

## 1. Parish: Shipmeadow

**Meaning:** Meadow for sheep

**2. Hundred:** Wangford

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

**Union:** Wangford

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

### Other administrative details:

Beccles Petty Sessional Division  
Beccles and Bungay County Court District

**3. Area:** 823 acres

**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 groundwater levels, risk of flooding near river

**5. Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing in dairying with some pig-keeping horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp. Carrots and turnips were being grown by the more enterprising farmers in the Waveney Valley
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main Crops:	Wheat, turnips, peas
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

**6. Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1961 Ribbon-type development mainly distributed along both sides of the main Bungay-Beccles road. Development to the north limited by River Waveney and marsh land

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 12, 1801 – 14, 1851 – 36, 1871 – 28, 1901 – 27, 1951 – 25, 1981 – 32

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** A1116 Beccles – Bungay road

Daily postal service to/from Beccles

**Rail:** 1891 Bungay station: 3 miles Beccles station: Tivetshall-Lowestoft line – Bungay opened (1860), closed (1964), line to Beccles closed (1965)

Ipswich – Lowestoft line: Beccles opened (1854), closed for goods (1966)

**Water:** River Waveney: Navigation Act passed (1670), lock (disused) (no dates)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 11 recorded

1327 — 45 taxpayers paid £1. 19s. 7 d. (includes Barsham)

1524 — 15 taxpayers paid £1. 7s. 4d.

1603 — 54 adults

1674 — 20 households

1676 — not recorded

1801 — 442 inhabitants

1831 — 383 inhabitants

1851 — 515 inhabitants

1871 — 287 inhabitants

1901 — 245 inhabitants

1931 — 203 inhabitants

1951 — 218 inhabitants

1971 — 75 inhabitants

1981 — 95 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (1831), Discharged Rectory (1855)**

1254 Valued £4

1291 Valued £10

1535 Valued £10

1597 Rector not resident

circa 1603 Living valued at £50 p.a.

1674 Parsonage has 2 hearths

1831 Curatem stipend £50 p.a, No glebe house. Gross income £227 p.a. Valued £214. 28 acres glebe (1835)

- 1912      Tithes commuted for £228 yearly rent charge (1839)  
              Rectory house built (1851)  
              Nett value £140. 27 acres glebe and residence
- Patrons:**      Convent of Flixton (1300/1555), Thomas Blennerhasset  
                          (1564/79), Crown (1584), Sir Robert Lee (1603), Suckling  
                          family (1667/1833), Rev. R.A.J. Suckling (1912)
- 11. Church      St. Bartholomew**  
                          (Chancel, nave, N. porch, W. tower)
- circa 12<sup>th</sup>      Main structure  
              cent.  
              15<sup>th</sup> cent.      Tower, N. porch  
              1856 and      Restoration  
              1899
- Seats : 125 (1915)**
- 12. Nonconformity etc:**
- 1431      Thomas Herde accused and tried in Norwich for heresy  
                          (Lollard) (1431)
- 13. Manorial:**
- Shipmeadow Manor**
- 1240      Walter de Shipmeadow owns  
              1302      Sir John de Norwich owns (linked to Mettingham)  
              1394      Mettingham College owns  
              1563      Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors  
                          through Suffolk)  
              1654-      Sucking family owns (linked to Barsham)
- 14. Markets/Fairs**
- 15. Real property:**
- 1844      £865 rental value  
              1891      £1,191 rateable value  
              1912      £870 rateable value
- 16. Land ownership:**
- 1844/1891      Land sub-divided  
              1912      Rev. R, Suckling and W.K. Francis, principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1661	R. Suckling, High Sheriff of Norfolk (1661)
1701	R. Suckling jnr., High Sheriff of Norfolk (1701)

**18. Occupations:**

1500-1549	1 husbandmen
1550-1599	1 labourer, 1 husbandman
1600-1649	1 Rector
1650-1699	1 husbandman, 4 yeoman
1831	32 in agriculture, 1 in retail trade, 5 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	1 governor of Union House, 1 joiner, 1 shoemaker, 3 shopkeepers, 6 farmers, 1 beerhouse keeper
1912	1 sub-postmaster, 2 farm bailiffs, 1 rates collector, 5 farmers, 1 council road surveyor, 1 florist, 1 carpenter, 1 shopkeeper, workhouse staff.

**19. Education:**

1833	Children attend Sunday school at Barsham
1912	Children attend school at Barsham

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£26. 14s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£71. 3s. 4d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£87. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£566. 15s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£115	spent on poor relief
1834	£104. 5s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

1765	Workhouse on 'E' plan in existence , 250 inmates (1831), chapel, added (1866), 116 inmates and 11 officials (1901), 145 inmates
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**23. Recreation:**

1844	1 beerhouse
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**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

House of Industry: inmates employed in spinning for Norwich manufacturers (1787)

'Shipmeadow Union Workhouse: Diary of an inmate (1837-1852)'. PSIA XXIII p.42

'Early Days of the Wangford Hundred Workhouse' by M.F.L. Prichard. PSIA Vol.XXX p.175

'House of Industry: Shipmeadow' by H. Cane. Suffolk Fair (1985) p.6

Pest House said occupy site on south side of main Beccles-Bungay road (1961)

**Archaeological Sites:**

Stray finds:                      Neo. worked flint (CRN 1031)