

1. Parish : Denston otherwise Denerdiston

Meaning: Deneheard's enclosure/homestead

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

Deanery: Clare

Union: Risbridge

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Clare RD (-1974), St. Edmundsbury DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Risbridge Petty Sessional Division
Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,200 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		2 acres meadow, wood for 10 pigs, 3 cobs, 28 cattle, 52 pigs, 76 sheep, 4 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 fertilising agent, 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, peas, beans, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

6. **Enclosure:**

7. Settlement:

1958 River/stream flows W-E across parish with tributary flowing from the N forming junction to east of development. Denston Park occupies majority of southern sector of parish. Small compact development around centrally situated church. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 16, 1801 – 47, 1851 – 66, 1871 – 64,
1901 – 50, 1951 – 56, 1981 – 44

8. Communications:

Roads: To Wickhambrook, Stradishall and Stansfield
1912: Carriers from Clare on Friday
to Bury St Edmunds on
Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 6 miles Clare station: Cambridge/Haverhill/
Sudbury line opened 1865, closed for
goods 1966 became unmanned halt,
closed for passengers 1967
1977 Clare station: country park centre

9. Population:

1086 – 14 recorded
1327 – 19 taxpayers paid £2 13s. 8d. (includes Stradishall)
1524 – 29 taxpayers paid £11 5s. 2d.
1603 – 114 adults
1674 – 37 households
1676 – 106 adults
1801 – 277 inhabitants
1831 – 341 inhabitants
1851 – 303 inhabitants
1871 – 285 inhabitants
1901 – 206 inhabitants
1931 – 200 inhabitants
1951 – 179 inhabitants
1971 – 127 inhabitants
1981 – 88 inhabitants

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

1254	Valued £9 6s. 8d. Portion of Prior of Stoke (by Clare) (separate tithe) £1	<u>£10 6s. 8d.</u>
1291	Valued £9 6s. 8d. Portion of Prior of Stoke £1	<u>£10 6s. 8d.</u>
1535	Not recorded	

1603 Curate, stipend £18 p.a. (Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Wickhambrook)
 1674 Parsonage has 8 hearths
 1831 No glebe house. Gross income £51 p.a.
 1912 Nett value £50 p.a. (Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Wickhambrook)
 1950 Site for Parsonage house purchased

Patrons: Crown (1603), W. Pigott (1831), Misses Walpole (1844), J. Robinson (1873), A.C.W. Dunn-Gardner (1912)

11. Church **St. Nicholas**
 (Chancel, nave, side aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

12th cent. Church was in existence
 c.1475 Total rebuilding except for 14th cent. Tower
 Traces of earlier church exist internally and in the SW sector of the building
 1814/1831 Restorations

Note: Tabard and armour of the Robinson family hangs in S. chancel aisle

Seats: 90 appropriated, 131 free (1873)

11a Other religious Institutions

College and Chantry for Secular Canons

1474/5 Founded by John Denston, Sir John Howard and John Broughton jnr.
 Endowed with collegiate and parish church of St. Nicholas
 1534 Gross value £25 9s. 2½d. (PSIA Vol.VI, Pt.3, p.401)
 Stipends for Master and Co-brethren = £22 17s. 1½d.
 1546 Yearly value £27 9s. 2d. Mansion house adjoins church
 1548 Formed of 3 chantry priests to sing in the parish church of Denston ... their mansion house adjoins the parish church
 1548 Dissolved
 1898 'The College or Chantry of Denston' by William Cooke

12. Nonconformity etc:

1611 5 persons negligent in receiving Communion at Easter
 1676 2 nonconformists
 1836-1841 2 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 2 carucates (as outlier of lands in Badmondifield – Wickhambrook) held by Earl Algar
 1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to Gerald the Marshal

Denston Hall

1066	Manor of 2 carucates 10 acres held by a free man
1086	Manor of 2 carucates 10 acres belonging to Richard, son of Count Gilbert
13/14 th cent.	Thomas de Grey held of the Honor of Clare (linked to Little Cornard, Great Cornard, Cavendish, Milden and Stansfield)
1479	John Broughton (linked to Rattlesden)
c.1558	Henry Cheyne owns
1564	William Burd owns
Early 17 th cent.	Manor forfeit to Crown in payment of debt
1617	Leased to William Robinson
1896	John Dunn Gardner owns
1909	Algernon Dunn–Gardner owns

Sub-manors:

Beaumont's

1549	Lands of College or Chantry of regular canons Sir Thomas and John Smith obtained grant of College and manor
1567	William Burd owns (absorbed by main manor))

Stonehall/Shepcote

15/16 th cent.	Sir Robert Broughton held Honor of Clare (annexed to main manor)
1553	Thomas and George Goldingby own
1591	William Burd owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£1,450 rental value
1891	£1,393 rateable value
1912	£1,191 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Misses Walpole, sole owners
1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Algernon C.W. Dunn–Gardner, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680	2 gents
1844	Samuel Yate Benyon

1912 A.C.W. Dunn–Gardner

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman
1550–1599 2 yeomen, 1 labourer, 1 husbandman, 1 wheelwright
1600–1649 12 yeomen, 1 labourer, 1 tailor, 1 miller, 2 blacksmiths, 1 soldier
1650–1699 5 yeomen, 1 labourer, 2 tailors
1831 68 in agriculture, 6 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 14 in domestic service
1844 Shopkeeper, victualler, butcher, schoolmistress, cooper, vet, shopkeeper, 6 farmers
1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmistress, registrar of marriages, deputy registrar, 4 shopkeepers, gardener, 3 publicans, harness maker, 3 farmers, bricklayer, road surveyor, vet

19. Education:

1818 1 day school (40 attend), 1 Sunday school on Madras system (70 attend, 13 clothed)
1833 1 day and Sunday school (20 girls attend)
1844 Small free school supported by Misses Walpole
1891 National school for 50 children listed
1912 Public Elementary school, enlarged 1894, average attendance 1912 40

20. Poor relief:

1776 £106 8s. 11d.
1803 £259 11s. 5d.
1818 £653 17s.
1830 £570 17s.
1832 £505 11s.
1834 £409 19s.

21. Charities:

Doles:

1840 Anthony Sparrow Charity 13s. 4d. p.a.
Rent charge from property of late Gen. Robinson: 13s. 4d. p.a. Distributed among poor with communion at Easter

22. Other institutions:

1549/50 In particulars of grants a house called 'le Guildehall' is mentioned
1776 Workhouse recorded (10 inmates)

23. Recreation:

1844	The Plumbers Arms public house
1883	Crown Inn in existence
1891	The Plumbers Arms commercial hotel and posting house The Bell Inn and The Crown Inn
1912	The Plumbers Arms commercial hotel and posting house The Bell Inn and The Crown Inn

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Denston Hall: part long brick building 15th cent., part double cross-winged building 18th cent. Double moated. Original house had tall gatehouse. Stands in park of 82 acres (unoccupied in 1891).

War memorial c.1929.

Records of Accounts of Town House and poor relief 1792–1795 among parish records.

'Notes on Denston Parish Records', by I.J.R. Fleming. Suffolk Review Vol.1 p.187, Vol.2, p.17.

Denston Hall (with drawing of Hall, c.1676), PSIA Vol.VI, p.434.

'Accounts of Towne (1665) PSIA Vol.VI p.425

'Collegiate church of Denston', by Rev. F. Haslewood. PSIA Vol.VI p.401.

'Davys notes on Denston', PSIA Vol.VI, p.437.