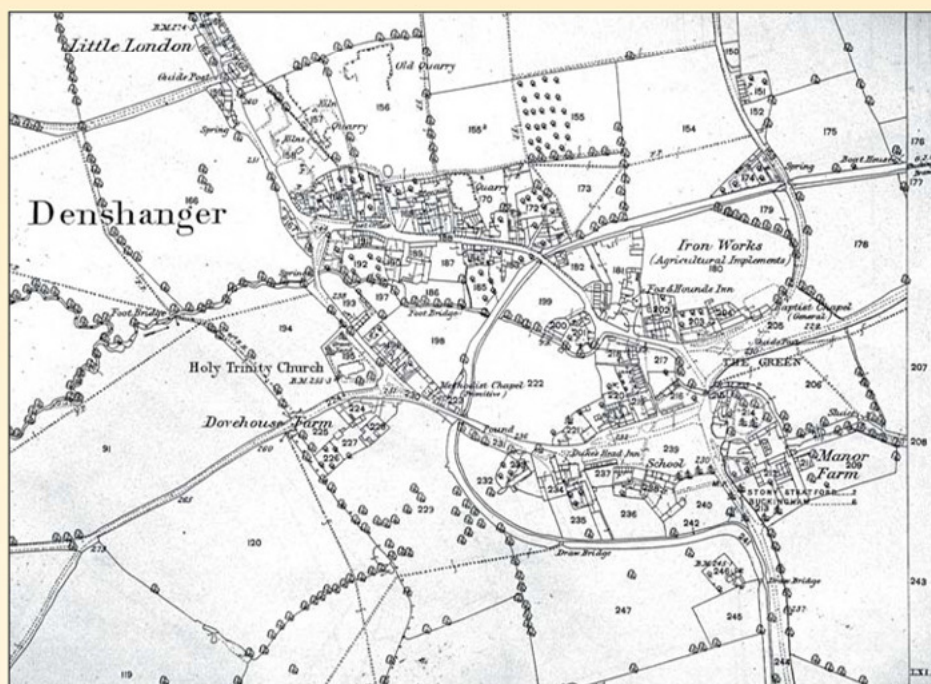


Historic Towns & Villages

Deanshanger

A canal-side village



Ordnance Survey Map of Deanshanger 1860s, showing the canal route through village



Lift bridge circa 1910



Wharf House, Canwin's Wharf, showing the hump-backed bridge which was demolished in 1972

Deanshanger has survived many changes over the last two millennia. The old English village name Denshanger combines a personal name Dynne with hangra meaning sloping wood. It's been a predominantly agricultural area, but one gradually influenced by the Industrial Revolution which resulted in a dramatic growth of the village.

The 'Buckingham Arm' of the Grand Union Canal opened in May 1801 stretching from Cosgrove to Buckingham Mill with only one lock along its entire length; it ran right through the middle of Deanshanger.

The transport benefits of the canal encouraged the growth of industries such as brick and coal yards. There were three wharves in Deanshanger mainly dealing with coal, but the most influential industry to be developed was the E & H Roberts iron foundry, which has now become the heart of the village's heritage.

Officially closed in 1964, the canal through the village was filled in. One-by-one the hump-backed bridges over the water were flattened and the wooden lift bridges slowly demolished. By the mid 1970s no trace of the canal existed, except the watercress beds developed as a feed from the canal and a few wharf side houses, some of which can still be discerned today.

www.mkheritage.co.uk/dvhs

