

# 1. Parish: Bedfield

**Meaning:** Beada's field (Ekwall)

**2. Hundred:** Hoxne

**Deanery:** Hoxne

**Union:** Hoxne (1835-1907), Hartismere (1907-1930)

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Hoxne RD (1894-1934), Blyth RD (1934-1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974- )

Other administrative details:

Framlingham Petty Sessional Division  
Framlingham and Saxmundham

**3. Area:** 1,270 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:** Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 200 pigs, 9 acres meadow, 1 cob, 20 cattle, 60 pigs, 83 sheep
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:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

1853 32 acres (Long Green) Bedfield enclosed under General Acts 1849

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Small, well spread ribbon type development along road to Earl Soham (known as Bedfield Long Green), church

offset to east at southern extremity of settlement.  
Secondary settlement at Bedfield Little Green.  
Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 36, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 77, 1871 – 98, 1901 – 74, 1951 – 88, 1981 – 117

**8. Communications:**

Road: Roads to Monk Soham, Earl Soham, Saxtead and Worlingworth  
1891 Carrier passes through to Ipswich on Thursday  
Rail: 1891 4 miles Framlingham station: Wickham Market – Framlingham line, opened (1859), closed for passengers (1952), closed for goods (1965)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 23 recorded  
1327 — 44 taxpayers paid £2. 3s. 1d. (includes Saxtead)  
1524 — 10 taxpayers paid £1. 1s. 10d.  
1603 — 104 adults  
1674 — 43 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 295 inhabitants  
1831 — 323 inhabitants  
1851 — 372 inhabitants  
1871 — 451 inhabitants  
1901 — 317 inhabitants  
1931 — 302 inhabitants  
1951 — 288 inhabitants  
1971 — 311 inhabitants  
1981 — 333 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (1831), Discharged Rectory (1844)**

1254 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £12.  
Portion of Prior of Eye £1  
1535 Valued £14  
1546 Priests stipend 4s.  
1831 Curate, stipend £70 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation, gross income £291 p.a.  
Modus of £383 p.a. in lieu of tithes awarded (1842) includes £8 on the glebe  
1854 Residence built  
1891 21 acres glebe  
1912 Nett value £230 p.a. 21 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: John Rous (1603), Earl of Stradbroke (1831- )

**11. Church      St. Nicholas**  
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

Norman      N. doorway, part of chancel  
12<sup>th</sup> cent.    S, doorway  
14/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure including tower  
1872        Chancel  
1924        Restoration

Seats:        160 (1915)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597        3 persons do not attend church  
              3 persons do not receive communion  
1892        Unitarian chapel built

**13. Manorial:**

1066        Manor of 4 carucates held by Godwin  
1086        Manor of 4 carucates belonging to Robert Malet  
              Given at date unknown by Robert Malet to Eye Priory  
1538        Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors  
              throughout Suffolk)  
1539        Anthony Rous owns (linked to Badingham, Brundish,  
              Dennington, Fressingfield, Monk SOham, Southolt and  
              Clopton). Continues in this family until  
1909        George Edward John Mowbray Rous, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of  
              Stadbroke, Viscount Dunwich and Baron Rous of  
              Dennington owns

**Sub-Manors:**

**Bull Hall/Bullyshall**

1563        Ralph Goodwin died seised  
Circa 1571   Robert Barker owns (linked to Falkenham, Kirton, Trimley  
              St. Martin, Trimley St. Mary and Combs)  
1657        Edward Dunstan owns  
Circa 1670's   Wattlings of Worlingworth own passing by marriage to  
              Robert Clayton  
Late C.18<sup>th</sup>   Rev. John Casteel owns  
1820        William Frewer owns  
1838        Bull Hall farm – 140 acres with right to feed 7 sheep pn  
              Bedford Long Green

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,748 rental value
1891	£1,767 rateable value
1912	£1,366 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Trustees of Admiral F.P. Doughty and Robert Lesling, principle owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679	John Jeffry
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**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599	1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen
1600–1649	7 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 millwright
1650–1699	8 yeomen, 1 spinster, 1 mercer
1831	72 in agriculture, 11 in retail trade, 12 in domestic service, 3 others
1844	Corn miller, carpenter, wheelwright, victualler, 2 blacksmiths, beerhouse keeper, 11 farmers
1912	Sub-postmistress, school teacher, 14 farmers, wheelwright, 2 blacksmiths, grocer/drapery, beer retailer, thatcher, agricultural engineers, shopkeeper, publican

**19. Education:**

1818	1 school held once a week (15 attend)
1833	1 daily school (15-20 attend)
	National school built (1864), 60 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 65

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£96. 6s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£202. 18s. 10½d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£571. 5s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£486. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£447. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£430. 9s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Poors Estate**

1793            2 houses occupied by poor rent-free  
Barn and 39 acres land let at £56 p.a. applied to coals  
and clothing for poor

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1844/1891    THE DOG public house, 1 beerhouse  
1912            THE DOG INN public house, 1 beer retailer

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Parish has open green of 48 acres (1844) pre-enclosure

**Archaeological Sites**

Med. moated site (CRN 3183, 3184, 3185)