35 acres belonging to Roger Bigot  
1534            Blennerhesset family owns (linked to Shipmeadow and Ilketshall St. Andrew)  
1613            Suckling family owns, extent: 2,000 acres

**Sub-manors:**

**Barsham**

Pre–1420      Bigot family owns (linked to main manor and several manors throughout Suffolk)  
15<sup>th</sup> cent.      Garneys family owns (linked to Redisham and Weston)

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844            £1,962 rental value  
1891            £2,228 rateable value  
1912            £1,354 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912    Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1662 1 gent recorded  
1680 1 gent recorded

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 carpenter, 1 yeoman  
1550–1599 2 husbandmen  
1600–1649 1 husbandmen, 1 blacksmith, 4 yeomen, 1 clerk  
1650–1699 1 wheelwright, 1 thatcher, 5 yeomen  
1831 44 in agriculture, 7 in retail trade, 1 professional, 13 in domestic service, 1 other  
1844 1 blacksmith/beerhouse keeper, 1 shoemaker, 1 joiner, 1 cattle dealer, 7 farmers  
1891 Ink factory  
1912 6 farmers, schoolmistress, gardener, blacksmith, consulting engineer, farmer/miller/threshing machine owner

**19. Education:**

1833 1 Sunday school (28 attend)  
Children from Shipmeadow also attend  
1874 Public Elementary school built 1874  
1902 Infants school built  
1912 Average attendance 70

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £47 6s. 2d.  
1803 £99 17s. 4d.  
1818 £503 7s.  
1830 £233 15s.  
1832 £342 8s.  
1834 £292

**21. Charities:**

1828 1 acre of land let at £1 p.a. to overseers of the poor

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1844 1 beerhouse

**24. Personal:**

Sir Robert Echingham: 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Marshall of Ireland

Rev. A. Suckling: 1846 author of 'History of Suffolk'  
Catherine Suckling 1725 mother of Lord Nelson

**25. Other information:**

Barsham Hall: 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> cent. built by Echingham family, used as  
farmhouse 1846.

'Some notes on Barsham juxta Beccles: Reprint from the Genealogist  
Vols. 21, 22, 23 (1906).