

## 1. Parish: Depden

**Meaning:** Deep valley

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

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

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

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Thingoe RD (1894–1935), Clare RD (1935–1974),  
St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

### Other administrative details:

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

3. **Area:** 1,596 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:** Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay  
soils, slight risk water erosion

### 5. Types of farming:

1086 18 acres meadow, 3 cobs, 37 cattle, 128 pigs,  
232 sheep, 10 goats, 16 beehives

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, oats, sugar beet, beans, turnips and green crops.

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

### 6. Enclosure:

### 7. Settlement:

1959 Disused airfield occupies considerable area of eastern sector of parish  
and possibly influenced development in this area.  
Well scattered development with no actual centre of grouping of  
houses. Church completely isolated to south of Depden Green which  
could be described as a focal point for settlement. This is large with  
accommodation scattered round it. Hall is also isolated to SW of Green.  
Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 18, 1801 – 32, 1851 – 58, 1871 – 61,  
1901 – 50, 1951 – 55, 1981 – 63

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** To Wickhambrook, Chedburgh and Hargrave.  
Parish is criss-crossed by multitude of tracks.  
1844/1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday  
and Saturdays

**Rail:** 1891 5 miles Saxham station: Newmarket–Bury St Edmunds  
line. Opened 1854, closed for goods 1964, closed for  
passengers 1967.

**Air:** 1942 Chedburgh airfield: opened 1942, closed 1946, site sold  
1952. Hangars used for light industry. Airfield used by  
crop sprayers in summer.

**9. Population:**

1086 – Domesday vill of Clopton 65 recorded  
1327 – 27 taxpayers paid £2 17s. 1d. (includes Chedburgh)  
1524 – 29 taxpayers paid £1 1s. 6d.  
1603 – 200 adults  
1674 – 28 households  
1676 – 84 adults  
1801 – 240 inhabitants  
1831 – 329 inhabitants  
1851 – 279 inhabitants  
1871 – 267 inhabitants  
1901 – 192 inhabitants  
1931 – 180 inhabitants  
1951 – 173 inhabitants  
1971 – 170 inhabitants  
1981 – 178 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £9 6s. 8d.  
Portion of Prior of Castleacre (separate tithes) £2 13s. 4d  
£12 0s. 0d.

1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d  
1535 Valued £10 11s. 5½d.  
1831 1 curate, stipend £51 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.  
Gross Income £400 p.a.  
Modus of £455 p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes + 23 acres glebe 1842  
Rectory house built 1846/7  
Valued £380 1873  
20 acres glebe. Rent charge of £462 10s. 0d. 1887

1912 Nett value £250 p.a. + 18 acres of glebe and residence

**Patrons:** John Jermyn (1603)  
Crown (1831)

Lord Chancellor (1873)

**11. Church**

**St Mary**

(Chancel, nave, S. vestry, N porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 24 acres of free land  
12<sup>th</sup> cent. S. door (now in vestry)  
13<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel and nave  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Tower  
1843/1880 Restorations  
Severely damaged by fire 1984. Restored 1985

**Seats:** 30 appropriated, 270 free (1873)

Note: Depden church is isolated from the village by 1 mile of mud tracks across the fields

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1644 Rev. Thomas Tyllot elected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers  
1833 1 house set aside for worship

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 3 carucates held by Toki, a thane  
1086 Manor of 3 carucates belonging to William of Arenne and held by Hugh of Wanchy  
1528 Anthony Gournay / Gurney owns  
early 17<sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Coell owns (linked to Ampton and Haverhill)  
Late 17<sup>th</sup> cent. Hutchison Mure owns  
c.1835 Alexander Adair / Sir Robert S. Adair owns  
Pre 1885 Marquis of Bristol owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £1,824 rental value  
1891 £1,569 rateable value  
1912 £1,171 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 Land sub-divided  
1912 Marquis of Bristol, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1679 Sir J. Coel  
1912 Rev. A. Hamilton MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1599	1 yeoman, 1 husbandmen, 1 ploughwright, 1 wheelwright
1600–1649	3 husbandmen, 4 yeoman, 1 clerk, 2 tailors, 1 wheelwright
1650–1699	3 yeoman, 1 clerk, 1 cooper, 1 miller, 1 clothier
1831	54 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 8 in labouring, 7 in domestic service, 4 others
1844	Beerhouse keeper, 2 shopkeepers, blacksmith, wheelwright, 8 farmers, miller
1912	Sub-postmaster, 8 farmers, blacksmith, asst. overseer, shopkeeper, joiner/wheelwright

**19. Education:**

1833	1 Sunday School established 1828 (26 attend)
1891/1912	Children attend school in Chedburgh

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£125 6s. 9d.
1803	£176 19s. 10d.
1818	£422 15s. 0d.
1830	£483 2s. 0d.
1832	£347 0s. 0d.
1834	£304 1s. 0d.

**21. Charities:**

**Sparrow's Dole**

1733	by gift of Dr. Macro: 1 cottage and $\frac{3}{4}$ acres land, let at £10 p.a.
1840	£2 p.a. from mill (Anthony Sparrow Charity). Rents distributed among poor.

**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

1844	Beerhouse keeper listed
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**24. Personal:**

Dr. Anthony Sparrow:	Bishop of Exeter 1667–1676, Bishop of Norwich 1676–1685 Native of parish.
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**25. Other information:**

'Depden church and village' by H.J. Woollard 1979.

Parish retains large green (41 acres) 1982.

Plague legend sites original village around church (unsubstantiated).

Dispute with Lord of Manor over access to church 1985.