

1. Parish: Ringsfield

Meaning: a) field with a circle
b) open country free from wood (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Wangford

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

Union: Wangford

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Wangford R.D. (1894-1934), Wainford R.D. (1934-1974), Waveney D.C. (1974 -)

Other administrative details:

Absorbs decayed hamlet of Little Redisham (1627)
(annexed to Ringsfield from 1450)
Beccles Petty Sessional Division
Beccles and Bungay County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,832 acres

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
b. Some permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 28 pigs, 5 pigs, 1 mill
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, root crops
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1818 105 acres enclosed by formal written agreement (1818)

7. Settlement:

1961 Ribbon type development well spaced out along Bungay – Redisham road.
Two main centres of settlement a) Church and Hall, b) Ringsfield Corner (school and public house).
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 23, 1801 – 21, 1851 – 59,
1871 – 70, 1901 – 65, 1951 – 80,
1981 – 105

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Barsham and Ilketshall St. Andrew
Roads unsafe for travelling and practically impassible for several months of the year (18th cent.)

Rail: 1891: 2½ miles Beccles station: Ipswich – Lowestoft line, opened (1854), closed for goods (1966). Tivetshall – Lowestoft line opened (1863), closed (1965)

9. Population:

1086 — 30 recorded
1327 — 15 taxpayers paid £1. 10s. per quarter
(includes Little Redisham)
1524 — 10 taxpayers paid £1. 6s. 10d.
1603 — 80 adults
1674 — 23 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 194 inhabitants
1831 — 315 inhabitants
1851 — 287 inhabitants
1871 — 338 inhabitants
1901 — 321 inhabitants
1931 — 265 inhabitants
1951 — 294 inhabitants
1971 — 250 inhabitants
1981 — 281 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £4
1291 Valued £8
1535 Valued £12
Parsonage requires repair. Rector had not been at church for 8 years (1597)
Living consolidated with Little Redisham (1627)
Parsonage has 6 hearths (1674)

10. Benefice (cont'd):

- 1831 Curate, stipend £80. Glebe house. Gross income £450 p.a.
Incumbent also holds Donative of Herringfleet.
Valued £550. 40 acres glebe. Yearly rent-charge of £480 p.a. in lieu of tithes (1855)
New rectory house built (19th cent.)
- 1912 Nett value £300. 41½ acres glebe and residence.

Patrons: Convent of Butley (1302/1541), Crown (1541/1639), John Coping (1639), Nicholas Garneys (1663), Philip Prime (1716), Charles Radcliffe (1737), Giles Thickaby (1755), Postle family (1790/1831), Charles Rowcliffe (1845), Mrs. A.M. Pearson (1912)

Little Redisham:

- 1254 Valued £2. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £4
Annexed to Ringsfield (1450)
N. Garneys requests permission to rebuild church – denied (1613)
Living consolidated with Ringsfield (1627)

11. Church All Saints

(Chancel, nave, S.porch, W.tower) (thatched)

- 1086 Church + 15 acres land, valued 2s. 8d., always 2 ploughs
Part of church + 20 acres land
- 1450 Tower (Rober Garneys of Beccles bequeathed monies for its building), tower top (17th cent.)
- 16th cent. Porch with stepped gable
1883/4 Largely rebuilt

Seats: 120 (1915)

Little Redisham: St. James

(nave and chancel only)

Mentioned in (1269) and in wills of (1504 and 1523)
Demolished (no dates)
Ruins stand in grounds of Redisham Hall

12. Nonconformity etc:

Independent chapel (1874)
Congregational chapel converted to church hall (1909)

13. Manorial:

Ringsfield Manor

1086 Manor of 1½ carucates belonging to the King
1314 Garneys family owns (absorbed by Redisham Hall manor)

Redisham Hall Manor (see also Gt. Redisham)

1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to Roger Bigot
1206 Hugo de Berry owns
1420 Garneys family owns (linked to Barsham) (absorbs Ringsfield)
1556 Remains in hands of Garneys family (linked to Beccles and Ringsfield)
1732 Rev. T. Tanner owns (linked to Ilketshall)
1808 John Garden owns (linked to Ringsfield)

Sub-Manors:

Redisham Parva

1267 Walter de Redisham owns
1316 Sir John de Norwich owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1382 Mettingham College owns
1542 The King owns, valued £12. 13s. 4d.

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,846 rental value
1891 £2,098 rateable value
1912 £1,728 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land ownership sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680 John Bence, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1665)
2 gents recorded
John Garden, high Sheriff of Suffolk (1834)

LITTLE REDISHAM: Nicholas Garneys, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1592)

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 husbandman
1550–1599	4 yeomen, 3 husbandmen
1600–1649	4 yeomen, 1 butcher
1650–1699	2 yeomen, 1 husbandman
1831	64 in agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 32 in domestic service, 1 labourer, 3 others
1844	1 victualler, 2 hurdle makers, 1 blacksmith, 1 bricklayer, 1 shopkeeper, 1 wheelwright, 1 shoemaker, 9 farmers
1912	1 sub-postmaster, 1 teacher, 1 policeman, 1 publican, 6 farmers, 1 shopkeeper, 2 farm bailiffs, 1 wheelwright, 1 gardener, 1 market gardener, 1 blacksmith

19. Education:

1818	1 Sunday school (30 attend)
1833	1 Sunday school supported by Rector (35 attend) Parochial school established (1861) (50 attend), enlarged (1884), average attendance (1912) 80

20. Poor relief:

1776	£64. 19s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£128. 19s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£343. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£360. 17s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£319. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£547. 15s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

Police station build (circa 1912)

23. Recreation:

1844	The Horseshoes public house
1891	The Three Horseshoes public house
1912	The Horseshoes Inn

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Redisham Hall: built by Nicholas Garneys (1592), demolished (1820)
Monument built to his memory.

New mansion built by John Garden (circa 1800)

Redisham Hall Park contains site of deserted village