

BATHING PLACE & SWIMMING POOL

PUDDINGMOOR: DIVISION A 38b

1600.1	Beccles Manor	Smyth	
1600.2	Beccles Manor	Fleetwood	
1649	Beccles Manor Rental	Mr Leman, for a message	Rent 10d
1650.1		ORIENTATION: Margaret Leman, widow, tent called the Doghouse , late Fleetwood, before Smyth	
1671	Survey	William Crane, a tenement in Puddingmoor, the Dog House	
1693	Beccles Manor Rental	William Crane, for a tent called the Dog House in Puddingmoor [later Matthew Barnes]	Rent 10d 1/2d
1729	Rosehall Manor Rental	William Barnes, for the Dog House	Rent 10d 1/2d
1736	Beccles Manor Rental	Matthew Barnes, tent called the Dog House in Puddingmoor, Shreeve, formerly Crane	Rent 10d 1/2d
1751	Beccles Manor Rental	Matthew Barnes, late Crane for a tent called the Dog House in Puddingmoor	Rent 10d 1/2d
1761	Rosehall Manor Rental	Matthew Barnes, for the Dog House	Rent 6d

DIVISION OF PROPERTY

1792	Bec Arch A28/ Bathing Pl. Deeds 103	INDENTURE between John Farr Esq & Benjamin Utting Dowson of Geldeston, merchant in consideration of £100 did sell ALL THAT piece of Land or Garden Ground in Puddingmoor (being part of a Garden then called the Pickerel) in length from Lambert's ditch 36 yards & in breadth from the River Eastwards 31 yards, then in the occupation of Henry Larke. AND ALL THAT piece of Land Abutting on Puddingmoor EAST On Lambert's ditch SOUTH And last mentioned piece WEST And upon part of Pickerel Garden NORTH Containing from Puddingmoor 42 yards WEST & in breadth 18 to 24ft	
1841	Bec Arch A28/ Bathing Pl	WILL of BU Dowson: Wife Susanna & sons Benjamin Utting Dowson, Executors - to sell property	
1843	Bec Arch A28/ Bathing Pl	Dowson Executors sold to Septimus Dowson 2 pieces of freehold Land since converted into a Staithe Yard with cottage (then or late in the occupation of John Goffin) Granary & other Buildings erected by BU Dowson bounded by the Herditaments of John Farr, Esq on the NORTH etc for £450 Money value of £5753 mentioned. Various mortgages by Dowson family entered.	
1862	Beccles Wkly Nws 3 Jun	WARNING: To Bathers. All persons who are found bathing in the RIVER WAVENEY between the Smelt House and 200 yards below Beccles Bridge after 9 o'clock in the morning, will be PROSECUTED according to law. T.A. Laws, Mayor Beccles 26.5.1862	
1867	Beccles Wkly 24 Apr	COUNCIL: Public Bathing Place suggested	
1872	Beccles Paper 6 Aug	SALE: Freehold Coal Yard, Spacious Granary, Cottage & Premises with frontage of 100ft on the River & an Entrance from Puddingmoor, in occupation of Samuel Bellward. Details from JW Dowson.	
1872	Bec Arch A28/ Bathing Pl	INDENTURE between Dowsons & William Cutting, Attorney's Clerk for £275, aforesaid premises.	
1873	Beccles Paper 6 May	COUNCIL: Bathing Place: Suggested place: the old Granary & building on the banks of the River until recently used by Mr Bellward; but too expensive.	
1873	Beccles Paper 13 May	COUNCIL: Contractors & Builders: Tenders invited for Removal (without taking to pieces) of the large granary late in the occupation of Mr Bellward near the River in Beccles.	
1873	Beccles Paper 13 May	Council: Granary owned by Mr Cutting: Could be purchased for £300. Agreed. Surveyor: Move back the Granary about 40ft: To be used as a Dressing Place. Excavate a Bathing Place 85ft long with an outlet to the River, but secluded from that.	
1873	Beccles Paper 24 Jun	Bathing Place: Construction progressing. Excavations in a forward state, but much still remains to be done, & some bathers are heard to predict that it will be finished in good time to be used for skating. The old bathing place still much used.	
1874	Beccles Paper 1 Sep	Council: Bathing Place should be made deeper. 200 a day used it when very warm; 100 when cooler; 50 a day now.	
1874	Beccles Paper 21 Apr	Council: Mr Woodrffe to make alterations to cottage costing £34 - 10s [probably bought at the same time as the Barn?]	
1875	East Suff Gaz 31 Aug	COUNCIL; 12. Ladies to have special time for using Bathing Place	
1877	East Suff Gaz, 11 Dec	PURCHASE of the Bathing Place from the Court of Chancery for £272, cheque to be paid to Mr E Masters.	
1880	East Suff Gaz 13 Jan	BATHING PLACE: Corporation to let by auction for 5 years. The hirer to discharge the duties of Superintendent.	

- 1880 East Suff Gaz 27 Apr COUNCIL: (1) Bathing Place let to Mr W Smith at £20pa for 5 years; Mr RA King & Mr Tyrell required to remove obstructions in Puddingmoor
- 1881 East Suff Gaz 21 Jun BATHING PLACE: (LETTER): Some years ago a spot about 300 yards up the river was the only recognised place for bathing, but it was hampered by a halfpenny fine to reach it, for ferrying across the river. There was difficulty about getting a right of way to the Bathing place. The Corporation decided upon making a new bathing place. They purchased property alongside the river, but unfortunately a bungle was made of the scheme, and the outcome was an old granary fitted up in rough and ready style, and a limited quantity of enclosed water. This was all very well for youngsters learning to swim, but the grand mistake was in ignoring the large number of persons who can swim, and to whom it is no pleasure to be contained to a small breadth of filthy water.
The old bathing place is still used by many who desire to enjoy a wholesome bathe. A better spot could not be found for miles around. Until within the last two or three years the ground shelved gradually down to the middle of the river, which is deep, free from weeds, and suitable in every respect for the swimmer. Now holes have been dredged in the shallow side, and it is positively dangerous. Only the other morning a lad, trying to swim, got into one of these holes and was nearly drowned.
- 1885 East Suff Gaz 24 Feb TO LET: BATHING PLACE & Dwelling for 5 Years.
- 1885 East Suff Gaz 10 Mar BATHING PLACE & Dwelling House let to Mr William Smith for £20 5s pa.
- 1889 East Suff Gaz 6 Aug DROWNING at BECCLES: Moses Elliott of the goods department of the Great Eastern Railway was drowned while Bathing in the River Waveney at what was called the Old Bathing Place. He could not swim and was taken 50 yards down the river by the strong tide. He went there with Ernest Whittaker, a clerk of the GER who could only swim a little. Herbert Nursey and Ling got into a boat and saw the body of Elliott in the water. Nursey dived for the body and brought it to the surface twice and the second time it was pulled out by William Smith, the County Court Bailiff, who is in charge of the New Bathing Place, and his brother. The depth of the water was about twelve feet. The Foreman of the Jury (Mr WG Cross) recommended that Nursey (who had saved the life of a College boy from drowning the week before) should be given a medal by the Royal Humane Society.
- 1891 East Suff Gaz 14 Jul NEARLY DROWNED: On Sunday morning two young men Seymour Goff & Charles Wyatt were swimming in the old Bathing Place & got out of their depth. Goff could not swim and clung on to Wyatt. Both went down, but Frank Woolner kept them afloat until a boat arrived and rescued them.
- 1893 East Suff Gaz 29 Aug A new BATHING PLACE required. The rather dilapidated wooden shed and a few feet of singularly uninviting looking water are the sole accommodation for bathing.
- 1894 East Suff Gaz 13 Mar NEW BATHING PLACE proposed: A plan drawn up by Councillor Banham. The old Bathing Place to be taken down and a new building put up. As many of the old materials as possible should be used and that the swimming bath be enlarged by moving the present quay heading, on the house side six feet back.. It would cost £350 for the building and £70 for the new quay heading.
Alderman Masters enquired if the Committee that had studied the proposal were unanimous in their agreement to the scheme. The Mayor said they were.. Alderman Masters then proposed the recommendations in their entirety. He said the Committee had taken a great deal of trouble, and in such cases he was always disposed to accept their recommendations.
- 1894 East Suff Gaz 20 Mar TOWN COUNCIL: Bathing Place: Mr Crisp was asked to sell a neighbouring piece of land. He offered the whole of the ozier ground up to the filled-in ditch (half an acre) for £110. The Council agreed to purchase the land and build a new bathing place, selling the timber taken down.
- 1894 East Suff Gaz 4 Apr BATHING PLACE: Tenders varied from £489 to Mr GA Dunn's of £395, which was accepted.
- 1894 East Suff Gaz 10 Apr BATHING PLACE: Mr Dunn has started work on the Bathing Place. To be completed early June.
- 1894 East Suff Gaz 3 Jul BATHING PLACE opened and in great demand because of tropical heat in the last few days. The building is large than the old Granary and has 24 separate compartments for subscribers and two large rooms free for the public
- 1894 East Suff Gaz 4 Sept WATER CARNIVAL To be held between the Bridge & the new Bathing Place. The occupiers of private gardens and wharves, and the owners of boats have been asked to decorate them, and upwards of 40 have promised to do so, so that a very pretty sight may be anticipated. The best view can be obtained from the Norfolk side. The Rifle Band will be in attendance. The procession of boats will start at half past seven. All boats should be moored on the Norfolk side for lighting at 7 pm.
- 1895 East Suff Gaz 20 Aug WATER CARNIVAL: The town side of the river from the bridge to the bathing-place was a mass of illuminations. The river-side gardens were very tastefully decorated. Mr Le Grice's particularly.
- 1895 East Suff Gaz 3 Sep NEW BATHING PLACE used by 30,000 bathers this Summer. Never before has there been such a run on the place as a result of the long and hot summer.
- 1895 East Suff Gaz 3 Sep COUNCIL: 3.) BATHING in the RIVER. Alderman Masters said they now had a bathing place in excellent condition, with ample compartments free to everyone, and pleasant dressing boxes for use at a penny; but there were still very great complaints about persons bathing in the open river. They complained of gross indecency. Could bathing in the river be prevented after 9 o'clock in the morning? The Town Clerk was asked to make enquiries
- 1896 East Suff Gaz 21 Jul BATHING in the RIVER: Is it not time that the grossly indecent bathing in the river should be peremptorily stopped? Such scandalous scenes as are daily seen at the Old Bathing Place make one

- blush for the fair fame of the town. It is impossible to take one's family on the river without exposing them to indignities.
- 1902 Almanack 17 Sep ACCIDENT: A young woman named Day has a narrow escape from drowning; the boat she was leaving gliding away as she attempted to land at the Bathing Place.
- 1917 East Suff Gaz 21 Aug CORPORATION'S POSSESSIONS: The Fen, the Guildhall, the Public Hall, 21 & 23 Grove Road, the cottage and premises on the Plantation on the Common; the Bathing Place and cottage in Puddingmoor.
- 1925 Directory The Corporation Swimming Bath, at Puddingmoor, was erected in 1894 [?] and is 180ft in length.
- 1940 Beccles & Bungay 23 Mar COUNCIL: BATHING PLACE: During the absence of Mr BL Moore, the attendant, on the East Suffolk Police War Reserve, his brother & sister to act instead.
- 1941 Beccles & Bungay 23 Aug LIFE SAVING SOCIETY has appointed Mr BL Moore of 21 Castle Hill an examiner for the Eastern Counties. He holds the Society's intermediate certificate, bronze and silver medals and order of merit badge. Until he became a reserve police constable at the outbreak of war he was attendant at the Corporation Bathing Place.
- 1942 Beccles & Bungay 3 Oct PRISONER OF WAR: Ronald W Brighton who has been in a German camp for two years, son of Mr & Mrs H Brighton of 62 Elough Road. Mr H Brighton is Corporation Bathing Place attendant. [PHOTO page 1]
- 1944 Beccles & Bungay 21 Oct TOWN COUNCIL:
2.) THE BATHING PLACE to be closed. The Medical Officer had analysed the water and found it unsafe.
- 1944 Beccles & Bungay 23 Dec COUNCIL MEETING:
NEW SWIMMING BATH: It was proposed to build a new swimming bath after the war. It should be of open-air kind and contain slipper and shower baths, sun-bathing lawns, and rock gardens, café, adequate dressing accommodation and facilities for safe custody of clothing and valuables, etc. Various sites were considered and the ideal one would be Homefield Estate, but the owner was not prepared to sell. It was recommended that negotiations be opened for the acquisition of the site to the south of the Dell, Ringsfield Road, comprising that portion of the land not being purchased by East Suffolk County Council.
- 1945 Beccles & Bungay 24 Feb BATHING PLACE: Mr Wm J Money, Mayor of Beccles 1908-10, now of Lowestoft, aged 76+ wrote that he was full of sorrow that it is to be closed. It is the fault of the river and not the Bathing Place.
- 1945 Beccles & Bungay 14 Apr BATHING PLACE: It was agreed that the Bathing Place should be opened on 1 May.
- 1945 Beccles & Bungay 24 Nov COUNCIL: SWIMMING POOL: Mrs Suckling, of Roos Hall, stated that she was not prepared to sell the site to the south of the Dell for a new Bathing Place. The present Swimming Pool was to remain closed.
- 1946 Beccles & Bungay 30 Mar COUNCIL MEETING: 5.) BATHING PLACE: This will not be opened until further notice. The state of the water is unsatisfactory.
- 1946 Beccles & Bungay Jun 22 TOWN COUNCIL:
The Bathing Place is not to open this year on grounds of health.
- 1946 Beccles & Bungay Sep 21 COUNCIL: A Typhoid Carrier had been identified. It is dangerous to use the River for bathing.
- 1958 Beccles & Bungay 14 Mar SWIMMING POOL: Thanksgiving money for Swimming Pool: Meeting for the first time since August 31st 1951, Beccles Thanksgiving, Remembrance, Fund Committee decided unanimously to hand the present balance of about £1180 in the Fund to the Town Council for the provision of additional facilities at the proposed new Swimming Pool. When the Council recently decided to make the pool on its own land in Puddingmoor at a cost of about £5,000. The committee made a condition that the provision is a permanent memorial and that the bathing place shall be called the Beccles Town and War Memorial and Swimming Pool.
- 1958 Beccles & Bungay 24 Jul SWIMMING POOL TENDER £11,514: to cost more than double the estimate. The tender was accepted – that of May, Gurney of Norwich. Since delivery of necessary items –specialist plant, etc - was about three months, some things had already been ordered.
The Town Clerk (Mr F Leah) said the question of a new bathing pool started many years ago, but in July 1957 the Borough Engineer produced three plans for the baths on the present site. In September the Engineer said it would be cheaper to build the Baths in the orchard, behind the present baths. In February the Finance Committee decided to go ahead with the work, and allocated £5,00 for the project.
Mr Gilbert: "The Council is in a most unpleasant and awkward position. They had estimated for £5,000 for an austerity pool and had received tenders much higher. I am not an attacker of Mr Bromley, I think he has done a very great deal for the borough, which we should be grateful for, but I do think in this case the matter very squarely rests on Mr Bromley."
Mr Bromley "Frankly there was no luxury item included. It is a straight-forward reinforced concrete pool with a minimum of modifications to bring it into line with the model requirements of the Ministry.
- 1958 Beccles & Bungay 24 Oct NEW SWIMMING POOL under construction [PHOTO] Next month there is to be a musical programme at the Public Hall to raise money towards the cost

- 1958 Beccles & Bungay 24 Nov COUNCIL: Swimming pool is progressing well: "the completed scheme will be attractive and of popular amenity value." The deep end together with back-filling of ground surround being completed. Excavation, formation of a sub-base and foundation works for the shallow end was in progress. Electricity supply had been provided, and it was anticipated that specialist plant installation would start early in December.
- 1959 Beccles & Bungay 20 Feb COUNCIL: SWIMMING POOL: Progress had been maintained although work had been retarded by the recent hard frost and snow.
The actual concrete pool had been completed together with the back-fill works. Pumping and chemical dosage plant had been installed and electricity supply connected. Circulation mains and control valves had been laid and fitted.
- 1959 Beccles & Bungay 13 Mar THE SWIMMING POOL [PHOTO] Making good progress. Seen in front of the old one, which has served for many years.
- 1959 Beccles & Bungay 15 May SWIMMING POOL [PHOTO] Work on the final stages is now going on. The pool will be open on 25th of May. Excavation started at the end of July, but technical difficulty was experienced over work at the deep end, which has a peat sub-base, but once this was overcome the project proceeded smoothly. During the first month the men worked under great difficulties until they completed foundations at the deep end.
The pool is constructed of reinforced concrete on a raft foundation of hard core ashes and lean-mix concrete. It is 100 ft long and 50 ft wide, the depth being 12 ft at the deep end and 3 ft at the other.
- 1959 Beccles & Bungay Jul 2 NEW SWIMMING POOL OPENED by Sir Robert Gooch, Chairman of the Suffolk Playing Fields Association. Mr HR Hadingham said that the pool had been open for a month and about 14,000 people had used it in the first four weeks. It had been described as the finest thing that had happened in Beccles since the granting of the Charter. It was ideally suited for the purpose of teaching people to swim. Every year the Broads and rivers took a toll of life, and they were convinced that the money spent on the pool was worthwhile if it meant saving a life during the year.
There was a swimming gala after the opening, watched by 500 spectators.
- 1959 Souvenir Progrm Jun 27 Corporation Swimming Baths. Official Opening
- 1962 Beccles & Bungay Jul 11 OLD SWIMMING POOL: One of the last signs was fast disappearing yesterday. The pool was opened in 1894, in a corner in the River Waveney, which was fenced off. When it closed, part of the fence was removed to turn the corner into a yacht station, and the piles, which held the fence have since stood out of the water on their own.
But yesterday a barge moved up the Waveney and started winching up the old poles out. It was no easy job, for many were as much as ten feet deep in the mud and were in as good condition as when they were sunk in the last century.
The removal of the piles will mean the end of a danger to navigation along this stretch of the Waveney – some of them were marked by frequent collisions with cruisers. Mooring facilities in the yacht station will also be improved.
Now the only surviving sign of the old pool is the large building which formed the entrance. It is now used as changing rooms for the new pool near by, but there are plans to replace it with a more modern block in the near future. [PHOTO]

1843 Dowson, BU Goffin, John
 1871 Dowson, EH Bellward, Samuel house, granary & coalshed
 1881 CENSUS Smith, William M 32 born Beccles Bathing House County Court Bailiff
 1906/07 Survey Beccles Corporation Waters, WG dwelling 3 Bedrooms, 2 Sitting, 5 Occupants (no water)

DIVISION OF PROPERTY PUDDINGMOOR 38.2

1965 Pool Craft boat builders
 1974 Pool Craft boat builders

DIVISION OF PROPERTY 38.3

1933+ Tyrell, Fred Tyrell, Mrs etc Ho & Prem The Reaches