

# 1. Parish: Darsham

**Meaning:** Deor(e)'s meadow (Ekwall)

## 2. Hundred: Blything

**Deanery:** Dunwich ( -1868), Dunwich (South) (1868-1914), S. Dunwich (1914-1972), Saxmundham (1972- )

**Union:** Blything

**RDC/UDC:** Blything RD (1894-1934), Blyth RD (1934-1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974- )

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division  
Halesworth County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,594 acres (1912)

## 4. Soils:

**Mixed:** a) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid, risk wind erosion  
b) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay

## 5. Types of farming:

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Light lands, sheep/corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with the condition of sandy soils, turnips as preparation for corn and grass
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, turnips, roots
1969	Trist:	Main crops are barley and sugar beet but on better sands rotation of wheat, barley, sugar beet or kale is practiced

## 6. Enclosure:

Darsham Green believed enclosed (1851) however this is only recorded in the Directory of 1891

## 7. Settlement:

1982 Large well spaced development along 'The Street' and spreading eastwards towards Brussels Green. Church situated at southern extremity of settlement. River Minsmere forms natural boundary to south, associated wet lands possibly restricted development in this area. Secondary settlement at area known as High Street. Railway crosses western sector from N-S. scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 38, 1801 – 42, 1851 – 106, 1871 – 103, 1901 – 90, 1951 – 128, 1981 – 127

## 8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Yoxford, Sibton, Thorington, Westleton and Middleton.  
Rail: 1891 Rail station: Ipswich – Lowestoft line opened (1859), still in operation  
Water: River Minsmere

## 9. Population:

1086 — 37 recorded  
1327 — 44 taxpayers paid £3. 18s. 2d.  
1524 — 27 taxpayers paid £6. 3s. 2d.  
1603 — 81 adults  
1674 — 43 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 421 inhabitants  
1831 — 513 inhabitants  
1851 — 462 inhabitants  
1871 — 472 inhabitants  
1901 — 379 inhabitants  
1931 — 380 inhabitants  
1951 — 422 inhabitants  
1971 — 313 inhabitants  
1981 — 305 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Vicarage (1831) Discharged Vicarage (1844)

1254 Valued £8  
1291 Valued £10  
To the vicar £4. 6s 8d.      £14. 6s. 8d.  
1535 Valued £4. 10s. 10d.  
1603 Incumbent also holds vicarage of Sibbeton  
1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £64 p.a.  
Incumbent also holds Rectory of Chillesford  
Value £62 (1835)  
1891 Value £147. Vicarage house (near the church)

1912            Nett value £100 + 6 acres glebe and residence  
Patrons:        Earl of Stradbroke (1831), Feoffees of late Duke of Norfolk  
                    (1603)

**11. Church**        All Saints  
                          (Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086            Church + 6 acres, value 12d.  
Norman        N. & S. doorways  
13<sup>th</sup> cent.      Lancet on N. side of chancel  
                    6s. 8d. to the new steeple (1460)  
15<sup>th</sup> cent.      Tower  
1879/87       Restorations

**Seats:**                    300 (1831)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1603            1 woman recusant  
                    Primitive Methodist chapel built (1873)

**13. Manorial:**

Note:            In Manors of Suffolk Copinger notes 6 Domesday manors  
                    however listed below are those currently found)  
1066            Manor of 93 acres held by Edric, a free man  
1086            Manor of 93 acres belonging to Robert Malet's mother, of  
                    the Queen's holding  
1066            Manor of 52 acres held by Blackman, a free man  
1086            Manor of 52 acres belonging to Roger Malet and held by  
                    Walter, son of Richere  
1066            Manor of 60 acres held by Edric  
1086            Manor of 60 acres belonging to Robert Malet and held by  
                    Fulcred

**Darsham cum Yoxford**

11/12<sup>th</sup> cent.    Roger Bigot owns  
13<sup>th</sup> cent.        Prior of Thetford owns  
1540            Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to  
                    numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
1611            Thomas Bedingfield owns (linked to numerous manors  
                    throughout Suffolk)  
1730            John Rous owns (linked to Bramfield and Henham)  
1909            Earl of Stradbroke owns (linked to Eye and Bramfield)

## **Sub-Manors:**

### **Abbot's**

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Vested in Priory of Leiston
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Charles Brandon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
Circa 1544	Reginald Gibbons/Gybons owns
1574	Edward Honying/Heninge owns
1588	Sir Thomas Cecill owns
1594	Martin Archdale owns
1608	Thomas Bedingfield owns (absorbed by main manor)

### **Austins**

Appears absorbed by the above manors from early date

### **Gerrards**

14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Thomas Gerard owns
1570	John Gybons owns (absorbed by Abbots)

## **14. Markets/Fairs**

## **15. Real property:**

1844	£2,012 rental value
1891	£2,630 rateable value
1912	£2,654 rateable value

## **16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Earl of Stradbroke and D. Perry-Crooke, principle owner

## **17. Resident gentry:**

1679	Sir Thomas Bedingfield, Sir Nevill Catlyn, Sir John Knivet
1794	Charles Purvis, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1844	C. Purvis and F. Stanford
1891	D. Parry-Crooke
1912	D. Parry-Crooke BA JP DL and Rev. C. Tennant MA DCL

## **18. Occupations:**

1500-1549	3 husbandmen
1550-1599	4 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 labourer, 1 butcher
1600-1649	7 yeomen, 5 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 1 weaver, 1 minister
1650-1699	5 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 1 carpenter

1831 87 in agriculture, 30 in retail trade, 5 in labouring, 18 in domestic service

1844 Wheelwright, victualler, 2 blacksmiths, corn miller, hurdle maker, tailor/beerhouse keeper, joiner, 3 boot/shoemakers, 14 farmers, 2 shopkeepers

1912 Sub-postmistress, 2 school teachers, station master, gamekeeper, 6 farmers, farm bailiff, shoemaker, blacksmith, publican, head gardener, machine owner, asst. overseer, wheelwright, hotelier, laundress, miller, 2 coal merchants, hoop/hurdle maker, warrener/vermin destroyer, grocer.

**19. Education:**

1818 1 Sunday school (30 attend)

1833 1 daily school (25 attend), 1 Sunday school (40 attend)  
School Board established (1881), school enlarged (1874/79) for 80 children, average attendance (1912) 70

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£54. 13s. 4d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£143. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1818	£252. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£233. 6s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£295. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£272. 12s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate:**

1840 Cottages and ½ acre land let at £27. 13s. p.a. applied to support of Sunday school and church repairs

**22. Other institutions:**

Guild of St. Margaret (1485)

**23. Recreation:**

1844 THE FOX public house, 1 beerhouse

1891/1912 THE STRADBROKE ARMS hotel and THE FOX INN public houses

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Darsham Hall: built (15<sup>th</sup> cent.) now farmhouse

Darsham House: built (1679) with Georgian additions

**Archaeological Sites**

Med. moated site (CRN 1936)

Stray finds: Neo. Flint axe (CRN 1937)

Worked flint (CRN 1938, 1943)

Flint chisel (CRN 1941)

Flint knife (CRN 1945)

PMed witch bottle (CRN 1944)

Scatter finds: Rom. Pit (CRN 1939)

Med. building (CRN 1940)

Un. Burnt flint patch (CRN 1942)