

1. Parish: Shimpling (known ecclesiastically as Shimplingthorne)

Meaning: The people of Scimpel

2. Hundred: Babergh

Deanery: Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Western) (1884–1914), Lavenham (1914–)

Union: Sudbury

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

Other administrative details:

Melford Petty Sessional Division
Sudbury County Court District

3. Area: 2,697 acres land, 5 acres water (1912)

4. Soils: Some slowly permeable calcareous/ non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| 1086 | | Wood for 108 pigs, 6 horses, 11 cattle, 57 pigs, 200 sheep, 24 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: | Not recorded |
| 1969 | Trist: | More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet, better loams attract orchard and fruit growers |

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement: Small compact development at Shimpling Street. Two secondary centres around the church and at Thorn Corner (which forms the junction onto the main Bury St. Edmunds–Sudbury Road). Chad brook runs diagonally across parish NW – SE. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 44, 1801 – 66, 1851 – 103, 1871 – 121,
1901 – 101, 1951 – 91, 1981 – 133

8. Communications:

Road: Main Bury St Edmunds–Sudbury road. Roads to Lawshall and Hartest
1891 Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
to Sudbury on Thursday and Saturday
1912 Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
to Sudbury on Thursday

Rail: 1891 Cockfield station: opened as goods siding 1865, Bury St Edmunds to Long Melford line, opened for passengers 1870, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965

1912 3 miles Lavenham station: Bury St Edmunds–Long Melford line opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965

9. Population:

1086 – 59 recorded
1327 – 20 taxpayers paid £2 7s. 1½d.
1524 – 33 taxpayers paid £3 13s. 0d.
1603 – 160 adults
1674 – 65 households
1676 – 200 adults
1801 – 441 inhabitants
1831 – 496 inhabitants
1851 – 470 inhabitants
1871 – 584 inhabitants
1901 – 410 inhabitants
1931 – 321 inhabitants
1951 – 345 inhabitants
1971 – 298 inhabitants
1981 – 401 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Portion of parson £13 6s. 8d.
Portion of Prior of Dunmow £1 6s. 8d.
Portion of Abbot of Albamarl (Aumerie, Normandy) £1
£15 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £17 6s. 8d.
Portions as above £2 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £16 7s. 1d.
1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £226 p.a.

1912 Modus of £600 p.a. 1837
 Nett value £500. 84 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Incumbent (1831), Mrs. Lawson (1912)

11. Church St. George
(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 60 acres free land
 Church + 30 acres land
14th cent. Main structure, remainder 15/16th cent.
1868 Restoration

Seats: 90 appropriated, 192 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc.:

1676 5 nonconformists
1716–1839 2 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

Shimpling Manor:

1066 Manor of 6½ carucates held by Aethelgyth, a free man
 under King Edward
1086 Manor of 6½ carucates belonging to Ralph Baynard
1303 Robert Fitzwalter had right of gallows
1601 John Snelling owns
1764 Plampin family owns
1823 Halifax family owns
1893 Paine family owns

Sub-Manors:

Chadacre/Chadacre Hall, Giffords and Boxsteads

1066 Manor of 5 carucates held by Wulfric, a thane of King
 Edward
1086 Manor of 5 carucates belonging to Countess of Aumale
1096 Stephen, Earl of Albemarle holds
1301 William de la Lee owns
1475 Sir William Stanley owns
1485 Sir Roger Darcy owns
1764 Robert Plampin owns (absorbed by main manor)

Rowheads al Rowshedges

1486 Thomas Spring owns (linked to Lt. Waldingfield,
 Cockfield, Preston, Polstead, Mildenhall and Long Melford)
1575 Sir William Cordell owns (linked to Long Melford)

14. Market/Fairs:

15. Real property:

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1844 | £3,050 rental value |
| 1891 | £2,377 rateable value |
| 1912 | £1,822 rateable value |

16. Land ownership:

| | |
|------|--|
| 1844 | Majority of land owned by Chadacre Hall although 440 acres owned by the Crown, remainder sub-divided |
| 1891 | J.G.W. Poley (Chadacre Hall), Crown (570 acres), remainder sub-divided |
| 1912 | Land sub-divided |

17. Resident gentry:

| | |
|------|---|
| 1680 | 1 gent recorded Thomas Halifax, High Sheriff of Suffolk 1838 |
| 1844 | T. Halifax |

18. Occupations:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1550–1599 | 4 yeomen, 1 ploughwright, 7 husbandmen, 1 labourer |
| 1600–1649 | 13 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 wheelwright, 1 carpenter, 1 thatcher, 1 blacksmith, 1 dauber (whitewasher, plasterer, one who builds with daub) |
| 1650–1699 | 14 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 3 spinsters, 1 carpenter, 1 blacksmith, 1 butcher |
| 1831 | 90 in agriculture, 15 in retail trade, 1 professional, 3 in labouring, 15 in domestic service, 17 others |
| 1844 | 12 farmers, 2 corn millers, shopkeepers, blacksmith, shoemaker, chief constable, publican, maltster |
| 1912 | Sub-postmistress, teachers, 13 farmers, 2 shopkeepers, miller, butcher, 3 publicans, blacksmith, baker, grocer, brewer, builder, 3 thatchers, head gardener |

19. Education:

Day school built 1841, endowed by Thomas Halifax, enlarged 1871, average attendance 1912 82

20. Poor relief:

| | |
|------|---------------|
| 1776 | £147 5s. 9d. |
| 1803 | £554 16s. 7d. |
| 1818 | £1002 14s. |
| 1830 | £787 13s. |
| 1832 | £903 3s. |

1834 £590 8s.

21. Charities:

Corder's Charity:

1840 40s p.a. distributed among poor

22. Other institutions:

Guild of Holy Trinity 1524
1803 Friendly Society (15 members)
Chadacre Agricultural Institute 1918

23. Recreation:

1844 Maltster, The Bush public house
1891 1 beerhouse/retailer, The Bush Inn public house
1900 Voluntary school choir won the Henniker Choral Competition at
Stowmarket 1900. (Picture in parish folder). Also won Clare
Festival Cup 1948
Chadacre Agricultural Institute football team c.1926

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Parish said to contain 90 acres wood 1844.

Shimpling Hall: said to date from 1475.

Chadacre Estate: Lord Iveagh endowed this estate as agricultural Institute for training in the scientific and essential points of farming 1918, opened to first students 1921.

Foundation stone for new chapel laid by Earl of Iveagh 1966.

'Chadacre's Golden Jubilee 1921–1971', by N. Duval. East Anglian Magazine Vol.31 p.118.

'The Chadacre Agricultural Institute'. East Anglian Life, Dec.1965.

Fainting House: stands in churchyard for the use of swooning ladies who found long and powerful sermons too much. Equipped with fire for comfort (no dates).