

1. Parish: Bures St Mary

Meaning: Bower or cottage by St Mary's

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Western)(1864–1884), Sudbury (1884)

Union: Sudbury

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Melford RD (–1974), Babergh DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Boxford Petty Sessional Division
Sudbury County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,554 acres land, 20 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Deep fine loam over clay and clay soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils. Calcareous subsoils in places.
- b. Coarse loam and sandy soil, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 56 pigs, 2 mills, 3 horses, 70 pigs, 260 sheep, 2 cattle, 50 goats
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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agents, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, oats.
1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1953 River Stour forms southern and western boundaries of parish.
Compact development at river crossing which probably influenced development.
Church centrally situated. Scattered farms.
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 73, 1801 – 97, 1851 – 208, 1871 – 221,
1901 – 190, 1951 – 231, 1981 – 300

8. Communications:

Roads: To Little Cornard and Assington
1912 Brake to Colchester on Saturday
to Sudbury on Thursday
Carrier to Colchester on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
to Sudbury on Monday

Rail: 1891 Rail station at Bures Hamlet: Sudbury–Marks Tey line,
opened 1849, closed for goods 1964, closed for passengers 1967.

Water: River Stour: navigable c.1724 (cargo listed in toll tables for 1741
and 1750
Decline began around 1860. Navigation Company went into
Voluntary liquidation 1913. Lock and weir at Bures.

9. Population:

1086 – 59 recorded
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £2 13s. 4d.
1524 – 90 taxpayers paid £37 17s. 7d.
1603 – 533 adults
1674 – 102 households
1676 – approx 521 adults
1801 – 702 inhabitants
1831 – 996 inhabitants
1851 – 1,144 inhabitants
1871 – 910 inhabitants
1901 – 803 inhabitants
1931 – 728 inhabitants
1971 – 656 inhabitants

1981 – 798 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage

1254	Portion of the parson £20. Portion of the vicar £6 13s. 4d. Portion of Prior of Colum (Earls Colne) 13s. 4d. Portion of Prior of Panfield, Essex 10s. Portion of Prior of St Botolph's, Colchester 10s.	£28 6s. 8d.
1291	Valued £26 13s. 4d. To Vicar of the same £10. Portions as above £2 15s.	£39 8s. 4d.
1535	Valued £12 6s. 6d.	
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £273 p.a. Valued £273 1835	
	Modus of £327 p.a. Great tithes commuted for £844 10s. p.a. 1840	
1912	Nett value £200. 9 acres glebe and residence	

Patrons: Mr Danyell Sydaye (1603), Mr Hanbury (1831), Mrs R Hill (1912)

11. Church: St Mary

(Chancel with S Chapel, N Vestry, Clerestoried Nave, Aisles, Porches, embattled W Tower)

1072/76	Charter of Waleran Fitz Ranulf grants church of St Mary and a house in London to St Stephens Abbey, Caen (parish folder RO).
1086	Church + 18 acres free land
Late 13 th /14 th cent.	Main structure
14 th cent.	Tower, struck by lightning and destroyed 1733 Arcade of 3 bays
1514	S Chapel (Waldegrave Chantry) erected by Sir William Waldegrave
16 th cent.	Aisles and S Porch (with stoup of carved corbel bowl)
1643	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing said to have destroyed 600 suspicious pictures and 5 inscriptions)
1863	Restoration

Seats: 400 appropriated, 420 free (1873)

Chapel of St Stephens

(often styled St Edmunds Chapel or Chapel Barn)(thatched)

Origins unknown

Dedicated c.1213

Said to mark the traditional site of the coronation of St Edmund (856 AD)

It has been surmised that the chapel was originally built by

Abbot Sampson in 13th cent., later replaced

Fell into disuse at Reformation (became used as barn)

Probable manorial chapel to Tanys manor

Restored and reconsecrated 1935

Situated 1 mile NE of parish church

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676

1 papist family, approximately 20 nonconformists

1718–1834

5 houses set aside for worship

Baptist chapel built 1831, seated 400, disused 1908

13. Manorial:

1086

2 manors identified as possible

a. 1½ carucates belonging to Richard, son of Earl Gilbert

b. 2 carucates belonging to John, son of Waleran

Bures Manor

13th cent.

William de Aguilon owns

1312

Isabella, Lady Bardolf released to Sir Michael de Poynings
(linked to Wiston and Cavendish)

1524

Sir Richard Corbett died seised (linked to Preston, Little
Cornard, Boxford and Assington)

Sub-Manors:

Overhall al Ropers

13th/14th cent.

Robert de Bures owns (linked to Gt Waldingfield and Acton)

1434

Waldegrave family owns (absorbed by Netherhall)

Netherhall/Silvesters

No dates 15 th cent.	Assigned to de Silvester family Suggested ownership by de Bures and Waldegrave families (possible link with Overhall)
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Smallbridge

13 th cent.	Granted to Sir Michael de Pynings by marriage (appears as Division of main manor)
14 th cent.	William Brand owns (linked to Polstead, Edwardstone, Gt Cornard and Boxford)
14 th /15 th cent.	Sir Richard Waldegrave owns (probably linked to Netherhall And Overhall)
17 th cent.	John Currant/Currance owns
18 th cent.	Hanbury family from Essex owns
1905	Mrs F Hervey owns (linked to Ickworth)

Cornerth Hall al Cornhall al Northall

1275	Richard de Corneth/Cornard owns (linked to Gt and Lt Cornard and Cavendish)
1405	Sir Thomas Culpeper owns
1548	Sir Thomas Barnardiston owns
1609	Sir Stephen Soame owns (linked to Cavendish)

Tanys

13 th cent. 1435	Robert Aguillon owns (linked to main manor) Appears absorbed by Smallbridge
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14. Market/Fair:

Charter for market and fair granted to Robert Aguillon 1270/71
Fair held on the vigil, the day and the morrow of St Michael
Fair held on Holy Thursday for toys 1759, abolished 1871

15. Real Property:

1844 – £3,339 rental value
1891 – £2,968 rateable value
1912 – £3,678 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1549 Sir William Waldegrave, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk
1632/33 Sir William Soame, Sheriff of Suffolk
1680 2 gents listed
1682/83 Thomas Walgrave, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1844 H Salmon, Rev, A Hanbury MA
1912 Rev H F Banham, MA, MD, Lt Col W G Probert

18. Occupations:

1445–1487 1 butcher, 1 baker, 1 barber
1500–1549 1 yeoman, 6 fullers, 1 shearman (one who cuts woollen cloth)
(additional information for this group from 'The Springs of Lavenham'
by B McClenaghan 1924)
1550–1599 5 husbandmen, 3 yeomen, 2 clerks, 3 weavers, 2 clothiers, 2 tailors,
1 tanner, 1 mason
1600–1649 11 husbandmen, 16 yeomen, 2 glovers, 2 butchers, 2 labourers,
2 blacksmiths, 1 shoemaker, 1 tanner, 1 ploughwright, 1 hoopmaker
1650–1699 11 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 baker, 2 grocers, 1 spinster, 1 tailor,
1 victualler, 1 tanner, 1 gardener, 1 cordwainer
1831 142 in agriculture, 49 in retail trade, 2 professionals,
59 in labouring, 37 in domestic service
1844 Large tan yard and extensive maltings established
Farrier, 2 carpenters, cooper, Firm of Tanners and Brick-Makers,
saddler, insurance agent, 2 teachers, relieving Officer, 2 beerhouse
keepers, glover, surgeon, miller, Plumber/glazier, 2 hairdressers,
4 publicans, 4 bakers, 4 blacksmiths, 3 bricklayers, 2 butchers,
13 farmers, 3 grocer/drapers, 4 maltsters and corn merchants,
5 shoemakers, 3 tailors, 2 wheelwrights
1912 Roller flour mill by river
Sub-postmistress, 2 teachers, police constable, bank,
confectioner, hairdresser, farm bailiff, clerk, saddler, 2 grocers,
cow keeper, grocer/drapper, baker, beer retailer/brewer,
2 butchers, ironmonger, 8 farmers, 2 hotel keepers, 2 maltsters,
2 bootmakers, surgeon, midwife, 3 publicans, miller, 2 thatchers,
Bricklayer, milliner, drug store, blacksmith, pork butcher, stationer,
2 bakers, poultry breeder, cattle dealer, cycle maker
1927 Maltings and silk dyeing offered major employment

19. Education:

1635–38	1 schoolmaster/tutor listed
1818	1 day school (30 attend) 3 other schools (80 attend) 1 Sunday school on Madras system (100 attend)
1833	2 days schools (55 attend) 1 established church Sunday school (120 attend) 1 Protestant Dissenters Sunday school (45 attend) National school built 1840, enlarged 1843/4 (260 attend)
1844	1 boarding and days school British school built 1854, closed c.1891
1912	Elementary school, average attendance (212)

20. Poor relief:

1776	£204 8s. 4d.
1803	£676 8s. 2½d.
1818	£1,250
1830	£1,290 15s.
1832	£1,371
1834	£1,085 9s.

21. Charities:

Bridges Gift:

1803	Bequest of Mrs Dorcas Bridges: Dividends from stock distributed yearly on Christmas Day
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Dupont's Gift:

1825	Bequest of John Dupont: 20s p.a. distributed annually on Christmas Day
1844	4 almhouses endowed with £60 p.a.

22. Other institutions:

1776	Workhouse (50 inmates)
1803	2 Friendly Societies (50 members) Mutual Benefit Society formed 1840 (230 members) Lending Library established 1841(120 members) Gas works 1859
1912	Police station Bures Agricultural Club formed 1943

23. Recreation:

1650–99	1 victualler listed
1844	2 beerhouses, 4 public houses
1891	1 brewer, 7 public houses, 1 coffee tavern
1912	1 beer retailer/brewer, 2 hotels, 3 public houses

24. Personal:

Sir Richard Waldegrave: 14th cent. Speaker of House of Commons
'Sir Richard Waldegrave of Bures St Mary, Speaker in the Parliament of 1381/82' by J S Roskell, PSIA Vol XXVII p.154.
'Smallbridge and Waldegrave Families', PSIA Vol IV p. 357.
Mrs Janet Frost became, at 101 years, Bures oldest resident 1986

25. Other information:

Smallbridge Hall: c.1572, moated building built by Waldegrave family. Largely rebuilt 1874, restored 1932. Queen Elizabeth I said to have visited in 1561 and 1579 – authenticated. (Detailed expenses of the visit housed in British Museum) Returned 44 hearths 1674. One wing survived from 18th cent.

An essay entitled 'Huntingdons Chorea: Considerations' purports to trace the introduction of this condition back to 1630s and the emigration of 3 families from Bures (parish folder RO)

Legend of Bures Dragon: 1405 Dragon/crocodile emerged from Stour near Clappits (possibly Claypits). Proving impervious to arrows etc, it was driven off by villagers extreme agitation disappearing into mere at Wormingford. Recorded in chronicle of Monk John de Trokelowe, translated by Col G O C Probert of Bures (East Anglian Daily Times 1976).

'The Ancient Chapel of Bures' – PSIA Vol XV p.218.

'The Chapel Barn of St Stephen, Bures and the de Vere monuments' by R Innes-Smith. East Anglian Life Vol 8, July 1966.