

# 1. Parish: Aldringham cum Thorpe

**Meaning:** The enclosure of Aldhere's people

2. **Hundred:** Blything

**Deanery:** Dunwich (–1868), Dunwich (South) (1868–1914),  
Saxmundham (1914–)

**Union:** Blything

**RDC/UDC:** Blything RD (1894–1934), Blyth RD (1934–1974), Suffolk  
Coastal DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Blything Petty Sessional Division  
Framlingham and Saxmundham County Court District

3. **Area:**

1,692 acres of land, 33 acres of water and 18 acres of foreshore (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially heath or woodland.  
Risk of wind erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Light lands, sheep/corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Universal feature - turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
1937	Main crops:	wheat, barley, beans, peas, roots
1969	Trist:	Main crops are barley and sugar beet but on better sands rotation of wheat, barley, sugar beet or kale is practiced. Also cattle farming

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1976 Compact coastal development at Thorpeness. River Hundred marks southern boundary. Some scattered farms and cottages.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 17, 1801 – 33, 1851 – 100, 1871 – 114,  
1901 – 130, 1951 – 278, 1981 – 315

**8. Communications:**

Road: To Leiston, Aldeburgh and Knodishall

Rail: 1 mile Leiston station. Aldeburgh–Saxmundham line (no dates), 20<sup>th</sup> cent. Halt at Thorpeness

**9. Population:**

1086 – 19 recorded  
1327 – Not listed  
1524 – 37 taxpayers paid £1 16s. 9d.  
1603 – 153 adults  
1674 – 27 households  
1676 – Not recorded  
1801 – 221 inhabitants  
1831 – 362 inhabitants  
1851 – 467 inhabitants  
1871 – 485 inhabitants  
1901 – 573 inhabitants  
1931 – 855 inhabitants  
1951 – 805 inhabitants  
1971 – 798 inhabitants  
1981 – 776 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy**

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £8 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £10. No minister  
1831 1 curate. Stipend £42 p.a. No glebe house. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Heveningham with Linstead Magna.  
1844 Valued £59. Modus of £205 in lieu of tithes  
1887 14 acres glebe in parish of St. Nicholas South Elmham  
1891 Valued £84 p.a. + residence

Patrons: E. Harvey (1650), Lord Huntingfield (1831), Church Patronage Trustees (1918)

**11. Church St. Andrew**  
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, vestry, W. bell-cot)

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Side walls and E. end  
1842 Mostly rebuilt

Seats: 150

Chapel: St. Mary  
Disused after Reformation – cleared away 1897

Thorpe: St. Mary  
In use 1477  
Chapelry of Snape Priory disputed dates of demolition  
(earliest being 1500). Ruins dismantled 1820, site  
ploughed

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1812 Baptist chapel built, seats 400. Burial ground attached

**13. Manorial:**

**Aldringham**

1180 Ranulph de Glanville, Lord Chief Justice owns  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Passes by marriage and inheritance to Earls of Suffolk  
and the Ufford family (links with several manors in  
Suffolk)  
1618 Links wit Aldringham (George Villiers)  
1792 Links with Heveningham Hall (Sir Joshua Vanneck)  
1818 588 acres 2R 19P (507 acres 1R 29P was enclosed land,  
81 acres heath)

**Thorpe**

1086 Manor of 20 acres belonging to Roger Bigot  
Manor of 50 acres belonging to Roger Bigot, held by  
Wulfmer  
12<sup>th</sup> cent. Granted to priory of Virgin Mary and St. Andrew, Thetford  
No date Vested in Abbot of Leiston  
1536 Links with numerous manors throughout Suffolk (Charles  
Brandon)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

1318/19 Hamo de Masey obtained charter for market and fair.  
Market obsolete 1844. Fairs held on October 11<sup>th</sup>  
(obsolete by 1891) and December 11<sup>th</sup> on Goldfair Green

**15. Real property:**

1844 £692 rental value  
1891 Not listed  
1912 £2,120 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Land sub-divided  
1891 Mrs. Margaret Ogilvie principle owner  
1912 G. Stuart Ogilvie principle owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1680 1 gent enlisted  
1844 F. Hayle Esq.

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 husbandmen  
1550–1599 1 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 1 carpenter, 1 mariner  
1600–1649 4 fishermen, 6 yeomen, 1 musician, 1 weaver, 1 husbandmen, 2 millers, 1 twill weaver, 1 clerk, 1 cordwainer  
1650–1699 1 linen weaver, 2 yeomen  
1831 64 in agriculture, 13 in retail/handicrafts, 2 labouring, 6 in domestic service, 3 others  
1844 4 farmers, fishermen, 2 shopkeepers, miller, 2 victuallers, blacksmith  
1912 sub-postmaster and mistress, coastguard station (5 men), teachers, 3 head gardeners, blacksmith, 5 farmers, carpenter, under steward, miller, private secretary, farm bailiff, bricklayer, saddler/harness maker, publican, artist, tailor, 2 shopkeepers, beer retailer

**19. Education:**

1818 No school. Parish described as very poor and distressed  
1833 1 daily school established 1832 (8 girls attend), 1 Anabaptist Sunday school (80 attend)  
1850 National school built, enlarged 1876 (180 attend)  
1875 Public Elementary school built, enlarged 1894 average attendance 130

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £21 7s.  
1803 £45 0s. 7½d.  
1818 £127 4s.  
1830 £136 15s.  
1832 £107 2s.  
1834 £112 1s.

**21. Charities:**

1898–90 34 almshouses endowed by the late Mrs. Ogilvie

**22. Other institutions:**

1891 Small convalescent hospital in Thorpe hamlet, established 1871

	Small children's convalescent home for 40 children, established c.1873
1898–90	34 almshouses
1912	Coastguard station (compliments 5 men)
1899	Gannon Memorial Mission Room built (licensed for worship seating 100) in Thorpe
1912	Reading room in Thorpe
1926	Almshouse built

**23. Recreation:**

1844	The Parrot and Punchbowl and The Cross Keys public houses
1891	1 beerhouse
1912	1 beer retailer, 2 public houses as above, Working Men's club 1925

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Ecclesiastical boundary change 1958.

Post mill moved to pump water into tank situated at the top of structure known as 'The House in the Clouds' 1923. Acts as heritage centre 1979.

Thorpeness Limited – a company headed by G.S. Ogilvie which turned Thorpeness into a holiday village around the Mere and the man-made Lake 1911–1957.

Aldringham craft market opened 1958.

'Concerning Thorpeness' by Suffolk Preservation society 1979.