

# 1. Parish: Denham

**Meaning:** Pasture/meadow in valley

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

**Deanery:** Clare (–1884), Horningsheath (1884–1914), Horringer (1914–1972), Thingoe (1972–)

**Union:** Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division  
Bury St. Edmunds County Court District.

3. **Area:** 1,310 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Fine loam over clay soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non-calcareous slowly permeable clay soils. Slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		6 acres meadow, woodland for 20 pigs, 2 horses, 4 cattle, 33 pigs, 72 sheep, 38 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.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley
1950's		Fruit orchards
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 No actual centre of development. Small group settled at Denham End and the vicarage to the north. Church isolated with Hall to the south of the parish. Denham Thicks occupies considerable portion of eastern sector of parish. Gravel pits intrude into NW corner  
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 11, 1801 – 17, 1851 – 42, 1871 – 39,  
1901 – 40, 1951 – 52, 1981 – 46

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** To Hargrave, Dalham and Barrow  
1891: Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

**Rail:** 1891: 3½ miles Higham station: Newmarket–Bury St Edmunds  
line opened 1854, closed for goods 1964, closed for  
passengers 1967

**9. Population:**

1086 – 22 recorded  
1327 – 11 taxpayers paid £1 11s. 2d.  
1524 – 20 taxpayers paid £6 0s. 0d.  
1603 – 80 adults  
1674 – 19 households  
1676 – 59 adults  
1801 – 141 inhabitants  
1831 – 191 inhabitants  
1851 – 218 inhabitants  
1871 – 182 inhabitants  
1901 – 167 inhabitants  
1931 – 111 inhabitants  
1951 – 163 inhabitants  
1971 – 128 inhabitants  
1981 – 137 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy (1831) Vicarage (1873)**

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £10 0s. 0d.  
1535 Not Recorded  
1603 Minister has stipend of £20 p.a.  
1831 1 curate, stipend £50 p.a. No glebe house. Gross income of  
£100 p.a. Incumbent also holds Vicarages of S. Petherwen  
and Trewin. Cornwall.  
Valued £100 1873  
1891 Value £126 p.a. + 24 acres glebe and vicarage house  
No glebe listed 1887  
1912 Nett value £85 p.a.  
Incumbent also holds Rectory of Ousden

**Patrons:** S. Farmer (1831), R.S.G. Farmer (1873), Lady Bateman (1891)

**11. Church St. Mary**  
(Chancel, nave, dormitory on N. side, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church without land. Norman arched doorway in Nave  
14/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure

16<sup>th</sup> cent. Elizabethan chapel  
Substantially rebuilt. Chancel has 17<sup>th</sup> cent. oak paneling said to have originated from Denham Hall

19<sup>th</sup> cent. Extensive restoration  
Modern S. porch and W. tower

**Seats:** 25 appropriated, 165 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597 Curate does not wear surplice, does not use sign of cross at baptisms nor read cominacion nor Injunctions

1676 2 nonconformists

**13. Manorial:**

**Denham Manor**

1275 Sir John de Say owns

1380 John de Denham owns

1396 Hethe family owns (linked to Ampton)

1439 Sir Brian Stapleton owns

1481 Thomas Higham/Heigham (linked to Gazeley) passing by marriage and inheritance to Sir Edward Lewkenor (16<sup>th</sup> cent.) (linked to Cavenham and Gazeley)

1673 Lord Townsend owns (lonked to Gazeley)

18<sup>th</sup> cent. Samuel Farmer (linked to Gazeley)

**Sub manors**

**Abbots**

c.12<sup>th</sup> cent. Alice de Vere transferred lands in Denham to Abbey of St. Osyth

16<sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Howard (linked to numerous other manors throughout Suffolk)

1586 Thomas Stutevill (linked to Dalham) (included park and enclosed ground called Southwood Park)

1697 Possibly sold to Gilbert Dolven/Dolben (linked to Dalham)

1909 Sir Robert Affleck

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,239	rental value
1891	£1,283	rateable value
1912	£935	rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 William F.G. Farmer, sole owner

1912 Hon. Mrs. Francis Colborne, sole owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

c.1570 Sir Edward Lewkenor

**18. Occupations:**

1500 – 1549 1 husbandman  
1550 – 1599 1 husbandman, 1 carpenter, 1 spinster, 1 servingman  
1600 – 1649 1 husbandmen, 6 yeomen  
1650 – 1699 4 yeomen, 1 clothier, 1 clerk  
1831 38 in agriculture, 4 in retail trade, 1 professional, 3 in labouring,  
7 in domestic service, 2 others  
1844 Blacksmith, victualler, gamekeeper, carpenter/wheelwright,  
5 farmers.  
1912 Schoolmistress, 2 farmers, insurance agent

**19. Education:**

1833 A few instructed on Sunday  
Parochial school built 1851, average attendance 1891 27,  
enlarged 1899, average attendance 1912 28

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £45 8s. 2d.  
1803 £131 0s. 1d.  
1818 £388 0s. 0d.  
1830 £309 3s. 0d.  
1832 £297 12s. 0d.  
1834 £230 6s. 0d.

**21. Charities:**

**Lady Townshend's Charity:**

1662 by will of Dame Mary Townshend: £100 for purchase of lands,  
rents thereof to be applied to apprenticeships

**Townshend Dole:**

1840 Rentcharge of Denham Hall Estate of £2 p.a. distributed among  
the poor at Christmas.

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1844 The Plough public house

**24. Personal:**

Sir Edward Lewkenor and his wife Susan both died of smallpox at Denham Hall within 2 days of each other (1605)

**25. Other information:**

Mill in existence 1339

Denham Hall: reputedly built c.1570 by Sir Edward Lewkenor. He is said to have furnished part of the Hall with a large table at which the poor were fed 3 times a week (the dairy has been suggested as the site)

Denham Paris Registers with historical notes 1539–1850 in published form in RO.