

BISHOPS HULL

Before the mid 19th century the ancient parish of Bishops Hull was not only a rural parish west of Taunton including the village of Bishops Hull, the large hamlet of Rumwell, the smaller hamlets of Fideoak, with Upcott and Barr, and Roughmoor and a few isolated farms and mills along the river but also the area of west Taunton roughly bounded by the Tone as far east as and including the Town Mills, the castle precinct, the road to Wilton with an extension along the west side of Cann Street as far as Shuttern and the Sherford stream on the south west. Only on the north-west did this urban enclave adjoin the rest of the parish. That area probably formed part of the original settlement of Taunton comprising the minster, cemeteries and possibly a royal hall. It was presumably transferred to Bishops Hull about the time of the construction of the castle in the 11th century possibly to keep the castle outside the borough although Wilton was closer.¹ Taunton Castle and its outer precinct, now called Castle Green, the areas later known as Tangier and Stepswater, and St Paul's medieval chapel and its surroundings were all in Bishops Hull parish. By the post-medieval period if not before that caused difficulties. In 1757 for example concern was expressed that troops had been billeted in bad houses in distant parts of the parish as well as in the Taunton area as intended.² Although not formally constituted as a separate parish until 1885 it was rated separately by the 1840s when it was known as the Town Division as opposed to the main part of the parish called the Country Division.³

The town area until the 1880s was bounded by the river Tone on the north, Mill Lane and the outer ditch or moat of the castle on the east and south-east. West from the south-west 'corner' of the moat the boundary followed a watercourse to Hunts Court, now Bath Place, which with the lane now Park Street formed the rest of the southern boundary. There was

¹ Taunton, landownership; C. Webster, *Taunton Castle* (2016), 69. This article was completed in 2017.

² SHC, DD/TB/18/9.

³ Ibid. tithe award; D/P/b.hl/4/1/3.

then a panhandle of land now the west side of Cann Street. The early modern name of yoking place for part of the land may indicate that it was an extension of the medieval Paul's barton. The western boundary consisted of a stream, usually called the Gaol Stream, and the Millstream, often confusingly also called the River Tone,⁴ as far north as French Weir Meadow between the stream and the river. The meadow was divided by 1842 between Bishops Hull and Taunton St James and until 1829 or later the parish officers made a formal perambulation of the boundary giving notice to St James parish.⁵ By 1885 when Bishops Hull was formally divided there had been much more development westwards and so the boundary of the new Within parish was extended westwards to Long Run lane following the lane until it bends west and then taking a straight line to the river. South of Wellington Road all the Bishops Hull parish land was included with part of Wilton as far west as the junction with Bishops Hull Road. The boundary followed the Galmington stream on the south and east then ran across fields to the road junction on the west.⁶ A plan to extend the parish further west to include the whole of Wellington Road and Long Run farm in 1895 was not carried out and the original western boundary of the Within parish now forms the boundary between Taunton and Bishops Hull.⁷

The present parish of Bishops Hull is visually divided between the urban east and the still rural west. The old village although physically absorbed into the Taunton area maintains its rural character and community independence. It benefits by being bypassed by through traffic and lying on a small hill above the floodplain of the Tone. It retains some of the houses built by wealthy tenants of the great manor of Taunton Deane to which the parish except Fideoak and Oldbury belonged, especially the Elizabethan Great House now part of the Manor Nursing Home. Two of the other great houses of the parish are also nursing

⁴ e.g. SHC, DD/CH/22/1.

⁵ SHC, tithe award; D/P/tau.ja/13/7/2.

⁶ OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

⁷ SHC, D/P/b.hl/2/21.

homes. The mills, formerly an important part of the economy, have been demolished or converted to residential use and the brickyards, which were a significant feature from the mid 19th to mid 20th centuries have been replaced by an industrial estate. It was always a populous parish and even after the loss of the town area the population continued to grow reaching over 3,000 by the end of the 20th century.

LANDSCAPE, SETTLEMENT AND BUILDINGS

The ancient parish⁸ lay immediately west of Taunton on the river Tone bordered by the parishes of Wilton and Trull to the south, Bradford on Tone to the west, Norton Fitzwarren to the north and Staplegrave, Taunton St James and Taunton St Mary to the east.⁹ There were fields within the parish belonging to both Bradford and Wilton parishes, parts of Galmington in Wilton were detached areas of Bishops Hull and the parish had a large field called Priestwood and Shears to the north west between Bradford and Hillfarrance parishes bounded by watercourses linked to the river Tone. The reasons for these are unknown. The parishes all lay in different manorial hundreds of Taunton Deane so would seem unlikely to have shared fields.

Rumwell is almost detached in the south-west surrounded by Bradford and Trull parishes and separated from the rest of the parish by Stone Gallows Hill. The Taunton area of the parish was only joined to the rest of the parish by fields either side of the Taunton millstream. Bishops Hull church is about 1 ½ miles west of St Mary's church in the centre of Taunton as the crow flies. The main area of the parish was about a mile from north to south and 2 ½ miles from east to west, with Rumwell extending a further half-mile west in the south. The parish was assessed at 1,350 a. (546 ha.) in 1841.¹⁰ Although it lost the Taunton area in 1885 when Bishops Hull was divided, detached fields and the hamlet of Galmington

⁸ Ecclesiastically it originated as a chapelry of Taunton St Mary: below, rel. hist.

⁹ Below, local govt.

¹⁰ SHC, tithe award.

from Wilton were added to the remaining area to form the parish of Bishops Hull Without which had 1, 423 a. (576 ha.) in 1901.¹¹ Very minor changes were made to the southern boundary in creating the new parish of Comeytrowe in 1986.¹²

LANDSCAPE

The parish was bounded on the west and north of Rumwell by the present and probably a former course of the Fideoak stream, known as 'Hrumwyll' in 1033,¹³ on the north as far as east as the Staplegrove road by a possible former course of the river north of the present one, on the north-east by the river Tone and on the south-east by the Galmington stream. A small section of the southern boundary follows the old 'Roman road' or harepath. The rest of the boundaries are totally irregular and that with Bradford was marked in places with stones.¹⁴

Most of the parish lies on Keuper Marl rising from c. 20 m. (65 ft) along the river to 35—40 m. (115—30 ft) on the hill on which village stands and from which it takes its name and 68 m. (223 ft) at the hill now known as Stonegallows Hill east of Rumwell. The low lands along the river including the Castle area of Taunton are on alluvium with some river terrace deposits in the east around Roughmoor and Long Run farms.¹⁵ Huda's Combe of 1033, possibly the later Hutcombe, may refer to the land falling away west and north-west from Stonegallows Hill.¹⁶

The river Tone runs through or bounds the parish but there appears to have been a second course, known as the Old Tone in 1033 and old river in 1611. It may have been the boundary between Bishops Hull and Norton Fitzwarren, part of which still holds water.¹⁷ It was said that planting willows in the 17th century altered the course of the river and in recent

¹¹ Ibid. D/R/ta/34/12/1; Youngs, *Local Admin Units*, I, 428; *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1906).

¹² *The Taunton Deane (Parishes) Order 1986* (SI 1986/113).

¹³ Grundy, *Saxon Charters of Som.* 50.

¹⁴ SHC, tithe award; SWHT, Somerset HER, 43866—8, 43873,

¹⁵ Geol. Surv. Map, 1:50000 sheet 295 solid and drift (1984 edn); sheet 311 drift (1976 edn).

¹⁶ Grundy, *Saxon Charters of Som.* 50.

¹⁷ Ibid. 50; SHC, DD/SP/18/3; tithe award.

years the river has had to be prevented from cutting a new route.¹⁸ The digging of several mill leats also altered the river's course and the cutting of the canal virtually destroyed the old pattern of watercourses and streams running into the river from the north. The Halse Water and the Norton Brook originally ran into the Tone west and east of Longaller mills respectively but before 1822 both had been diverted away from the parish to join the Back Brook or Stream, which joins the Tone below the site of the former Bishops Hull Mills. The remnants of the old courses were crossed by the canal near the Norton lift and the old Halsewater survives as a field drain.¹⁹ The location of Strete Water recorded between 1462 and 1545²⁰ is unknown but Spirings Pool, recorded in 1623, was near the road to Staplegrove.²¹ The Pool with a cottage at Rumwell were recorded in 1647.²²

On the south several important tributaries survive at least in part. The Fideoak stream, Fiduc in the 9th century,²³ gave its name to fields beside it at Rumwell and possibly to the manor.²⁴ The Shutewater, which gave its name to Shutewater Hill and several fields, runs from Stone to the river. A 13th-century man was surnamed 'de aqua de la Schete'.²⁵ Its lower course is artificial, probably in connection with the building of Frethey mill as it was recorded in the early 17th century as 'but a ditch' and as 'shuttwaters'.²⁶ East of the village the watercourses have been greatly altered. Madbrook appears to be the medieval name for the Galmington stream marking part of boundary with Wilton parish, where meadow was called Madbrook until 1928 or later.²⁷ Stepswater is an artificial watercourse running into the Taunton Millstream at Tangier but the name, recorded by 1763, was also given to the

¹⁸ SHC, DD/SP/23.

¹⁹ J.B. Harley and R.W. Dunning, *Somerset Maps* (Som. Rec. Soc 76), maps 1782, 1822; SHC, SANHS Tite Colln, map 1794; tithe award.

²⁰ SHC, T/PH/win 1462—3, 1500—1, 1544—5.

²¹ *Ibid.* DD/SP/10. Isobel Spiring held overland in the area in 1566: *ibid.* 71.

²² SHC, DD/SAS/C795/TN/16, 124.

²³ A.G.C. Turner 'Notes on some Somerset Place-Names', *PSANHS* XCV, (1950), 116.

²⁴ SHC, tithe award; below, this section.

²⁵ T.J. Hunt, *The Medieval Customs of Taunton Manor* (Som. Rec. Soc. 66), 65.

²⁶ SHC, DD/SP/23/81; 91; 95. Shuts were mill sluices or hatches.

²⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—9; tithe award; DD/CWCta/84.

Galmington Stream. Like the small water-filled ditches that flowed into the river to the north and west the Stepswater may have been dug to assist drainage and alleviate flooding or to water meadows.²⁸

The Galmington stream from Galmington and the Wilton brook²⁹ or Gaol stream from Wilton presumably both flowed separately into the river but at some date the former was diverted through a straight channel into the latter possibly when the Millstream was cut and a very large fish pond between the two in the early 19th century may be a vestige of an earlier course of the Gaol stream.³⁰ The construction of the Millstream may have formed part of the rebuilding of the mills below the castle in the 13th century. It flowed from the river at French Weir to drive the mills before dividing and joining the river in two channels by the town bridge. It was also fed by the Sherford stream through an artificial channel also called the Mill Stream from Pool Wall mills in Taunton via the castle moats and sluices. It was probably the Town Shutt recorded in 1719.³¹ The channel or rhyne through the south outer moat remained open in the early 19th century but between 1831 and 1840 was diverted through the western outer moat and was partly open until the mid 20th century.³² In the 1960s the eastern channel of the Millstream, which also marked the parish boundary, was filled in but the other remains open and now supports wildlife in the town centre including egrets.³³

Flooding was a regular occurrence³⁴ and may have destroyed early medieval settlement near the castle.³⁵ A flood c. 1293 caused the Millstream to break its banks³⁶ and in 1326 over 2,500 men were employed to clear the ditches and build new sluices after a severe

²⁸ Ibid. DD/DP/26/10; DD/SAS/C212/MAP 148; tithe award.

²⁹ Ibid. Q/Rup/142.

³⁰ Ibid. DD/DP/66/2; DD/SAS/C212/MAP 148; DD/SAS/C2550/12; Q/AC/4 (1847).

³¹ Ibid. DD/SP/191/56.

³² Ibid. A/AQR 1; DD/DP/66/2; DD/SAS/C212/MAP 148; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.11 (1890, 1914, 1929); below, econ. hist., mills.

³³ SHC, tithe award.

³⁴ Ibid. T/PH/win 1299—1300, 1350—1.

³⁵ Som. HER 44466.

³⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1292—3.

flood.³⁷ Much flooding was caused or exacerbated by the number of mills and the rivalry of millers refusing to open their hatches or failing to maintain sluices such as that which broke c. 1453.³⁸ There were severe floods in the late 16th and early 17th centuries possibly aggravated by the number of mills.³⁹ In the 18th century it was said that a manor water bailiff had previously opened sluices to prevent flooding.⁴⁰ In 1739 flooding prevented the minister and a wedding party getting from Taunton to the church.⁴¹ Flooding in the 19th and 20th centuries particularly affected Tangier's school and houses notably in 1841 and 1950 and in 1887 it was suggested that the old canal be used to take floodwater to protect Tangier.⁴² The great Taunton flood of 1960 was said to have been caused by the river bursting its banks at Roughmoor.⁴³ A planned industrial estate between Longrun Lane and Stepswater was refused permission in 1961 because of flooding.⁴⁴

The Roughmoor and Long Run areas have always been vulnerable, often being seen as places to impound water that would otherwise inundate built-up areas, and were severely affected in 2013 despite recent alleviation schemes. As part of the development of car parks in the later 20th century the Galmington stream has been diverted into a new channel directly into the Millstream. Much of the rural flood plain is now public open space including the community woodlands west of the Silk Mills Road and Longrun Meadow to the east planted up in 2008 with structures such as the willow cathedral, a living work of art, and a labyrinth. In the urban area land between the Tone and the Millstream was gradually cleared of its industrial buildings and nursery from the late 1950s to early 1970s to create Tone Lands now

³⁷ Ibid. T/PH/win 1325—7.

³⁸ Ibid. T/PH/win 1453—4, DD/SP/4, 18/23, 23/82—4.

³⁹ Ibid. DD/SP/4; 18/1, 2.3

⁴⁰ Ibid. DD/MK/50.

⁴¹ Ibid. D/P/b.hl/2/1/5.

⁴² Ibid. DD/CH/68/7; DD/X/WEA 1; *Taunton Courier*, 1 Dec. 1841, 2 Sep 1950: BNA accessed 8 Aug 2017; B. Murless, *St John's CEVA Primary School, Tangier, Taunton 1872—1972*, 3.

⁴³ SHC. DD/X/WEA/1.

⁴⁴ Ibid. D/B/ta/24/1/139/8333.

called Goodland Gardens, a public garden, which with minor alterations remains in use, and car parks.⁴⁵

COMMUNICATIONS

Water

There was a boat at the castle in 1218—19 but this may be the one used on the fishpond.⁴⁶ The river was navigable only as far west as French Weir. There were wharves at Tangier from 1840 mainly supplying coal to the gasworks, other local industries and coal merchants. The rebuilding of Tone Bridge, Taunton and the silting up of the river made navigation of the river difficult and the railways had rendered the wharves redundant by the end of the 19th century.⁴⁷ Paintings of the river in the late 19th and early 20th century show small rowing boats only, probably pleasure boats, above the town bridge. There was a boathouse in the Tone House garden in 1910.⁴⁸ The large coalyard at Tangier continued to be known as Tangier wharf into the early 20th century but the coal appears to have arrived by road.⁴⁹

The Grand Western Canal, like the Great Western Railway, was cut through the rural parish north of the river but neither appears to have benefitted Bishops Hull greatly. Both required land and the canal especially cut through watercourses and left fields isolated although access bridges were provided across the canal. The canal was surveyed in 1794—5 but only in the 1830s did work begin including the provision of a lift opposite Barr.⁵⁰ There is no evidence that local people used the canal although a landing place had been made at Roughmoor c. 1833 with a view to building a wharf⁵¹ and the canal was mentioned in an advertisement for Fideoak mills in 1832 but the nearest known wharf was at the public house

⁴⁵ Ibid. A/DKW/1/39, 43; A/DWX/11, 21; DD/SAS/S1122/2/22, 69; D/B/ta/24/1/151/9213.

⁴⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1218—19, 1220—1.

⁴⁷ SHC, DD/SP210; *Som. Co. Gaz. Dir.* (1840); D. Gledhill, *Taunton Gas 1816—1949* (S.I.A.S. 1989), 31.

⁴⁸ M.H. Jones, *Harry Frier, Somerset's Unknown Painter*, 3—8, 41, 66; TNA, IR 58/82126.

⁴⁹ TNA, IR 58/82126.

⁵⁰ SHC, Q/RDe 8; Q/RDd 37; A/AGS 23; DD/SAS/C112/Map 183; tithe award.

⁵¹ *Dorset County Chronicle*, 11 June 1835; BNA accessed 12 July 2017.

at Allerford in Bradford on Tone.⁵² The canal opened in 1838 but by 1842 the railway, planned in 1835, had arrived.⁵³ A canal branch in Taunton St James parish by-passed French Weir to connect river and canal. Ammoniacal liquor went by this route from the Tangier gasworks to Wellington between 1860 and 1866 when the canal closed.⁵⁴ Land was sold back to local landowners by the railway company and the canal was partly filled in.⁵⁵ Walks by the canal were popular as well as enabling access to Norton Fitzwarren station but in 1982 despite objections the landowners filled in the remaining stretch and the felled the canalside trees.⁵⁶

Rural roads, paths and turnpikes

The parish has a very complex road pattern and many paths. Disputes over rights of way were almost as common as neglect of maintenance in the 17th century.⁵⁷ Before the turnpike era the main route to Wellington from Taunton was not through the village but along the so-called Roman road, the herpate of 1033, past Galmington and then along the boundary then between Wilton and Trull to meet the present road at Stone east of Rumwell.⁵⁸ Furze at Stone was a danger to highway users in 1576.⁵⁹ The road from Stone to Bishops Hull village, the present Stonegallows and Bishops Hull Road, was regarded as a highway and the parish was responsible for it⁶⁰ but that from the village to Taunton was variously described as a highway or a market path and was the piecemeal responsibility of occupiers of roadside land.⁶¹

Bishops Hull Road continued south of Stonegallows as Comeytrowe Lane. The road to

⁵² SWHT, Somerset HER 44134.

⁵³ Below, econ. hist; SWHT, Somerset HER, 44126; SHC, Q/Rup 126; tithe award.

⁵⁴ Gledhill, *Taunton Ga*, 31.

⁵⁵ SHC, DD/CH/117/2.

⁵⁶ Ibid. D/PC/b.hl 1/2/6.

⁵⁷ Ibid. DD/SP/9, 10, 18/80, 23.

⁵⁸ J. Ogilby, *Britannia* (1675); Grundy, *Saxon Charters of Som.* 50. The old road has formed the souther boundary of Bishops Hull since 1885.

⁵⁹ SHC, DD/SP/8.

⁶⁰ Ibid. DD/SP/18/59.

⁶¹ Ibid. DD/SP/20.

Taunton from the village, now known as Bishops Hull Hill and Mountway Road, was apparently known as Mountway almost as far as Stepswater in the 17th century.⁶²

Galmington Lane, which marked the boundary with Wilton, runs south west from Mountway but its northern end is now called Gipsy Lane.⁶³

In 1752 the Taunton Turnpike Trust was established and created a new route avoiding the so-called Roman road. It used the present Wellington Road from Taunton, and turned at Mountway to follow the village streets past the church and then turned south down Bishops Hull Road to Stone where it rejoined the old route.⁶⁴ Oak signposts were provided by the parish in 1779.⁶⁵ In the early 19th century alternative plans were offered to by-pass the village, which was authorised in 1817. The route chosen, surveyed by Josiah Easton in 1814, cut straight westward from Mountway across Galmington lane to the foot of Stonegallows hill but was not completed until 1839.⁶⁶ It was known as New Road later Wellington New Road.⁶⁷ A turnpike gate was installed at Mountway and a cottage added in 1848 but later in the 19th century they were demolished.⁶⁸ Milestones were provided for both old and new routes, but only the three milestone appears to survive.⁶⁹ The awkward bend at Beggars Bush by Three Bridges was cut off in the early 19th century.⁷⁰ In 1847 Park Street was turnpiked avoiding the climb up Compass Hill in Taunton and in the 1930s the dogleg through Stone Green was cut off over a century after it was advised by Easton.⁷¹ Further improvements including the proposed demolition of the Crown at Rumwell and widening the road at the

⁶² SHC, DD/SP/18, 20, 85.

⁶³ SHC, DD/SAS/TN 2/6.

⁶⁴ SHC, DD/DP/C/1062/7; D/P/b.hl/23/8.

⁶⁵ SHC, D/P/b.hl/14/5/1.

⁶⁶ 57 Geo III c. lxxvii; SHC, DD/SAS/TN 2/6; Q/RUP 47; J.B. Bentley and B.J. Murless, *Som. Roads*, I, 53—4.

⁶⁷ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/1.

⁶⁸ SHC, DD/DP/C1062/6; SWHT, Som. HER, 32429.

⁶⁹ SHC, DD/SP/211; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn); SWHT, Som. HER, 43872.

⁷⁰ SHC, D/P/b.hl/23/8.

⁷¹ SHC, Q/RUP 47; D/PC/b.hl 5/3/8.

expense of Rumwell Hall grounds in 1927 were not implemented. In 1950 the road was straightened further west at Three Bridges.⁷²

The road from Bishops Hull village through Roughmoor to Langford Bridge in Staplegrove parish was recorded from 1620 but is probably an ancient route and linked mills in Bishops Hull and Staplegrove parishes.⁷³ It was gravelled in the 17th century when it was regarded as the responsibility of neighbouring occupiers but by 1805 the parish was responsible.⁷⁴ The southern sections of this route were gradually replaced from the 1970s resulting in the present Silk Mills Road, which cut across the old Silk Mills Lane at Roughmoor, crossed the Norton Brook and Tone on new flat bridges, cut through the east end of the village necessitating the demolition of several houses then partly followed an old lane before curving westwards to a roundabout on the Wellington road.⁷⁵ In 2005 the road was rerouted west of the level crossing and a new bridge over the railway was opened.⁷⁶

Nearer to Taunton the lane at Stepswater,⁷⁷ now a residential cul-de-sac, may formerly have continued to Whipples mill and may be the Steps Lane for horses and carts in 1688⁷⁸ but by the 19th century had been replaced by the present Long Run Lane. Maltescrosse recorded in the 15th and 16th centuries may have been where the lane left the road from Taunton.⁷⁹ At the mill a bridge connected the lane with the riverside footpath between Taunton and Roughmoor but by the mid 19th century, the mill having been demolished, both the bridge and the northern section of the lane had gone although a pier was said to be visible in 1911.⁸⁰

⁷² *Taunton Courier*, 29 June 1927; 23 Sep 1950: BNA accessed 20 June 2017.

⁷³ SHC, DD/SP/10.

⁷⁴ SHC, DD/SP/20; D/P/b.hl/9/1/1.

⁷⁵ SHC, D/PC/b.hl/1/2/4—5; 5/3/8.

⁷⁶ Date on bridge.

⁷⁷ Probably from the Steps or Steeps, the old name for Wellington Road, possibly partially paved: SHC, DD/SP/20.

⁷⁸ SHC, DD/SP/21/1; 64.

⁷⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1453—5; DD/MT 12/4; DD/SP/8.

⁸⁰ SHC, DD/SP/23; DD/CH/80/6; tithe award; PSANHS, LVII, 104.

In the village, the site of the present crossroads with the Silk Mills Road was Shattery Cross, possibly the Stobery Cross of 1575 and also called Staterly and Tottery,⁸¹ where the route from Taunton to the church was crossed by a lane running from the old Wellington road to Long Run Farm only stubs of which remained in 1842.⁸² West of the village at Upcott roads from Bishops Hull to Hele and from Fideoak to Rumwell crossed at Houndell's Cross, encroached on by cottages from the 17th century.⁸³ The north road to Fideoak and Barr was diverted further west in 1800 away from Upcott Hall by its owner but the old road survives as a footpath.⁸⁴ At Barr the road probably continued north to a bridge over the Tone but that route probably closed when the canal was dug. From Barr a road runs east past Longaller and Frethey before re-joining the road to Hele at the foot of Shutewater Hill.⁸⁵ West of Upcott the road to Hele was diverted via Fideoak in 1972 to accommodate the enlarged electricity station.⁸⁶

At Rumwell the green was probably where the Taunton to Wellington road crossed the road through the hamlet. The latter divided there to go south to Comeytrove and south-west to West Buckland, giving the area the names Hillway and Roadway.⁸⁷ The last two sections are now only private roads or footpaths and the green area is occupied by the public house and dwellings. It was last recorded in 1690 when part on the south was let out.⁸⁸ North of Rumwell the lane also divided providing routes to Hele, Fideoak and Stone Green, the first of those now only a footpath.⁸⁹

Most roads in the parish are referred to as paths in the 17th century. Market paths were recorded between Rumwell and Mountway and Taunton, which if they are the same

⁸¹ SHC, DD/SP/8, 79, 102, 151, 215.

⁸² SHC, tithe award.

⁸³ SHC, DD/SP/18/71.

⁸⁴ SHC, DD/CH/110/1; Q/SR 5368/3/63; D/PC/b.hl 2/1.

⁸⁵ SHC, D/P/b.hl/14/5/2; tithe award.

⁸⁶ SHC, D/P/b.hl/2/13.

⁸⁷ SHC, DD/SP/95, 319/334; DD/CWCw 3; tithe award.

⁸⁸ SHC, DD/MT 12/7.

⁸⁹ SHC, tithe award.

route may have either gone through the village or Galmington and into what is now called Wellington Road.⁹⁰ Church paths are also recorded including from Frethey, presumably the present Shutewater Hill requiring a bridge over the Shutewater.⁹¹ Pedestrians appear to have preferred to cross fields than walk in the highway and two landowners built a footway by an unspecified highway to prevent trespass on their fields in 1750.⁹² Later in the century the side roads were described as narrow, stony and overhung with hedges.⁹³ In 1829—30 the road and footpath from the bottom of Shutewater Hill to Frethey were widened.⁹⁴ Causeways beside the turnpike at Rumwell and in the village in the early 19th century may have been footways and were paid for by the parish.⁹⁵ In 1914 the parish council campaigned unsuccessfully for the footway to be extended from Wellington Road to Wellington New Road. Until the mid 20th century there was only a pavement on the north side of Wellington Road and none further west.⁹⁶

There were several footpaths between Bishops Hull and Norton Fitzwarren but they all required the maintenance of bridges.⁹⁷ The riverside route appears to have been in use c., 11604—5 when it people said they new adjoining fields from travelling between Bishops Hull and Taunton.⁹⁸ The footpath along the river bank to Taunton was described in 1633 as a delectable gravel walk that ‘affords great pleasure to the townsmen’ with prospects of orchards and meadows. The same prospect in 1900 was said to be of the gasworks and

⁹⁰ SHC, DD/SP/20; Q/Rup 47.

⁹¹ SHC, DD/SP/18/80.

⁹² SHC, D/P/b.hl/9/1/1.

⁹³ M. McDermott and S. Berry, *Rack’s Survey of Som.* (2011), p. 268.

⁹⁴ SHC, D/P/b.hl/9/1/2.

⁹⁵ SHC, D/P/b.hl/9/1/1, 14/5/1.

⁹⁶ SHC, D/P/b.hl/2/1.

⁹⁷ SHC, DD/SP/9—10; Q/SR 63/116; below, this section.

⁹⁸ W. Husband, *Depositions in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, vol 2 Instance Depositions, 1604—6*, 107.

factory chimneys but the walk was again promoted in the late 20th century.⁹⁹ In the 1930s 26 footpaths were listed as rights of way.¹⁰⁰

Urban roads

The castle area's original road network is unclear and it may be that there was a road through the later castle site serving the original settlement and connecting perhaps via Mill Lane with the river. In the later 12th century a road was constructed leading from the West Gate of the castle over a bridge, presumably to St Paul's chapel and barton as the West Gate was later known as Paul's Gate.¹⁰¹ The road appears to have been moved further north to the line of the present Tower Street in the early 13th century, possibly because of flooding.¹⁰² The road served as access to the castle and the granges, and later the school and other buildings in the former castle ward. By 1590, when a man was permitted to make a door through the wall at the East Gate to access the roadway through it,¹⁰³ the road from Taunton across the outer ward of the castle was recognised as a public thoroughfare. However, in the 17th century it was said to be for horses and pedestrians only 'except in time of old wars' and in 1680 the East Gate should be shut and the West Gate chained to keep out carts.¹⁰⁴ The East Gate partially survives as Castle Bow but the West Gate, last recorded in 1719,¹⁰⁵ was probably demolished before 1767 to build the Horse and Jockey, on the site of the present Winchester Arms. In 1789 it was described as 'Poulesgate now taken down'.¹⁰⁶ The road was called

⁹⁹ E. H. Bates, *Gerard's Survey of Somerset, 1633*, 55.

¹⁰⁰ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/1.

¹⁰¹ SHC, DD/SP/77.

¹⁰² Som. HER 44466.

¹⁰³ SHC, DD/SP/325/144.

¹⁰⁴ SHC, DD/SP/18/52; 21/1; 64.

¹⁰⁵ SHC, DD/SP/191/56.

¹⁰⁶ SHC, DD/DP/90/12.

Tangier Place in 1840 and is now Tower Street.¹⁰⁷ The extension to the present Park Street was called Castle Lane in 1823.¹⁰⁸

In the 17th century there had been a way through the Watergate to Mill Lane for horse and foot passengers but by 1685 it was said to be blocked by buildings erected in 1683 and a pigsty. As it involved passing through the great gate of the castle the way was presumably only used for access to the castle or by those based there.¹⁰⁹

From the West Gate there was a route to French Weir through what is now Tower Lane, probably the Castle Lane of the 1620s,¹¹⁰ and across the bridge over the Millstream, described as a way to Bishops Hull church but in 1685 and in 1688 as a very great market path to Taunton.¹¹¹

To the south there was a way up the present Cann Street to Shuttern. The pasture of the lane was let out from 1631 until the early 19th century.¹¹² Unfortunately that encouraged the lessees, the Gale family from the 1670s, to regard the lane as a private road and from 1671 to proceed against people using the road as trespassers. In 1711 it was said Henry Gale had recently set up a gate or bar near the upper end of the highway towards Shuttern and kept the gate shut preventing people from attending Bishops Hull or driving stock to the pound. The manor courts imposed an ever-increasing penalty for failure to unblock the road but the Gales simply ignored the court, which seemed powerless to open the road.¹¹³ By the later 18th century the road was described as a footpath closed by a stopgate at the south end.¹¹⁴ Tolls were charged for use of the road by horses and vehicles the road having been gated in three different places and in 1795 Procter Thomas had enclosed waste and built a gatekeeper's house and garden. As late as 1832 Sarah Pearson claimed the road as her close

¹⁰⁷ SHC, DD/SAS/C212/MAP 148.

¹⁰⁸ SHC, DD/AY 6.

¹⁰⁹ SHC, DD/SP/22/18.

¹¹⁰ SHC, DD/SP/147.

¹¹¹ SHC, DD/SP/18/112, 119, 121, 123; 21/1; 22/18.

¹¹² SHC, DD/SP/77, 215.

¹¹³ SHC, DD/SP/21/1.

¹¹⁴ SHC, DD/SP/19/1.

damaged by Edward Coles of Paul's House trespassing but he claimed it was a common and public highway. There was conflicting evidence about who paid toll but clearly it was already a carriage road and the parish stoned the northern section and the rest was also stoned with a 'pitched flint' footpath.¹¹⁵ The court found that it was a public road and the following year the parish was indicted for the state of it.¹¹⁶ Its maintenance was disputed as the parish boundary ran down the centre of the road and in 1835 it was agreed that Bishops Hull should maintain the northern end as far as the bridge over the Gaol Stream and Taunton St Mary the southern half with both maintaining the bridge.¹¹⁷

The castle bars recorded from the 1620s until the 1730s were at the north end of Cann Street. It is not clear that there were any defensive works west of the castle's outer ditch, probably the streams were considered an adequate defence and in any case the parish would probably not have wanted the town bank built across its land.¹¹⁸ A footpath ran from the north end of Cann Street, on the site of the present Park Street, to the turnpike road at Canns Gate but like most paths was the responsibility of the occupier of the land to repair.¹¹⁹ The Shuttern turnpike gate stood next to the Compass inn at the south end of Cann Street just outside the parish until c. 1854 when it was rebuilt as an eye hospital.¹²⁰ In 1838 a plan was drawn up to create a new road from Stepswater to Castle Green through Tower Lane¹²¹ but it was not carried out, however, in 1847—9 Park Street was completed through Wilton parish from the Wellington Road to the north end of Cann Street and then widened considerably eastwards in the early 1850s and 1933.¹²² Hunt's Lane, so named in 1723, was a foot and

¹¹⁵ SHC, DD/DP/66/2.

¹¹⁶ *Western Flying Post*, 20 Aug. 1832; *Bath Chronicle*, 23 Aug. 1832: BNA accessed 10 Nov. 2017; SHC, D/P/b.hl/9/1/2.

¹¹⁷ SHC, D/P/tau.m 14/5/1, 14/6/1.

¹¹⁸ SHC, DD/MT 3/2; DD/SP/77, 101, 146, 201, 214.

¹¹⁹ SHC, A/AQD 1; DD/SP/20.

¹²⁰ SHC, A/AQD 1.

¹²¹ SHC, Q/RUp 142.

¹²² SHC, DD/SAS/C2550/12; *Taunton Courier*, 6 Sep. 1854: BNA, accessed 8 Aug. 2017; SHC, Q/AC/21.

horseway by 1689.¹²³ Later known as Hunts Court, now Bath Place, it led from Taunton's High Street to Bishops Hull.¹²⁴ A proposal to turn it into the main carriage road to Taunton in 1854 was not carried out and it remains a pedestrian street. Traffic had to use Tower Street, widened c. 1850, or Shuttern until Corporation Street was built.¹²⁵

By 1839 a new road called Castle Street had been made by William Charles Cox from Tangier Place, now Tower Street, across the Millstream with a side road to his Tangier foundry, later enclosed for a horse repository. Other side roads were built for housing but only one survives separating two carparks.¹²⁶ Castle Street remained a dead end, despite a scheme to build a new road from Wood Street in Taunton to Wellington Road c. 1972.¹²⁷ However in the late 20th century it was turned and extended to Wellington Road, the original end of the road is now called Tangier, using a temporary bridge over the Millstream. Later the road was widened using part of the gasworks site and a new bridge was built. In 2011 a new road called Tangier Way was completed linking Castle Street directly with the centre of Taunton.

In 1894 Corporation Street was built from Paul's House eastward along the site of the castle moat to Fore Street in Taunton, necessitating the demolition of Tangier Cottage and a timber yard but also enabling the construction of a large new entrance to the markets east of the former grammar school.¹²⁸ A link road with Tower Street was created and named Castle Way in 1930.¹²⁹ A later 20th-century scheme to drive a road south across Goodland Gardens and under the castle wall involving the demolition of several buildings and part of the castle boundary was not carried out.¹³⁰

¹²³ SHC, DD/PRY 1; DD/SP/18/119.

¹²⁴ SHC, DD/PRY 1.

¹²⁵ *Taunton Courier*, 6 Sep. 1854: BNA, accessed 8 Aug. 2017; SHC, DD/CH/23/9.

¹²⁶ SHC, DD/SP/210; A/DFU 1/3.

¹²⁷ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/224/14255.

¹²⁸ OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12.16 (1888); OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887, 1904); SHC, A/DIF 101/10/203.

¹²⁹ SHC, D/DC/tau.d, unlisted box 16, 1930—1, 21.

¹³⁰ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/204/11617, 24/1/225/14298.

Bridges

The most important bridges in the ancient parish were those taking the Wellington road over the boundary stream at Three Bridges, so named by 1632,¹³¹ and the road to Staplegrove over the Tone, which was the adjoining miller's responsibility in the 17th century and was described as a great bridge.¹³² Known as Tytherleigh bridge by 1808,¹³³ the latter may have been the bridge ordered to be rebuilt in 1526—7.¹³⁴ It was accepted as a county bridge by 1831.¹³⁵ It is a single arch, single track bridge and formerly carried all local north—south traffic, controlled in the later 20th century by traffic lights. Following the building of the new Silk Mills Road to the east with a new flat bridge the old bridge takes local parish traffic only. To the north another bridge carried the same road over the Norton brook and millstream near the former Roughmoor Mill. There is a cart wash south of the bridge, possibly an old ford. Three Bridges on the boundary with Bradford on Tone was replaced c. 1950 when the main road was straightened.¹³⁶ Pitsford bridge at Rumwell was recorded in 1587 but its site is unknown.¹³⁷

Keats Bridge, recorded as in need of repair in 1743, probably carried the Taunton—Bishops Hull road at Shattery Cross over a brook running from the south of the parish, near the later brickworks to the river west of Longrun.¹³⁸ The next bridge was Steps Bridge over Stepswater a channel taken from the Galmington Stream possibly to water the castle officers' meadows.¹³⁹ Madbrook bridge, maintained by Taunton Deane manor in the 13th century,

¹³¹ SHC, DD/SP/11.

¹³² SHC, DD/SP/10, 20, 21/1.

¹³³ SHC, D/P/b.hl/ 9/1/1.

¹³⁴ VCH Office, note on a Winchester court roll 1526—7. The original has not been traced but the note may be wrongly dated.

¹³⁵ SHC, Q/AB 2, 17.

¹³⁶ *Taunton Courier*, 23 Sep 1950: BNA accessed 20 June 2017.

¹³⁷ SHC, DD/SP/9.

¹³⁸ SHC, DD/SP/21/2; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn). The cottages here were formerly called Keats cottages.

¹³⁹ SHC, DDSP 18/32; tithe award.

presumably carried the Taunton to Bishops Hull road over that stream on the boundary with Wilton. It was probably the Rixham bridge recorded between 1575 and 1667 by which date it was the responsibility of Wilton parish.¹⁴⁰

On the Tone ‘Wiplesforde’, recorded in the 15th century, had been replaced a bridge by the early 18th century. It linked Long Run lane coming out of the Wellington road with Staplegrove.¹⁴¹ It had gone by 1840, probably the canal having interrupted the route the bridge was only of use as field access, but a new footbridge was built in the early 21st century.¹⁴² At Netherclay a stone bridge with iron rails linked Pigs Loose¹⁴³ Lane with the fields north of the river, now a community wood, by 1842. The lane followed the river bank to Frethey where there was a slaughterhouse for pigs in the early 20th century.¹⁴⁴ In the 1790s a bridge carried a lane, described as ancient, from the road north of Frethey barton across the river but it had gone by 1842. The lost lane probably accounts for the very sharp bend in the road.¹⁴⁵

The wain bridge, gated and locked in the 1590s, may have been at Longaller mill as it was on the route to Norton.¹⁴⁶ A hoard of 17th-century trade tokens was found north of Longaller.¹⁴⁷ Longaller bridge was rebuilt in 1875 by Octavius Walter.¹⁴⁸ A judgement in 1597 said that the tithing of public bridge should be 80 ft further east and the tithing was given until 1601 to build it but it is not clear that it was done.¹⁴⁹ William Gardener was required to lay a bridge in 1715—16¹⁵⁰ and west of Longaller maps of the 1790s show a bridge north of Barr, which like Frethey now has an awkward bend. The bridge had gone by

¹⁴⁰ SHC, T/PH/win 1298—9, 1301—2; DD/SP/8—9, 18/33; tithe award.

¹⁴¹ SHC, T/PH/win 1416—17, 1453—4; DD/SP/8; DD/CH/80/6; econ. hist., mills.

¹⁴² SHC, tithe award.

¹⁴³ An old name for a sty. The lane was so-named by 1932: SHC, D/PC/b/hl 2/1.

¹⁴⁴ SHC, tithe award; below, econ. hist.

¹⁴⁵ SHC, DD/AY 66; tithe award.

¹⁴⁶ SHC, DD/SP/4.

¹⁴⁷ SWHT, Somerset HER 44653.

¹⁴⁸ Plaque on bridge.

¹⁴⁹ SHC, DD/SP/4.

¹⁵⁰ SHC, DD/SP/18/123.

1842 but the field names Beam Bridge and Bridge Ham may refer to it.¹⁵¹ When the canal was built a swingbridge was constructed at Longaller and after the railway was built this route was used as a public footpath to Norton Fitzwarren station.¹⁵² Field access bridges for Newley farm have been built over both river and millstream east of Longaller. There was said to have been a rope bridge in the area in the 19th century.¹⁵³

Downriver several bridges were recorded in the castle area before the 19th century and the name Paul's Bridge appears to have been conferred on at least two of them. In 1285 from the West Gate a bridge crossed the stream that formed the outer moat of the castle, now culverted. It was probably the bridge 'towards St Paul' or 'towards Hull' and appears to have been a wooden drawbridge on masonry footings.¹⁵⁴ The stone bridge by the gate of the barton maintained by the manor may have been the same or the bridge across the Gaol Stream although the tenant of the road was liable for the latter's repair in 1783.¹⁵⁵ It was a single-arched bridge in 1832 and could carry wheeled vehicles.¹⁵⁶ Following a dispute in 1835 it was agreed that Bishops Hull and Taunton St Mary parishes should both maintain the bridge.¹⁵⁷ It was known as the Iron Bridge in 1854 but was later demolished for road widening and the stream was culverted south of the road.¹⁵⁸

The bridge usually called Paul's Bridge by the 17th century, was that across the Millstream at the end of Tower Lane. Like most footbridges its upkeep was the responsibility of neighbouring occupiers but it may be the Tower Bridge which the parish repaired in 1846.

¹⁵¹ SHC, DD/AY 66; Q/RDe 8; tithe award.

¹⁵² SHC, tithe award; D/PC/b.hl 2/1.

¹⁵³ E. Jeboult, *A Popular History of West Somerset* (1893), 140.

¹⁵⁴ Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 19.

¹⁵⁵ SHC, DD/SP/8, 18/33, 19/31; Som HER 44486.

¹⁵⁶ SHC, DD/DP/66/2.

¹⁵⁷ SHC, D/P/tau.m 14/5/1, 14/6/1.

¹⁵⁸ SHC, Q/AC 4 (1854).

Later known as Tangier Bridge it links footpaths on either side of the stream and seems always to have been a footbridge. The wooden bridge was replaced by an iron one in 1884.¹⁵⁹

There were also the bridge across the inner moat into the castle and a footbridge from the Water or North Gate. The last was said to have accessed a footpath east to the town mills and west to the parish church at Bishops Hull but to have gone, possibly during the Civil War. Its replacement was requested in 1686 but in the 19th century it was a private covered bridge belonging to Tone House. There were private footbridges over the Millstream at the printing works and the former Tangier Brewery.¹⁶⁰

Although not shown on the tithe map¹⁶¹ the Castle Street bridge over the Millstream had been built by 1839 allowing vehicular access to the land between the stream and the river.¹⁶² It was largely rebuilt and widened in the later 20th century. In 2011 a new bridge designed by Flint and Neill was installed over the river Tone on the old gasworks site carrying the new Tangier Way from Castle Street. The road deck is hung on steel hangers from white bowstring arches and the footways are cantilevered on either side.¹⁶³

Other road services

There were coach offices, carriage hire services and livery stables around Castle Green.¹⁶⁴ The village was too close to Taunton for formal carrying services. The West of England fire engine was kept in a station by the entrance to the castle in the 1860s.¹⁶⁵ Public toilets were installed behind the then butcher's market shortly before 1910, rebuilt in the 1930s and

¹⁵⁹ E. H. Bates-Harbin, *Quarter Sessions Records, 1646—60*, 267; SHC, A/DAS/2 (12283—4); DD/SP/20, 21/1; D/P/b.hl/9/1/2; DD/FIV 5/5; Q/RUp 142; D/B/ta/4/3/1 (1883—4).

¹⁶⁰ SHC, DD/SP/21/1; DD/FIV 5/11; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887); Jones, *Harry Frier*, 38.

¹⁶¹ The creator of the local tithe maps, Ralph Ham of Castle Green, appears not to have made a detailed survey of the non-agricultural areas: SHC, tithe award.

¹⁶² SHC, DD/SP/210, 215; DD/SAS/C212/MAP/148.

¹⁶³ Somersetrivers.org: accessed 22 Nov. 2011.

¹⁶⁴ Below, econ. hist.

¹⁶⁵ SHC, DD/CH/23/5.

remain in use although more recent ones have been closed.¹⁶⁶ The creation of Corporation Street provided an area for buses and a coach depot was established in a former horse repository at Tangier in the early 20th century.¹⁶⁷ In 1947 a new bus station for Taunton was planned in Tower Street on the site of a former nursery and terraced dwellings, already cleared for a temporary bus depot. Despite several re-location plans it remains in use with a long range of offices backing on to the Winchester Arms and a central block with waiting room beside the bus bays completed in 1950.¹⁶⁸ It closed in 2020 for redevelopment. Bishops Hull village had a half-hourly bus service to Taunton town centre six days a week in 1947 and this service was provided in 2017 but no longer until 10 p.m. and lack of an evening service was a complaint by 1979.¹⁶⁹

Other transport

The Great Western Railway was accessible by footpaths from Longrun and Netherclay over the canal to Norton Fitzwarren station before it closed but the line skirts the parish to the north, only clipping the edge off a couple of fields.¹⁷⁰ The parish was considered as a site for Taunton aerodrome in 1930, especially Long Run if the farmstead were demolished and flooding could be prevented but nothing came of the scheme.¹⁷¹

POPULATION

In 1377 18 people were taxed at Fideoak, 55 at Rumwell and 84 in Hull tithing.¹⁷² In 1641 there were 120 adult males in the parish of whom 31 were at Rumwell and seven at

¹⁶⁶ TNA, IR 58/82126.

¹⁶⁷ Aerial photo. 1925: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW013541; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887); SHC, DD/IR/T 5/1; D/B/ta 24/1/224/14255.

¹⁶⁸ Aerial photo. 1947: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW005339; SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/109/3436, 24/1/113/7125.

¹⁶⁹ SHC, A/AGH 1/35.

¹⁷⁰ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/1; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn); Norton Fitzwarren.

¹⁷¹ SHC, C/CSEN 2.

¹⁷² C. C. Fenwick, *The Poll taxes of 1372, 1377 and 1381*, 422, 424.

Fideoak.¹⁷³ In the later 17th century 97 houses were recorded in the parish.¹⁷⁴ There were said to be c. 600 inhabitants in the 1780s and 683 in 1801.¹⁷⁵ The population rose to 844 in 1811, and 928 in 1821 in 161 houses and 1,155 in 200 houses by 1831. It reached 1,677 in 1851 before falling slightly because of the loss of the Dissenting College then recovering to 1,530 in 1881. Thereafter the parish was split in two and the Without parish absorbed Galmington from Wilton giving it a population of c. 970.¹⁷⁶

In 1846 the population of the urban area was estimated at 800, mainly in the poor terraces in Tangier,¹⁷⁷ probably an exaggeration as there were only 687 in 1851 and 769 in 1861 including over 100 occupants of the Dissenting Academy. After they left there were 650 people in the area in 1871. In 1901 the parish of Bishops Hull Within had 635 people in 138 occupied houses¹⁷⁸ and 750 inhabitants in 1920.¹⁷⁹ Both populations remained fairly stable and in 1921 there were c. 900 in the Without parish when the Within parish was absorbed into Taunton civil parish. The considerable development from the 1930s to the 1990s saw the population of Bishops Hull [Without] rise to 1,427 in 1951, 1,815 in 1961, 2,508 in 1981, and 3,330 in 1991. It fell to 2,975 in 2011, possibly due to under registration but new housing development since may have increased the population.¹⁸⁰ Since 1921 the demolition of every house in Tangier and the conversion of houses elsewhere to non-residential use has drastically reduced the population of the former Within parish leaving Cann Street and Wellington Road as the only residential streets.

SETTLEMENT

¹⁷³ Howard and Stoate, *Protestation Returns*, 99.

¹⁷⁴ E. Dwelly, *Som. Hearth Tax Returns*, I, 32—4; II, 156, 304—5.

¹⁷⁵ McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey of Som.* p. 268; *Census*.

¹⁷⁶ *Census*.

¹⁷⁷ SHC, DD/DN 4/4/45.

¹⁷⁸ TNA, RG 10/2375; RG 13/2277.

¹⁷⁹ SHC, D/P/tau.jo 2/9/12.

¹⁸⁰ *Census*; <http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/files>; accessed 13 July 2017.

Mesolithic or Neolithic flints have been found at Fideoak on the site of the electricity transmission station¹⁸¹ and at Roughmoor and Long Run. The latter site also shows evidence of early Neolithic and Bronze Age activity and an Iron-Age field system with possible cremation burial.¹⁸² A piece of land known as Denebiri in the mid 16th century implies a prehistoric feature but its site is unknown.¹⁸³ Roman pottery was found in the cemetery in 1858.¹⁸⁴ Names like Frethey and possibly Barr indicate that the west of the parish was anciently wooded. The castle area appears to have been farmland in the Roman period but may have been more densely settled in the early medieval period. The presence of an Anglo-Saxon minster and burials indicates contemporary settlement nearby and excavations on the corner of Tower and Corporation Streets in the 1970s produced some of the only finds of the period in the Taunton urban area. The site was part of an old valley that had become silted up but probably remained waterlogged. Twelfth-century building remains were found indicating continuity of occupation.¹⁸⁵ The settlement appears to have been destroyed in the late 12th century by the construction of a west road, which was re-sited early in the 13th century. In 1217—18 the land next to the chapel of St Paul was in the bishop's hand and there was a loss of rent of eight houses by the enlarging of the castle ditch.¹⁸⁶ In 1364 land next to St Paul's was arable.¹⁸⁷

As the parish formed part of the great manor of Taunton Deane and was for centuries ecclesiastically a chapelry of Taunton Priory and after the dissolution a chapelry of Taunton St Mary its origins as a village with a defined territory are unknown. It existed and had a church by the beginning of the 12th century but was for a long time known only as Hull or

¹⁸¹ SWHT, Somerset HER 43362; SHC, DD/SAS/PD/66.

¹⁸² SWHT, Somerset HER 28209, 37326.

¹⁸³ C. Brett, *Crown Revenues from Som. and Dorset*, supp., 94.

¹⁸⁴ SWHT, Somerset HER 14674.

¹⁸⁵ Som. HER 44466.

¹⁸⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1218—19.

¹⁸⁷ Translation of BL, Harl. Ch. 54 E 19; *SDNQ*, VII, 263.

Hill.¹⁸⁸ Rumwell, Fideoak, Frethey and Upcott were all in existence by the 13th century¹⁸⁹ and Barr as la Barr by 1317.¹⁹⁰ Very little archaeology has been done in the village itself but medieval pottery was found on the site of a cottage near the church demolished in the later 19th century.¹⁹¹ In the late 18th century there were said to be 66 houses in Hull tithing, 19 in Rumwell and five in Fideoak besides an unspecified number near the Castle.¹⁹²

Bishops Hull village to 1842

Until the post-medieval period parish and village were known simply as Hill or Hull but then as Hill or Hull Bishops and by the 19th century as Bishops Hull.¹⁹³ The village sits on a small hill above the river and surrounding land with Netherclay and Shutewater Hill roads being noticeably steep and many areas of the village have far-reaching views. The church sits in the middle of the village on the top of the hill. The two road junctions on the north east and north-west may have formerly been more important and influenced the settlement pattern but there is no evidence of any greens. The tithing of Hull included outlying properties and the Taunton area so it is not clear how many of the 15 tenements recorded in the mid 13th century or 74 houses assessed for hearth tax or exempted in the later 17th century were in the village. In 1665 21 houses had three or more hearths including the Great House with 11 and another with 12.¹⁹⁴

Before the 19th century the village probably consisted of a line of farms and cottages along what is now the western end of Mountway Road and Bishops Hull Hill past the church and down Bishops Hull Road. That area with Netherclay as far as Tytherleigh house by the

¹⁸⁸ Below, rel. hist.

¹⁸⁹ T. Hunt, *Medieval Customs of Taunton Manor*, 62—5.

¹⁹⁰ SHC, T/PH/win 1317—18. It might refer to a barrier between road and the river meadows.

¹⁹¹ SHC, tithing award; SWHT, Somerset HER 14264—5

¹⁹² McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey of Som.* p. 268.

¹⁹³ eg SHC, T/PH/win; DD/SP/20; Collinson, *Hist. Som.* III, p. 254.

¹⁹⁴ E. Dwelly, *Som. Hearth Tax Returns*, I, 32—3, II, 156, 304—5.

Tone is a conservation area.¹⁹⁵ It includes the oldest surviving houses but also evidence of shrinkage, as late as the mid 19th century when premises on the south-west side of Bishops Hull Road were cleared, possibly the due to the decline in agriculture and the influence of wealthy incomers on the opposite side of the road from the late 18th century who wanted grounds and a pleasant outlook. Elsewhere several detached cottages and farms were lost and surviving village farms were converted into genteel houses.¹⁹⁶ Even surviving farmhouses were rebuilt like Parsonage Farm on Netherclay replaced by a new house further back from the road before 1904.¹⁹⁷

The most imposing house in the village and the oldest surviving is the Elizabethan Great House now the Manor Nursing Home.¹⁹⁸ At least two houses, one described as a mansion, stood to the north in 1591 but were demolished later to extend the Great House grounds.¹⁹⁹ The former farmhouses of 18th or early 18th century origin probably indicate the rebuilding of older farmsteads including former Haydon Farmhouse, the Meryan House Hotel and Laurel House on Bishops Hull Road. It is also likely that the large houses built on the east side of Bishops Hull Road were on the site of older houses. The Netherclay road was also probably built up before the 19th century including the predecessor of the present Parsonage Farm and there were houses on the site of Milligan Hall and possibly Netherclay House. Most of the surviving large houses in the village date from the late 18th or early 19th century.²⁰⁰

No pre-1800 cottage property survives. The date of the cottages opposite Bishops Hull House, at Parsonage Farm and south of the church, demolished in the 19th century, and

¹⁹⁵ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/16.

¹⁹⁶ SHC, tithe award; D/R/ta/24/2/85; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn).

¹⁹⁷ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn, 1904 edn).

¹⁹⁸ Below, landownership.

¹⁹⁹ SHC, DD/FJ 6; DD/SP/87.

²⁰⁰ Below, this section.

opposite Hamwood farm, demolished c. 1940 for a builder's yard now offices, were unknown.²⁰¹

Among the last older cottages were the stone, cob and thatched row of six between the Old Inn and the church, which were demolished in 1911 and the New Inn 'all gables and dormer windows' before being largely rebuilt in the 1930s.²⁰² Most village cottages were probably on medieval sites or were infill on gardens like Rose Cottage and Rose Villa built probably shortly before 1841 on the corner of Netherclay.²⁰³ However the early 19th century saw the extension of settlement not only large houses like Hillmore down Bishops Hull Road but cottage property at Shutewater Hill, and beyond Haydon Farmhouse. Shutewater, formerly Shootwater, Hill, was developed in the 1820s starting with the Boot inn, now Shute Cottage. Of the 20 small terraced cottages, which survive although much altered, 12 had been built and half were occupied by 1825. They were built by local baker, William Bryant on a strip of meadow south of the road and appear to have been sold off in blocks to landlords.²⁰⁴ Before 1841 a back court of nine tiny houses had been created from a former yard, presumably stables, that may once have belonged to Great House or to an demolished large house on Netherclay. They were known as Pearce's Buildings, having probably been built by James Pearce, stonemason and were demolished in the early 20th century.²⁰⁵ Beyond Haydon Farm towards Taunton an L-shaped group of cottages, called Keats Cottages in 1842, were probably a village extension of the early 19th century. Six survive, now Waterloo cottages, but the west facing cottages have been demolished. Further south the development of

²⁰¹ SHC, tithe award; D/R/ta/24/2/85, 164; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn).

²⁰² TNA, IR 58/82127; RG 78/855; SHC, A/BEN 55.

²⁰³ SHC, tithe award; TNA, HO 107/959.

²⁰⁴ SHC, DD/SP/20.

²⁰⁵ SHC, DD/SAS/C/2273/1/B6.1; D/P/west. m. 23/24; D/SP 215; tithe award (where shown as non-dwellings but occupied in 1841); TNA, HO 107/959; RG 9/1619.

Mountway was planned in 1820s when Thomas Norman, a Taunton builder, bought land with the right to a sewer but nothing was built until later.²⁰⁶

Along the Wellington road the earliest development was between Long Run Lane and Stepswater where six houses had been built shortly before 1842 of which Woodbine Cottage to the west has been demolished. However, among later houses to the east Henley House, originally a farmhouse, was built before 1795 on the site of Henley's barn probably that recorded from 1545.²⁰⁷ By 1840 builders land with road frontages was being bought and traded between Taunton builders.²⁰⁸ Stepswater Villa beside the stream was probably built shortly before 1840 and by 1851 was used as the headmaster's house to the school in Wellington Terrace.²⁰⁹ It was extended by a large three-storey north wing in 1877, was turned into flats in 1945 and is now offices.²¹⁰

Bishops Hull village 1842—1950

From the second half of the 19th century there was considerable expansion. Laurel Villas in the village were on the site of non-residential buildings, cottages east of the church were built on the site of the three poorhouses by maltster Isaac Bryant between 1851 and 1861²¹¹ and between 1882 and 1887 Netherclay Villas or Terrace were built on the site of a walled garden.²¹² However, the terraces at Hamwood opposite Haydon Farm appear to have been on agricultural land.²¹³ In the early 20th century additional terraces, each of four houses and known as known as Lowlands Terrace, were built extending south towards Waterloo Cottages and its side lane, which gave access to further houses built behind in the 1930s and

²⁰⁶ SHC, DD/DP/43/2; tithe award.

²⁰⁷ M. Siraut, *Somerset Wills*, 126 [George Henlie or Hendlie]; SHC, DD/SP/20, 71, 210; Q/RDe 8; D/P/tau.jo 13/9/1; tithe award.

²⁰⁸ SHC, DD/SP/210.

²⁰⁹ SHC, tithe award; TNA, HO 107/1923.

²¹⁰ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/11/381, 24/1/106/3058.

²¹¹ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; SHC, DD/CH/77/5.

²¹² SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn).

²¹³ SHC, tithe award; DD/SAS/C/2273/1/B6.5; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn).

1940s. A number of these and the easternmost row of Lowlands Terrace were demolished in the late 1970s to build Silk Mills Road.²¹⁴ Closer to Taunton at Mountway and originally isolated from the rest of the village a pair of large houses²¹⁵ and an L-shaped street of 12 tiny terraced houses called Mountway Cottages behind them had been built by 1861. They and a later block were condemned in 1936 and replaced by houses and bungalows. The houses opposite were built by the local authority, which purchased land there in 1931. Further bungalows and terraced houses were built to the north creating Richmond Park in 1959—
60.²¹⁶ In 1879 land at Mountway was said to be ideal for villa residences as far as the river.²¹⁷ By c. 1900 half the north side of the present Mountway Road had been developed.²¹⁸ It was not until the late 1930s that the other side of the road was developed with semi-detached houses and side roads. Not all the houses had indoor sanitation but all had three bedrooms and one had a corner shop, now a take-away. They continued into Gypsy Lane around the school.²¹⁹

The development of Wellington Road began in earnest in the 1840s with the erection of Wellington Terrace completed by 1847 when it was occupied by a school. The school added a block of schoolrooms and dining room to the west by William Shewbrooks of Taunton, which was converted to houses in the late 1860s after the school moved out. The school itself was converted after 1871. The area, known as Stepswater was developed for houses from c. 1880 and by 1914 the whole of the north-east side of the road was completely developed.²²⁰ Further west in Wellington New Road the brickworks had provided workers' housing by 1887. To the west were a manager's house and a terrace of 16 houses called New

²¹⁴ SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/83, 158; D/PC/b.hl 2/13.

²¹⁵ Said to have been abandoned in the early 20th century and allowed to fall down: C. L. Quartly, *My Memories of Bishops Hull*: www.bishopshull.org.uk, accessed 3 Feb 2016.

²¹⁶ TNA, RG 9/1619; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn); *Taunton Courier*, 7 Nov. 1936: BNA accessed 19 Feb. 2020; SHC, D/P/west. m. 23/24; D/PC/b.hl 2/19; D/DC/tau.d 25/5.

²¹⁷ SHC, DD/SAS/C/2273/1/B6.1.

²¹⁸ SHC, D/B/ta 14/7/1; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1904 edn).

²¹⁹ SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/85—6, 110, 113, 135, 139; D/PC/b.hl 2/19.

²²⁰ SHC, DD/KIT 2/9; D/B/ta 24/1/13/479; *West Som. Free Press*, 9 July 1871, 22 Apr. 1871: BNA accessed 1 Nov. 2017; J. Orbach, *Pevsner: South and West Somerset*, 631; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1914 edn).

Road Cottages, all demolished in the 1960s. To the east Florence Terrace was built in 1881 and at a similar date north of the road Oak Terrace with an attached public house, angled to fit a triangular plot. Of the larger houses built at the same period east of Florence Terrace only one pair survives, much altered to create shops the rest having been replaced by a petrol station.²²¹

It was in the 1930s that the next great phase of development along the Wellington road began. Detached houses were built at the west end up Stonegallows Hill²²² but a mix of detached and semi-detached houses was built along the central section of Wellington New Road in Wilton parish.²²³ To the east fields south of Wellington Road were laid out in streets from the 1930s and developed with large detached and semi-detached houses, sometimes known as the Manor estate, and including Aylands Road named after the medieval fields it is built on.²²⁴ Beginning in the 1930s the large houses north of Wellington Road were converted into flats and their coach houses and back areas converted or built on giving rise to small side roads like Beehive Close and Tatham Court.²²⁵

Bishops Hull village since 1950

In the 20th century local authority housing was concentrated at Shutewater Hill and at Smithy and Northfields off Mountway Road where the first two houses were built in 1928 followed by several later phases of semi-detached houses and flats, 62 by 1947, with their own allotments and community centre.²²⁶ At Shutewater terraced houses, now called Shutemead were built for the local authority c. 1957 and later, private houses and bungalows in neighbouring Shutewater Close. In 1964 an additional 60 local authority houses and flats,

²²¹ SHC, DD/IR/T 5/1; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn.); below, econ. hist.

²²² Below, this section.

²²³ SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/62.

²²⁴ SHC, DD/CWCta 85; C/EPRW 3.

²²⁵ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/90/1990; 24/1/151/9222.

²²⁶ SHC, D/R/ta/13/1/1; D/PC/b.hl 1/2/5; A/CXR 8 [1947].

mainly for the over 60s, were built on charity allotments at the bottom of the hill called Farrant Close after the creator of the allotment charity.²²⁷ Development is now only a field away from Frethey to the north-west and Newley farm to the west.

A further wave of settlement expansion in the 1970s included a private estate at Hillmore south-east of Bishops Hull Road²²⁸ and on the yard and land of Haydon Farm where Taunton Deane Borough Council built 101 houses and flats from 1975.²²⁹ The building of the Silk Mills Road allowed for further development beginning in the south with both private and local authority housing, the latter designed to move people, especially the elderly, out of social housing in London under The Mayor of London's Seaside and Country Homes scheme and includes 40 bungalows for that purpose.²³⁰ North of Mountway extensive housing development took place between Silk Mills Road and Somerset College in the 1970s and 1980s including local authority houses and 30 one bedroom flats and bungalows for the elderly called Robins Close in 1978.²³¹

Within the village extensive infilling has taken place from the later 20th century including individual houses like Eagle House on Bishops Hull Road²³² and Parsonage House on the garden of Parsonage Farm on Netherclay and developments like the flats for the elderly built in the 1980s known as Malthouse Court with neighbouring Parsonage Court and a pair of houses behind the former Cavalier inn all opposite the church.²³³ By the 1980s there was very little open land in and around the village apart from the playing fields.²³⁴ The early 21st century saw development called Shutewater Orchard on the west side of Bishops Hull Road south of the former Congregational chapel. Although Somerset College and the

²²⁷ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/5; D/R/ta/24/1/890.

²²⁸ SHC, DD/DP/9/14, 184/6; DD/IR/T 5/1; DD/CH/128/2; DD/DC/tau.d 25/2.

²²⁹ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/4—5, 2/16.

²³⁰ <http://www.housingcare.org/housing-care/facility-info-6985-gillards-bishops-hull-england.aspx>; accessed July 2017.

²³¹ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/6, 2/13, 2/19.

²³² Quartly, *Memories of Bishops Hull*: www.bishopshull.org.uk, accessed 3 Feb 2016.

²³³ SHC, D/N/scu 7/6/2; /PC/b.hl 1/2/6; Kirk, *URC, Bishops Hull*, 66.

²³⁴ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/19.

cemetery provide a break between the Wellington Road houses and Mountway, the whole of Bishops Hull ancient parish is completely developed as far as Bishops Hull Road and along the Wellington Road as far as the former Stone Green near Rumwell.

Netherclay and Roughmoor

Netherclay was named in 1697²³⁵ but it is not clear if there was a house then. Thomas Darch built a house beside the river there, which was almost finished when he made his will in 1752. He left his wife the use of the hall, two parlours with chambers over and the unfinished room he had intended as his study with a flower garden and the walled kitchen garden. It is now a nursing home.²³⁶ On the higher ground opposite Netherclay a former bondland tenement had acquired a large house possibly by 1751 now Milligan Hall.²³⁷ Beyond the three mills, now houses,²³⁸ the road to Staplegrove may have had no dwellings until 1705 when Edward Jarman built Roughmoor Farm, now House. To the north Davey's formerly Westmoor was built shortly before 1914 and Westmead between 1914 and 1930.²³⁹ In the later 20th century two more houses have been built at Roughmoor, one with a plant nursery, also commercial premises near Roughmoor House including a day nursery. Flooding is a regular problem and curtails further development.

Rumwell

This settlement beside the road to Wellington west of Stonegallows Hill was only joined to the rest of the parish by a strip of roadway. The name probably refers to an ancient well or stream, possibly Piles Well on the northern boundary, recorded as a surname in 1327 and where a watercourse still runs, but there were formerly several ponds at Rumwell especially

²³⁵ SHC, DD/SP/18/80.

²³⁶ SHC, DD/BD 27; below, this section.

²³⁷ SHC, DD/MY 35; below this section.

²³⁸ Below, econ. hist. mills.

²³⁹ Below, this section..

in the field called Eastlake and by the roads.²⁴⁰ The first part of the name is variously said to mean council, secret or soot.²⁴¹ The hamlet lies along a road from Fideoak to the main road and extends a short distance along the main road both sides of the junction. It is possible that Rumwell Green recorded in 1566²⁴² lay at that junction.

It was a prosperous farming hamlet with the largest farms in the Middle Ages.²⁴³ In 1665 of 16 houses assessed for hearth tax five houses had three or more hearths.²⁴⁴ Grant's Farm west of the street is a thatched, roughcast, open-hall house of the 15th century, remodelled probably *c.* 1608 and partly rebuilt in the later 20th century when crucks and a painted stud and plank screen were removed.²⁴⁵ To the north Rumwell and Ritherden's farms, although having modern buildings are probably old farmstead sites.²⁴⁶ Across the road a 17th-century farmhouse partially survives at the core of Rumwell Lodge.²⁴⁷ South of the main road a row of cottages was demolished in the early 20th century. If this area was Rumwell Green they were possibly the pair of cottages recorded in 1658.²⁴⁸

In the late 19th and early 20th century some old farmhouses were replaced by houses and cottages including The Mount, now Summerhayes, and the thatched cottages on the main road. The latter replaced three small thatched cottages, presumably a former 17th or 18th-century farmhouse, destroyed by fire in 1925 caused by a furnace used by a laundress in the centre cottage.²⁴⁹ Rumwell Hall also possibly occupies an early farmstead site.²⁵⁰ South of the

²⁴⁰ SHC, D/R/ta/23/3/13; tithe award; F. Dickinson, *Kirbys Quest etc* (Som. Rec. Soc 3), 150; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn).

²⁴¹ Grundy, *Saxon Charters of Som.* 50; Ekwall, *Oxf. Dict. Eng. Pl-Names*, 378; SHC, tithe award.

²⁴² SHC, DD/SP/23, 71.

²⁴³ Below, econ. hist.

²⁴⁴ Dwelly, *Hearth Tax Returns*, I, 33—4.

²⁴⁵ SHC, DD/V/Tar 3.1; below, econ. hist.

²⁴⁶ SHC, tithe award.

²⁴⁷ Below, this section.

²⁴⁸ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887; 1930 edn); SHC, DD/SP/151.

²⁴⁹ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn); TNA, IR 58/82128; *Taunton Courier*, 22 Apr. 1925: BNA accessed June 2016.

²⁵⁰ Below, this section.

main road a row of cottages was demolished in the early 20th century. If this area was Rumwell Green they were possibly the pair of cottages recorded in 1658.²⁵¹

In the early 19th century three Gothick cottages were built south of Grant's Farm. The middle one was a short-lived chapel and then a reading room.²⁵² The 19th century also saw the building of large houses including Rumwell House, now Hall, probably built for William Cadbury before c. 1810 and Rumwell Lodge and Rumwell Hill for Betty Petten.²⁵³ Rumwell Hall, Rumwell Lodge and Rumwell Hill all had landscaped parks created around them on former fields.²⁵⁴ There were further changes from the late 19th century when on the Wellington road the Crown absorbed an adjoining cottage.²⁵⁵ Further west a row of five old thatched cottages was demolished and replaced in 1912.²⁵⁶ As with other rural hamlets west of the village new building has usually been opposed since the late 20th century, and there are only a few modern houses in Rumwell, which is still divided by a small amount of open land from the built up area at Stonegallows.²⁵⁷

West of Rumwell at Beggars Bush near the Bradford on Tone boundary several cottages south of the road, in a detached bit of Wilton parish, were destroyed in the early 20th century for road widening. On the north side of the road a house was built c. 1910 and another in the 1920s designed by Samson and Colthurst of Bridgwater in a traditional style with mock timbered gables but no indoor sanitation. Beyond the houses a mobile home park was established in 1974.²⁵⁸

To the east of Rumwell was Stone, named presumably after a boundary stone recorded in 1033,²⁵⁹ where several parishes and roads met. It was important enough to give

²⁵¹ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887; 1930 edn); SHC, DD/SP/151.

²⁵² Below, rel. hist.; TNA, IR 58/82127.

²⁵³ Below, this section.

²⁵⁴ OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1930 edn).

²⁵⁵ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn).

²⁵⁶ Below, this section.

²⁵⁷ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/19.

²⁵⁸ OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn); TNA, IR 58/82128; SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/69; D/PC/b.hl/1/2/4.

²⁵⁹ Grundy, *Saxon Charters of Som.* 50.

its name to the area and to fields in three parishes.²⁶⁰ It became known as Stonegallows because the Taunton Assize gallows was erected here.²⁶¹ There is a recent commemorative stone on Stone Green in the modern housing estate. The 1930s saw mainly three-bedroomed detached houses often with attached garages, but some bungalows, built either side of the Wellington road at Stonegallows Hill, some on a parallel access road originally known as the Hutcombe Byway, after the roadhouse opposite. They had features like leaded lights, loggias, and bay windows. Some larger houses were also built on the old road, usually individually designed for clients.²⁶² Later more detached houses were built creating a desirable suburban area.

Fideoak

Among suggestions for the name are that it derives from the stream of that name and means faithful, that is unfaithful. The stream rises on the Blackdowns at Buckland wood and now enters the Tone at Hele in Bradford but may have formerly followed the parish boundary where traces of watercourses remain especially near the site of Fideoak mill.²⁶³ The tithing included Barr and in 1665 six houses were assessed for hearth tax, two with three or more hearths.²⁶⁴ Fideoak mill has gone and the farm is a ruin.

Upcott

This hamlet, formerly part of Fideoak manor, consists from east to west of Newley farm, Upcott Hall, two houses created in its grounds, Upcott House, a silo yard belonging to Newley farm on the site of the 19th-century barton, a row of three cottages also formerly belonging to Newley farm, and the former smithy and cottages converted into two

²⁶⁰ SHC, Bishops Hull, Trull and Wilton tithe awards.

²⁶¹ Below, local govt. The name refers to the gallows at Stone not as is sometimes said stone gallows.

²⁶² SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/17—18, 20—1, 28—30, 60, 66, 69—70, 73, 80, 87, 89—91, 93, 95, 106, 109, 162, 172.

²⁶³ Above, this section.

²⁶⁴ Dwelly, *Hearth Tax Returns*, I, 33.

dwellings.²⁶⁵ Newley was first recorded as New Lea in 1752 but the farmhouse has possible 16th-century origins.²⁶⁶ Upcott Farm may date from the late 17th century and remained a farmhouse until the 1880s when it was briefly the home of John Haviland who named the house Havilland Hall. The next occupant renamed it Dinham Hall, later House, but in the later 20th century it was renamed Upcott House.²⁶⁷ Upcott House, possibly early 18th century, was described as a gentleman's seat in the 1780s²⁶⁸ but in the mid 19th century William Maclean renamed it Upcott Hall.²⁶⁹

Barr and Frethey

North of Upcott on the road to Longaller mill and Frethey is Barr a hamlet of two large and three small houses, none earlier than the late 18th century although Barr House, was possibly created out of a 17th-century farmhouse. Across the road Firs Cottage probably has 18th-century origins and the adjoining Barr cottages formerly belonged to Fideoak farm. Oldbury Lodge was probably built for William Walter in the early 19th century although there had been a house there in 1760,²⁷⁰ probably the house of Betty Dewberry whose husband Samuel installed six sash windows, three window seats and Bath stone and marble chimney pieces in the 1760s.²⁷¹

Formerly an isolated farmstead between Barr and Bishops Hull, Frethey was burgled in 1380.²⁷² William Brimsmead was licensed to build a new house on the site of 'Oldehall',

²⁶⁵ SHC, tithe award; C/C 4/3/18.

²⁶⁶ SHC, DD/BR/hck 7; below, this section. The land called Newley, recorded from the Middle Ages, was by the river on the other side of the parish.

²⁶⁷ East Sussex RO, AMS 6344; SHC, DD/SAS/HV/102; TNA, RG 12/1878; below, this section.

²⁶⁸ SHC, DD/DP/59/9; 60/17; McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey of Som.* p. 269; below, landownership.

²⁶⁹ TNA, RG 12/1878; below, this section.

²⁷⁰ SHC, DD/AY 66; TNA, IR 58/82128; below, this section.

²⁷¹ SHC, A/CTP 3/5/17; below, landownership.

²⁷² *Cal. Pat.* 1381—8, 34.

which he was allowed to demolish in 1537.²⁷³ Frethey House was rebuilt probably before 1827 as a gentleman's residence.²⁷⁴

Castle area to 1700

The castle itself was built possibly in part to defend the main river crossing at Taunton, and possibly displaced earlier buildings. By the 1330s there were at least three houses on the east side of the castle precinct.²⁷⁵ Mill Lane to the north east beyond the Water Gate and mills was a medieval street. In the post-medieval period the lord's waste including the moats and most of the outer ward, usually described by 1566 as Castle Green, was parcelled out into gardens but when houses were built is not clear.²⁷⁶ In the south of the outer ward adjoining the moat the grammar school was built in 1522 when the absence of windows on the north was probably due to the proximity of other buildings on the site. The school was later accessed through an archway in the East Gate made in 1734.²⁷⁷ Later a new arch and passage were made further west and these survive as Castle Walk. In 1566 there were four cottages in the east part of the castle, apart from the officers' houses²⁷⁸ and in the 17th century there are references to houses and gardens adjoining Castle Green²⁷⁹ and buildings near the castle walls and West Gate.²⁸⁰ In Castle Green the Fountain Inn was established near the East Gate by 1696. It was rebuilt as a bank *c.* 1776 in red brick but was demolished in the early 19th century and replaced by market buildings, which have also been demolished.²⁸¹ The area and roadway between the two gates remained open and in the 19th-century became a market and entertainment area. After a period as car parking it is once again a space for events.

²⁷³ SHC, T/PH/win 1536—7; DD/SP/18/72.

²⁷⁴ SHC, DD/AY 66; DD/CH/106/13; tithe award; below, this section.

²⁷⁵ SHC, DD/S/SBY 6/1.

²⁷⁶ Hants R.O., 11M59/C1/19/6; SHC, DD/SP/85

²⁷⁷ SHC, D/B/ta 31/5/12.

²⁷⁸ SHC, DD/SP/71.

²⁷⁹ SHC, DD/SP/18/52.

²⁸⁰ SHC, DD/SP/101.

²⁸¹ SANHS drawings 12492, 12494; Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 246—7; below, econ. hist.

By the 17th century it is clear that the area to the west and north-east of the castle had been developed for residential and other uses but very little survives from this period and documents still refer to land by its late medieval designation often until enfranchisement in the later 19th century. In 1615 Richard Longe merchant was allowed to build a mansion on 3 a. and an orchard called 'St Poles' possibly house 'at Polles' held by the Gale family in the mid 17th century. Possibly the site now occupied by apartments for the elderly south of Tower Lane.²⁸² The two acres described as Paul's or Poles barn and mead, probably the former Paul's barton and chapel outside the West Gate, had been built on by 1639, possibly at Tower Lane, so named by 1838,²⁸³ and in 1660 the mead was said to be divided and bounded by a new moat or ditch.²⁸⁴ The most westerly house on the lane is the oldest surviving and was a public house called the Tower Inn in the late 18th century but there were more houses on the lane in the 17th century, since replaced.²⁸⁵ Closer to the castle Castle Lodge with its garden immediately to the west of the castle was still described as the land between the Water Gate and the back of the castle stables, probably the present Winchester Arms, in the 18th century.²⁸⁶ Its curving shape, the rear wall aligned with the back wall of the castle, suggests it followed a boundary feature linking the castle and the West Gate, possibly the moat.²⁸⁷

The south-west part of Mill Lane lay in the parish. Houses there had been divided by the early 17th century and by the 19th century most premises were in industrial or commercial use although the brewery and mills had houses attached until the 1950s.²⁸⁸ By the 1880s the street was known as North Street number 6 Court.²⁸⁹ The house known as Ine's or

²⁸² SHC, DD/SP/20, 79.

²⁸³ SHC, DD/SP/138, 149; Q/RUp 142.

²⁸⁴ SHC, DD/SP/100.

²⁸⁵ SHC, DD/SP/205.

²⁸⁶ SHC, DD/SP/214.

²⁸⁷ Orbach, *S. and W. Som.* 617.

²⁸⁸ SHC, DD/SP/149,151, 157; below, econ. hist.

²⁸⁹ OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12.11 (1888 edn).

Ina Cottage and now part of a public house was originally cottages probably rebuilt as a house in the late 17th century and then a dyehouse for most of the 19th century.²⁹⁰

Cann Street, the former yoking place and known for centuries as the way to Shuttern, appears to have been developed in the 17th century. A mansion house, probably the later Sugar Loaf inn had been built by 1669 and several additional houses by 1679.²⁹¹ By the 18th century there were several cottages who shared a communal pump.²⁹² The Cann family owned the cottages and held the Sugar Loaf Inn from the late 18th to early 19th century.²⁹³ The street originally only had houses on the west, the east side in Taunton St Mary parish was developed later and has been cleared for road widening. Most houses survive on the west having been rebuilt in the 19th and 20th centuries. They were formerly flanked by the Sugar Loaf inn and later St Saviours Boys Home on the north and the Compass inn on the south, both also lost to road widening c. 1964.²⁹⁴ Cann Street is the only residential street left in the old urban area of the parish and that has been largely rebuilt and overlooks three lanes of a one-way road system.

Castle area since 1700

It seems that much development took place in the castle area in the late 18th and early 19th century. The Winchester Arms, formerly the Horse and Jockey, was possibly built on the site of the West Gate after its demolition probably in the 18th century as it was regarded as part of the castle. Parts of the building were separate cottages, one survived until c. 1968, and a curving terrace of cottages known as Hooper's Court ran behind the inn entered through a substantial house on the street and butting north on to Castle Lodge. The curve probably followed the line of the castle's outer moat. Further rows of houses were built to the west

²⁹⁰ Below, this section.

²⁹¹ SHC, DD/SP/104, 212.

²⁹² SHC, DD/MT 14/12; DD/SP/201, 205, 209, 214.

²⁹³ SHC, DD/SP/201, 205, 215; D/PC/b.hl 6/4; Q/RLa 19/1.

²⁹⁴ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/18/728; below, econ. hist., soc. hist.

including large double fronted houses with porches facing south-west and the 11 tiny houses of Nursery Court, later Place, all built by 1838.²⁹⁵ Then came Tangier Villa, after 1843 attached to the newspaper printing works and later converted to offices for the paper.²⁹⁶ This area is now occupied by the bus station and offices.

Adjoining on the west, before Castle Street was made, was the garden, stable, coachhouse and warehouse belonging to the occupants of the westernmost house in Tower Lane who had only a tiny curtilage. In the late 17th century there had been a house there. Alpha Cottage was built in the site between 1839 and 1842 and later in the century industrial buildings were added.²⁹⁷ The house beyond had been demolished and replaced by a stable in the late 18th century.²⁹⁸ A house was built between 1817 and 1826, probably for the tenant Major Francis Elliott who was a partner in the then Castle Hotel coaching business.²⁹⁹ In 1843 it was described as a brick-built house, with a garden on the east in excellent repair.³⁰⁰ It butts onto and may sometimes have been combined with the house on the west.³⁰¹

On the south and east sides of Tower Street several large detached houses were in place by the 1820s as well as livery stables, with their own houses, and other commercial premises.³⁰² Tangier House was probably the New House built for the Gunston family before 1733³⁰³ outside the south-west boundary of the castle precinct and still described as new in the 1790s when it was sold to the Yea family.³⁰⁴ In the early 19th century it was held by the Whitmash family, carriers of Taunton.³⁰⁵ It was a large house set back from the road and

²⁹⁵ SHC, Q/RUp 142; D/B/ta 24/1/1/145/8753, 24/1/230/14915; DD/HS 3/2; aerial photo. 1947: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW005339.

²⁹⁶ SHC, tithe award; DD/SAS/S1122/1/50; TNA, RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

²⁹⁷ SHC, DD/SP/215; D/P/tau.ja 2/1/5; below, econ. hist.

²⁹⁸ SHC, D/P/b.hl/9/1/1.

²⁹⁹ SHC, Q/REI 35/3; DD/DP/54/3.

³⁰⁰ *Taunton Courier*, 15 Feb 1843; BNA accessed 8 Aug 2017 .

³⁰¹ SHC, DD/SP/212.

³⁰² SHC, DD/SP/313; D/B/ta 24/1/18/713.

³⁰³ SHC, DD/SP/201.

³⁰⁴ SHC, DD/HC 82/111.

³⁰⁵ SHC, DD/DP/74/4; TNA, HO 107/959.

entered between two cottages in 1842 although the cottages were later demolished, one before 1885.³⁰⁶ The house had a six-bay west front with columned porch and attic dormers and an odd-shaped rear wing following a property boundary. In 1927 the house was divided in two for the Somerset Motor Company who acquired the former horse repository and stabling behind.³⁰⁷ The house was demolished to extend the garage between 1933 and 1953 and the entire site was cleared in the early 1970s and is now occupied by an office block.³⁰⁸ Tangier Cottage to the south may have been built shortly after 1811 and was demolished to build Corporation Street in 1894.³⁰⁹

Between the livery stables and cattle market under the site of the later cinema were Castle Gate House and Oak House, which were built after 1842 on the site of an earlier house and garden. The former was a six bedroomed-house with attics, underground cellars and a conservatory which had shops attached c. 1881. Both were demolished c. 1890 and most of the site was under extensive stabling used by a veterinary practice but the shops with their Gothic style gable front survived until the whole site was cleared c. 1930 to build the Gaumont cinema.³¹⁰

South of Tower Lane in the early 19th century were the gardens of Paul's House presumably the successor to the Gale family house 'at Polles',³¹¹ which in 1811 passed to Edward Coles, Clerk of the Peace who may have rebuilt it.³¹² The grounds were the site of archery contests in the 1820s and later provided weather readings.³¹³ When Paul's House was offered for sale in 1846 it comprised five reception rooms, a conservatory with aviary, 15 bedrooms and dressing rooms, coach houses, stables, cowhouses, granaries, and two walled

³⁰⁶ SHC, tithe award; DD/KIT 14/1; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

³⁰⁷ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/66/1252.

³⁰⁸ Aerial photos 1933, 1947: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW041182_051942; Som. HER 44466.

³⁰⁹ SHC, DD/DP/74/4.

³¹⁰ SHC, tithe award; DD/HS 3/2; D/B/ta 24/1/15/585; TNA, IR 58/82126; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887, 1904); aerial photos 1929: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW027886.

³¹¹ SHC, DD/SP/20, 79.

³¹² SHC, Q/AC 1: Q/C 9/2; Q/REI 35/5; DD/AY 6.

³¹³ *Bath Chron.* 28 June 1827; *Som. Co. Gaz.* 11 May 1867: BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017.

gardens. A plan to buy it for a church failed and in 1849 it was offered again with 1,500 hot house plants, caged birds, china and 800 books.³¹⁴ It was altered and added to when it became a convent in 1867.³¹⁵ To the west a small house known as Paul's Cottage, later Lodge, was converted from Paul's House stables in 1870 and extended in 1871.³¹⁶ Between 2002 and 2017 it was the local BBC radio offices and studio.³¹⁷ A third house known as The Cottage, later Paul's Cottage, was added before 1840,³¹⁸ possibly the newly erected cottage recorded in 1823 and also owned by Edward Coles.³¹⁹ It was demolished c. 1973 although the garden has been preserved as a public space.³²⁰ In the early 20th century the county architects offices were built on the nurseries between the houses and St John's church. They were rebuilt in the mid 20th century as Bedford House and since 1967 have been the financial headquarters of Debenhams.³²¹

To the east of Paul's House was Hunt's Lane or Court, now Bath Place, part of which lay the parish and had been built up by the late 18th century and was in residential and commercial use.³²²

North of the castle the land between the Water Gate and the mills had been let out from the 16th century and at an unknown date two cottages were built there, presumably accessed from Mill Lane. Tone House had replaced them by 1777 and by 1811 the Capon family had created a garden on part of the castle orchard between the Millstream and the Tone. House and garden were connected by a footbridge.³²³ The double-pile house of two floors with attics was of rendered brick under a mansard slate roof and had a three-bay front.

³¹⁴ *Som. Co. Gaz.* 16 Sep 1846, 14 Mar. 1849; BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017.

³¹⁵ Below, rel. hist.

³¹⁶ SHC, tithe award; D/B/ta 24/1/220; 24/1/8/237; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887.

³¹⁷ Inf. from BBC.

³¹⁸ SHC, DD/SAS/C212/MAP/148.

³¹⁹ SHC, DD/AY 6; *Som. Co. Gaz.* 16 Sep 1846; BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017.

³²⁰ SHC, D/B/ta/31/1/12, p. 582.

³²¹ OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1929, 1960); Som. HER, RAF aerial photo c. 1946; SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/195/11070, 24/1/228/14732.

³²² SHC, DD/DP/60/22, 74/4.

³²³ SHC, DD/SP/71, 319/194a; DD/SAS/S1122/1/2, 5, 8, 22, 24.

The windows were mainly triple sashes and the central door was entered under a pedimented porch on wooden pillars. The plan appears to have been of four rooms per floor.³²⁴ It was acquired by the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1927 and demolished to extend the castle grounds and the museum. The garden was acquired for use as a nursery in 1927 but was bought by Taunton Borough Council to form part of Goodland Gardens in 1951.³²⁵

There was little further development as by the late 19th century the area was virtually covered by buildings and the small areas of open land were either gardens or nurseries. The number of rateable properties was 206 in 1899 and 215 in 1921.³²⁶ There was rebuilding in former residential including the Technical Institute in the new Corporation Street in 1898, Wyndham Hall lecture theatre near the castle in 1927, the Neo-Georgian Tower Lane Clinic opened in 1931 but since demolished and the Gaumont Cinema also in Corporation Street in 1932. Slum clearance in the mid 20th century and subsequent redevelopment has accelerated the change in character from residential to commercial. Most late 20th and early 21st century buildings have been office blocks but two large apartment complexes have also been built.

Tangier

Tangier occupied a medieval orchard belonging to the castle. It was let out by the mid 16th century³²⁷ but is unclear when anything was built although a surrender of 1655 refers to new buildings and two cottages are mentioned in 1714.³²⁸ Until the late 19th century all property there was officially described as part of the castle orchard and references to what was on the ground before 1840 are rare. The name, traditionally said to commemorate the 2nd Tangier regiment who camped outside the castle walls during the Bloody Assizes in 1685,³²⁹ was

³²⁴ SHC, DD/SAS/S1122/1/43; A/DIF 101/10/201; Jones, *Harry Frier*, 38; TNA, IR 58/82126.

³²⁵ SHC, DD/SAS/S1122/1/45—6, 58—9; D/B/ta 24/1/117/4725.

³²⁶ SHC, D/B/ta 14/6/1, 7.

³²⁷ SHC, DD/SP/85, 87, 89, 91, 146.

³²⁸ SHC, DD/SP/79, 214.

³²⁹ J.H. Spencer, 'Tangier and Gibraltar', *PSANHS*, LVII, 98.

used for a single small house in 1693, probably an alehouse in Tower Lane.³³⁰ Letters were addressed to Tangier in 1727.³³¹ The earliest houses in the area were large with gardens and even after the building of the terraced cottages Tangier was described as ‘a pleasant residential part of the town’.³³²

Although later thought of as the island between the river Tone and the Millstream, the Rats Island of 1832,³³³ the name was originally used for all property on either side of the Millstream west of the castle precinct. For centuries the island was accessed by Paul’s Bridge but that was a footbridge and the building of a foundry by 1827 created a need for cart access. By 1839 William Charles Cox, who was by then copyholder of a large part of the island, had built Castle Street and the bridge over the Millstream opening up the area to further industrial and residential development.³³⁴ The first houses were built in 1838.³³⁵ In 1840 at least 14 dwellings were completed, the remaining land was parcelled out to builders and 28 houses, all but one occupied, were offered for sale in 1847.³³⁶ By 1849 there were c. 71 dwellings varying from double fronted houses to one up one down back to backs sharing blocks of privies.³³⁷ Two blocks, each of 30 houses shared a total of eight privies in 1854 and the whole district was served by four pumps of which only one was working, there was no sewerage and the streets were filthy and in bad repair.³³⁸ Many houses were owned by the Smith family who built St John’s church and school.³³⁹ The back to backs and other small cottages were condemned as slums including the 30 St John Cottages, which shared two open ashpits and eight toilets and the local shop. Soon after 1936 they were cleared, 95 people were rehoused and the site became Enfield Park, a caravan park for the homeless after the

³³⁰ SHC, DD/SP108, 452; Q/RLa 19/1.

³³¹ SHC, DD/CM 67.

³³² SHC, Q/SR 877/24.

³³³ Murless, *St John’s School*, 6.

³³⁴ SHC, DD/SP/210; A/DFU 1/3; DD/SAS/C112/map 183.

³³⁵ E. Jeboult, *A Popular History of West Somerset* (1893), 189.

³³⁶ SHC, DD/SP/210, 215, 219; *Taunton Courier*, 2 June 1847: BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017..

³³⁷ SHC, DD/SAS/C2550/12.OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

³³⁸ SHC, D/B/ta/2/1/2, 49, 61, 83.

³³⁹ SHC, DD/IR 58/82125—6.

war.³⁴⁰ The remaining houses even the good ones with gardens were demolished c. 1961 for car parking.³⁴¹

BUILT CHARACTER

Bishops Hull village

The older houses, usually of stone rubble, are roughcast or stuccoed as are many recent buildings but there are many 19th and 20th century good brick houses, often of the local yellow or buff bricks. The most imposing house and the oldest surviving is the Elizabethan house at the heart of the Manor Nursing Home.³⁴² There is evidence for large farmhouses from the early modern period in the village. South of the Manor the former Haydon Farmhouse is dated 1666³⁴³ but was possibly an earlier 17th-century farmhouse. In 1941 it retained 17th or 18th-century decorated plasterwork and 17th-century windows. It was restored after a major fire c. 1982.³⁴⁴ West of the church the oldest house is the Meryan House Hotel, formerly Ivy Cottage and from 1928 Meryan House, a 17th-century roughcast farmhouse virtually rebuilt in the early 19th century and altered and considerably extended west and north in the later 20th century to create a hotel.³⁴⁵ Further south on Bishops Hull Road Laurel House is probably another 17th-century farmhouse largely rebuilt in the 18th century.

Late 18th and early 19th century. Many large houses were built or rebuilt in this period throughout the parish as wealthy people including retired plantation owners and military

³⁴⁰ Aerial photos. 1929, 1947, 1953: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW027891, EAW005135, EAW051942, EAW051946; D/B/ta/4/2/3 (Dec. 1936); local inf. The car park is still called Enfield.

³⁴¹ SHC, DD/FIV/1/36; D/B/ta/4/2/3 (Mar. 1961).

³⁴² Below, landownership.

³⁴³ With the initials A & J P probably either Amos Parsons and his wife Jacet or Arthur Parsons and his wife Jane, both taxed on three hearths: Dwelly, *Som. Hearth Tax Returns*, I, 32.

³⁴⁴ OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn); SHC, DD/IR T5/1; D/B/ta 14/7/1; D/R/ta/13/1/1; SWHT, Somerset HER 40443.

³⁴⁵ SWHT, Somerset HER 40448

officers. In the village large houses were built on Bishops Hull Road and Netherclay. Netherclay House was almost finished in 1752.³⁴⁶ When sold in 1812 it had five bedrooms with dressing rooms and six attics with a large coachhouse and stable.³⁴⁷ It has been greatly altered and added to since especially in the late 20th century when it became a nursing home. However, the main part of the U-shaped house of rendered rubble under a slate roof retains a fine symmetrical five-bay east front of two storeys with attics. The single storey Ham stone porch has a moulded cornice, paired Doric columns and matching pilasters on the façade framing double half-glazed doors and is flanked by 16-pane sash windows.

On the higher ground opposite Netherclay a large house had been built possibly by 1751 when it was the home of John Cockerell, father of the architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell, and lord of Huntspill and Moorlinch manors. He was allowed a seat and burial vault in church for his unnamed capital message in 1760. He went bankrupt in 1765 and the house and contents were sold.³⁴⁸ The house passed to naval officer Marriott Arbuthnott who sold it to plantation-owner Thomas Milliken Mills in 1770. Mills probably rebuilt or enlarged the house, described as new built in 1775, and provided with 2 a. of grounds. He gave it its name Milliken Hall, which after many variations has become Milligan Hall.³⁴⁹ It was extended by a plain, rendered, nine-bay block to the north, which survives, before 1842 when it was divided in two, part being used later as a school.³⁵⁰ The original southern building was a double-pile, five-bay house, with a porch on the east front, which was demolished in 1964 and replaced by a large brick and tile, five-bedroomed detached house.³⁵¹ The whole site is now divided into several dwellings.

³⁴⁶ SHC, DD/BD 27.

³⁴⁷ *Taunton Courier*, 8 Oct 1812: BNA, accessed June 2017.

³⁴⁸ SHC, A/D/QO40/26; D/P/b.hl/2/1/6, 6/10; D/D/Ca 426; DD/CH/110/1; DD/HC 41/1. He was imprisoned and his wife and children moved to Chelsea but their education and careers seem to have been unaffected.

³⁴⁹ SHC, DD/MY 35.

³⁵⁰ SHC, tithe award; D/DP 75/6; below, soc. hist. educ.

³⁵¹ SHC, tithe award; D/R/ta/24/1/890.

Near the junction of Bishops Hull Road with Shutewater Hill is the more modest Wheel Cottage,³⁵² formerly The Cottage, dating from the early 19th century with deep overhanging eaves and symmetrical two-storey, three-bay front with a plain round-headed doorway with fanlight. Of similar date is Shute Cottage at the top of Shutewater Hill, originally the Boot inn, of three storeys with attic.³⁵³ On the east side of the Bishops Hull Road are several imposing houses beginning with red brick Bramdean, now divided in two and heavily restored in the mid 20th century. It was formerly known as Nelson Lodge but that may not indicate a building date. An 18th-century arched brick and Bath stone carriage entrance survives to the north.³⁵⁴ To the south Bishops Hull House is another late 18th-century red brick house greatly altered and with a Bath stone west porch added in the mid 19th century, originally surmounted by an eagle but now with a lion, and a later garden porch. In 1946 it had marble mantelpieces, a fitted library, wine cellar and soft water storage tank, a disused electrical plant, glasshouses and extensive gardens.³⁵⁵ During the late 20th century it was converted to offices but in 2017 there were plans to turn in into apartments. Further south is late-19th century Woodmead, formerly Hillmore Lodge, built shortly before 1887 in brick for the Hillmore house servants and possibly guests, replacing two Hillmore Cottages.³⁵⁶ It was separated from Hillmore House and renamed after the estate was sold in 1889 and was for 20 years the home of the Channer family, Taunton solicitors. Hillmore House was built in 1811 for Robert Franklin of Taunton. It was a large, double pile, brick house with substantial gardens, glasshouses and tennis courts by 1889 but was destroyed in the 1970s century for a large private housing estate.³⁵⁷

³⁵² It had a wheelhouse in 1900: SHC, DD/CH/77/5.

³⁵³ SHC, D/B/ta 14/7/1; Somerset HER 40445, 40466; below, econ. hist.

³⁵⁴ OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn).

³⁵⁵ SHC, DD/SAS/C/2401/61; DD/HR 9; Somerset HER, 40447.

³⁵⁶ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn); TNA, RG 11/2369.

³⁵⁷ SHC, DD/DP/9/14, 184/6; DD/IR/T 5/1; DD/CH/128/2.

Smaller houses surviving from this period include the two up, two down 1820s cottages in Shutewater Hill. The three-storey shop between the club and the Old Inn, of which it is now part having been reduced to two storeys, was built shortly before 1818 with a bakehouse and shop for baker William Bryant who developed Shutewater Hill.³⁵⁸ On Netherclay a house was replaced between 1808 and 1842 by a terrace of three houses, now known as Netherclay Cottage, Netherclay Villa and Chilvale, with deep overhanging eaves and sash windows.³⁵⁹ One house is entered under a carriage arch as is the next house to the south, possibly a converted outbuilding. On the corner of Netherclay and Bishops Hill Hill Rose Cottage and Rose Villa were built probably shortly before 1841.³⁶⁰

1842 to 1900 There appears to some good small house building from the 1840s especially on Netherclay. The three cottages at Parsonage farm were demolished shortly after 1842 and were replaced by Netherclay Cottages, now Hill Terrace, six cottages on higher ground to the west away from the road.³⁶¹ In the village Myrtle Cottages were built between Meryan House and the manse in 1845 for the Congregational chapel. They are of stone rubble with brick dressings but have been rendered and had their chimneys removed.³⁶²

Further south and now separated from the village by Silk Mills Road is Magnolia House built on the site of a cottage possibly in the 1840s. In 1947 it was extended for division into four flats but is now a private house and additional houses have been built in the former gardens.³⁶³ On the Wellington road five houses had been built shortly before 1842 including a pair of very large houses with pedimented gables built by Elizabeth Lewis called Claremont

³⁵⁸ SHC, A/DQO 40/13; DD/SP/215; TNA, RG 78/855.

³⁵⁹ SHC, A/DGR 1; tithe award.

³⁶⁰ SHC, tithe award; TNA, HO 107/959.

³⁶¹ SHC, tithe award.

³⁶² SHC, SANHS Topog. Colln. 13272; below, rel. hist.

³⁶³ SHC, DD/DP/215; DD/CH/104/5; tithe award; D/R/ta/13/1/1, 24/1/466.

and Rose Mount.³⁶⁴ Further east several houses of this period survive notably Wellington Terrace, a former school completed by 1847 with additions to the west by William Shewbrooks of Taunton c. 1848 and converted to houses c. 1870. They have three storeys over a basement and are rendered under a slate roof. The central section of four bays has a central Tuscan porch replacing a pair of windows flanked by pedimented one-bay gabled sections. The rendering is moulded into elongated arched panels and pilasters. There is a matching two-storey link with the original entrance to the former plain two-storey seven bay classroom block now houses, partly rendered, with added dormers and contemporary front walls and gatepiers.³⁶⁵ The later terraces to the west abandon render in favour of exposed buff brick with red brick banding. To the east a terrace of three buff and red brick houses of 1878, with two more added on the west a few years later, has detailed brick cornices and other brick features, a continuous slate-roofed verandah and decorative iron window box holders but only the easternmost house retains its original exposed brickwork.

Most of the housing from later in the century is in the form of modest houses, mainly in terraces. In the village the manse was rebuilt c. 1870 and on Bishops Hull Road, Laurel Villas, a good quality terrace of three houses and a workshop with cart access, were built before 1887 on the site of the garden north of Laurel House and east of earlier Laurel Cottage, a former private school now called Cranford. They are of stone with a brick frontage with stone dressings including decorated keystones over the doors, which have rectangular fanlights. Many houses from the mid 19th-century were built in the distinctive yellow or buff bricks from the Bishops Hull brickyards on Wellington Road sometimes with red bricks for banding and fenestration although a few houses reverse that pattern. Between 1882 and 1887 Netherclay Villas or Terrace, four houses of yellow brick with red brick dressings, were built on the west side of Netherclay. The slightly earlier detached house of the same materials to

³⁶⁴ SHC, tithe award; DD/SP/210; D/P/tau.jo 13/9/1.

³⁶⁵ SHC, A/DIF 116/229.

the south, built before 1881 was called the Cottage in 1911. It has an annexe on the north now incorporated into the house but which formerly served as a post office and bootmaker's shop.³⁶⁶ Also shortly before 1887 at Hamwood opposite Haydon farm a row of five two up, two down brick cottages was built on the site of a barn off the road and seven more were built on the road, the eastern two with bay windows.³⁶⁷

By c. 1900 half the north side of the present Mountway Road had been developed with mainly terraced, good quality yellow or buff brick houses with red brick dressings and bandings, bay windows in stone surrounds and tall windows with rectangular fanlights. There are also larger red brick detached and semi detached houses with mock half-timbered gables, stone or buff brick dressings.³⁶⁸ On Wellington Road Henley Lodge, a small detached house of buff brick with stone pedimented bay window was built by C.H. Sansom for Arthur Maynard in 1880.³⁶⁹ Further west on Wellington New Road surviving from the era of the brickyards are Florence and Oak Terraces of painted brick. The former, south of the road and dated 1881, comprises eight houses with bay windows and tall doorways with fanlights. The latter is a terrace of five with flat fronts and round-headed doorways. The attached public house was rebuilt in the 20th century.³⁷⁰

20th century On the south side of the village street next to the Old Inn, a row of cottages and a bakehouse were replaced in 1911—12 with a terrace of four houses, one of which was also a shop and another the post office, and a club all in simple Arts and Crafts style. They are rendered under red asbestos diamond-slatted roofs, although the club has been re-roofed with rectangular tiles and has incorporated a house to the west.

³⁶⁶ SHC, tithe award; *Taunton Courier* 10 May 1882: BNA accessed June 2016; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn); TNA, RG 11/2369; RG 12/1878; RG 78/855.

³⁶⁷ SHC, tithe award; DD/SAS/C/2273/1/B6.5; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn).

³⁶⁸ SHC, D/B/ta 14/7/1; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1904 edn).

³⁶⁹ SHC, DD/KIT 2/9; D/B/ta 24/1/13/479.

³⁷⁰ SHC, DD/IR/T 5/1; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn.); below, econ. hist.

It was in the 1930s that the next great phase of development along the Wellington road began. Detached houses were built at the west end up Stonegallows Hill, mostly rendered but some of red brick and a few with mock timbering.³⁷¹ A mix of detached and semi-detached houses was built along the central section of Wellington New Road in Wilton parish.³⁷² To the east fields south of Wellington Road were laid out in streets from the 1930s and developed with large detached and semi-detached houses, sometimes known as the Manor estate, and including Aylands Road named after the medieval fields it is built on. Most of these houses were also wholly or partly rendered, with variations in roof shape and fenestration. The roofs are mainly plain tiles but some houses have Roman tiles³⁷³ Contemporary local authority housing as in the Smithy is also mainly rendered and mostly with Roman tiled roofs.

Later 20th century building is mostly brick, some rendered and although at the end of the century plain brick was preferred early 21st century housing has reverted to a mix of brick and rendered dwellings. Roman tiled roofs remained popular for example on both the private and local authority houses, flats and bungalows off Silk Mills Road but 21st-century housing is plain tiled. North of Mountway the local authority housing of the 1970s and 1980s includes houses in pairs and threes with small irregular fenestration and monopitched roofs.³⁷⁴ The Taunton Art School, now part of Somerset College, moved to Wellington Road into a 1972 'brutalist' building of dark brown brick and concrete and angled windows for good light. Most of the other college buildings on the site were rebuilt in the early 21st century and include experiments with natural materials and coloured metal cladding.³⁷⁵

Roughmoor

³⁷¹ Below, this section.

³⁷² SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/62.

³⁷³ SHC, DD/CWCta 85; C/EPRW 3.

³⁷⁴ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/6, 2/13, 2/19.

³⁷⁵ Orbach, *S. and W. Som.* 620—1.

In 1705 when Edward Jarman built Roughmoor Farm now House. In 1718 it had a formal garden with duck pond, a grove of trees, a row of walnuts, two formal ponds and two walks, one terraced with arbours at either end.³⁷⁶ The house was rebuilt before 1842 probably by the Buncombe family. Mary Buncombe married George Rogers and their sons inherited the estate, which was sold by Herbert's widow Mary in 1919.³⁷⁷ The house is a rendered two-storey, double-pile house under a hipped slate roof. It has a three-bay entrance front with wooden glazed porch and inner double doors with fanlight.³⁷⁸ The 18th-century gardens have been destroyed. During the later 18th-century a new farmhouse, the present Roughmoor Farm, was built on a former nursery.³⁷⁹ It is rendered with brick stacks and has a three-bay south front with Doric portico. The square farmyard attached on the east was later partly incorporated into the house. In poor repair c. 1910, it was greatly altered in the later 20th century for offices but the rear wall still retains Gothick windows. It has reverted to residential use.³⁸⁰ To the north are two brick houses Westmoor built shortly before 1914 but has since been greatly enlarged³⁸¹ and Westmead, built between 1914 and 1930.³⁸²

East of Roughmoor, Longrun Farmhouse, recorded from 1775, was extended and altered during the 19th century. In 1900 it was a brick, stone and slate house with six fitted bedrooms, conservatory, walled garden and vinery.³⁸³ It was largely rebuilt and its farmyard redeveloped at the end of the 20th century to provide disabled care facilities.³⁸⁴ detached houses often with attached garages, but some bungalows, built either side of the Wellington road at Stonegallows Hill, some on a parallel access road originally known as the Hutcombe Byway, after the roadhouse opposite. They had features like leaded lights, loggias,

³⁷⁶ SHC, DD/CH/80/6.

³⁷⁷ SHC, DD/AY 86; DD/CH/77/5, 80/6, 109/7.

³⁷⁸ SHC, tithe award; SWHT, Somerset HER 40456.

³⁷⁹ SHC, DD/CH/80/6.

³⁸⁰ TNA, IR 58/82/129; SWHT, Somerset HER 40455.

³⁸¹ OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1914 edn); SHC, DD/AY 86.

³⁸² OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1914 edn, 1930 edn).

³⁸³ SHC, tithe award; DD/SP/215; DD/SAS/C/2401/60; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn).

³⁸⁴ Below, soc. hist.

and bay windows. Some larger houses were also built on the old road, usually individually designed for clients.³⁸⁵ Later more detached houses were built creating a desirable suburban area.

Rumwell

The oldest surviving house at Rumwell is Grant's Farm a thatched, roughcast, open-hall house of the 15th century, remodelled probably *c.* 1608 and partly rebuilt in the later 20th century when crucks and a painted stud and plank screen were removed.³⁸⁶

In the early 19th century a great deal of building and rebuilding took place. South of Grant's Farm is a row of three early 19th-century Gothick brick and slate cottages. Across the road a 17th-century farmhouse was enlarged in the early 19th century into a genteel residence called Rumwell Lodge for Betty Petten by building an additional larger range on the north. The whole, of rendered rubble, was upgraded *c.* 1860 and given a Doric porch, decorative barge boards and finials.³⁸⁷

Rumwell House, now Hall, was probably built for William Cadbury before *c.* 1810 and in 1842 had a large service courtyard on the east.³⁸⁸ In 1856 it had five reception rooms and ten bedrooms and the grounds included ring plantations, walks and a maze. It had three storeys and the three bay front and triple light windows and a Doric portico.³⁸⁹ It is a double pile house with a three bay, three storey front rendered and grooved to resemble ashlar and a portico with Doric columns.³⁹⁰ It was altered in the early 20th century for Charles Leslie Fox

³⁸⁵ SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/17—18, 20—1, 28—30, 60, 66, 69—70, 73, 80, 87, 89—91, 93, 95, 106, 109, 162, 172.

³⁸⁶ SHC, DD/V/Tar 3.1; below, econ. hist.

³⁸⁷ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn).

³⁸⁸ Orbach, *S. and W. Som.* 120; SHC, tithe award.

³⁸⁹ SHC, DD/CH/80/8.

³⁹⁰ SWHT, Somerset HER 40462.

and restored in the late 20th century as an hotel and in the early 21st century as an office and conference centre incorporating part of the service court.³⁹¹

To the east towards Stone Green, Rumwell Hill was built on farmland for Betty Petten c. 1855 of Ham stone ashlar under a gabled slate roof with a north service wing. The Italian style, two-storey house has recessed centres with dentil cornices to each frontage. The paired windows have circular-headed flat surrounds on the ground floor and juliet balconies on the first floor. Original features surviving in the house include the staircase with mahogany rail, black and white marble floors, panelled doors, moulded plaster cornices and some gilded pelmets.³⁹² The house was renamed Rumwell Park and in the later 20th century was divided into two dwellings and a new farmyard was created known as Elms farm. In the early 21st century it was restored as a holiday let and event venue. The rendered single-storey lodge on the Wellington road was extended in 1936 and later had a two storey east wing added.³⁹³ Its west entrance has a portico with paired square columns and matching pilaster on the house wall flanking the doorway. The enclosed simple classical porch on the southern side facing the main road appears to be a modern addition.

Further rebuilding took place in the early 20th century. North of Grant's Farm Rumwell and Ritherden's farms have modern outbuildings and both houses have been greatly altered since the 19th century.³⁹⁴ On the Wellington road west of the Crown Little Thatch and Japonica are a pair of thatched cottages built in 1925 to replace three destroyed by fire.³⁹⁵ To their west five cottages were replaced by a row of five, now four, roughcast and asbestos diamond-slatted estate cottages in Arts and Crafts style by Charles Fox of Rumwell Hall in

³⁹¹ Below, landownership.

³⁹² SWHT, Somerset HER 40464.

³⁹³ SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/33.

³⁹⁴ SHC, tithe award.

³⁹⁵ SHC, tithe award; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1887 edn); TNA, IR 58/82128; *Taunton Courier*, 22 Apr. 1925; BNA accessed June 2016.

1912, possibly by the same architect who designed the row in Bishops Hull village the same year.³⁹⁶

Fideoak

Among suggestions for the name are that it derives from the stream of that name and means faithful, that is unfailling. The stream rises on the Blackdowns at Buckland wood and now enters the Tone at Hele in Bradford but may have formerly followed the parish boundary where traces of watercourses remain especially near the site of Fideoak mill.³⁹⁷ The tithing included Barr and in 1665 six houses were assessed for hearth tax, two with three or more hearths.³⁹⁸ Fideoak mill has gone and the farm is a ruin.

Upcott

The earliest surviving house may be Newley Farm, dwarfed by an extensive modern farm yard, but possibly a late 16th-century cob farmhouse largely rebuilt in the 18th century as a two storey, three bay brick house with attic. Later a front verandah was added.³⁹⁹ Upcott House, a farmhouse until the 1880s, probably dates from the late 17th or early 18th century but was given a rendered east front with parapet *c.* 1790 and a Bath stone porch in the 19th century. It was enlarged probably in the later 19th century and had eight bedrooms and three attics, wine cellars and a china pantry in 1900.⁴⁰⁰ It was two houses in the early 21st century. It formerly had a large coachhouse and a raised walk around two sides of the garden.⁴⁰¹

³⁹⁶ TNA, IR 58/82127; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 14 (1930 edn); date plaque.

³⁹⁷ Above, this section.

³⁹⁸ Dwelly, *Hearth Tax Returns*, I, 33.

³⁹⁹ SHC, DD/V/TAr 3/3.

⁴⁰⁰ SHC, DD/CH/77/5; SWHT, Somerset HER 40470.

⁴⁰¹ OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn).

Upcott House, now Hall,⁴⁰² is an early 18th-century brick mansion with Ham stone dressings, a seven-bay front and some original panelling. It had 19 bedrooms and a dressing room and was assessed for 40 windows when it was let in 1824.⁴⁰³ In 1947 it was converted into ten flatlets but has been restored.⁴⁰⁴

Barr

Barr House, now surrounded by a bulb nursery and garden, is an 18th-century red brick house with a five-bay south entrance front, possibly created out of a 17th-century farmhouse for James Hine before 1760. Some 18th-century plaster ceilings survive over the hall, now dining room, and stairs.⁴⁰⁵ A map of the 1790s shows the house as L-shaped with west and south ranges only.⁴⁰⁶ By 1842 it was a U-shaped house and had an additional large block to the east creating a double U, possibly the maltings at work here in the early 19th century.⁴⁰⁷ This eastern block was later demolished and the entrance moved to the east, a new service extension built to the north-east and the interior altered including the provision of a new staircase. The three-bay east front is rendered and has a Bath stone porch. These alterations may have been done in the mid 19th century for the tenants, the Dance family.⁴⁰⁸ To the north of the house is a three storey building of hand-made red brick.⁴⁰⁹

Oldbury Lodge was probably built for William Walter in the early 19th century. The southern part was rebuilt in the later 19th-century in yellow brick with stone keystones and double door surrounds, and then remodelled in the early 20th century when some of the sash windows were reduced in height. The north block is rendered apart from its red brick stacks

⁴⁰² TNA, RG 12/1878.

⁴⁰³ SHC, DD/DP/43/2.

⁴⁰⁴ SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/460; D/PC/b.hl 2/19; SWHT, Somerset HER 40469; Orbach, *S. and W. Som.* 120.

⁴⁰⁵ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 6/10; SWHT, Somerset HER 40437.

⁴⁰⁶ SHC, DD/AY 66.

⁴⁰⁷ SHC, DD/DP/10/8; below, econ. hist.

⁴⁰⁸ SWHT, Somerset HER 40437; below, soc. hist.

⁴⁰⁹ SHC, DD/DP/10/8.

and the three bay north front has overhanging bracketed eaves, Corinthian pilasters at the corners and French windows set in blank arched recesses.⁴¹⁰

South of Oldbury Lodge Firs Cottage was probably an 18th-century brick and thatch cottage but it was altered in the early 19th century to create a two-storey, three-bay house. It retains 19th-century casements and until 1919 had a thatched roof.⁴¹¹

Frethey

Frethey House was rebuilt probably before 1827.⁴¹² Known during the mid 19th century as Frethey Cottage, it was a seven bedroom house apparently used as a 'dower house' to Upcott by Frances Freke Gunston and then by Elizabeth McClean. One bedroom had an en-suite bath by c. 1910.⁴¹³ It was virtually rebuilt in the later 20th century with a large northern extension on the site of the former barton to provide accommodation for a nursing home.

The Castle area

Few early buildings survive as this area has changed from a residential suburban district to an industrial area with workers' housing in the mid 19th century and to an area of offices, shops and services from the mid 20th century. The drastic clearances of the mid 20th century meant the loss of good quality houses as well as slum dwellings and buildings have been lost to road widening, car parks and commercial building. The oldest surviving building is the castle but even that is not as originally built and much of what looks old is actually modern including alterations begun by Sir Benjamin Hammet in the late 18th century and the many alteration and addition carried out by the Somerset Archaeological Society since the 1870s.⁴¹⁴

⁴¹⁰ SHC, DD/AY 66; A/BNK 1/1/7; D/PC/b.hl 6/10; tithe award.

⁴¹¹ SWHT, Somerset HER 40438.

⁴¹² SHC, DD/AY 66; DD/CH/106/13; tithe award.

⁴¹³ SHC, DD/DP/85/1; DD/AY 64; TNA, IR 58/82128; below, landownership.

⁴¹⁴ Below, landownership.

16th to 18th centuries The only early 16th-century building is the former grammar school. The original schoolroom survives open to its original arch-braced roof, the 1835 ceiling having been removed, and with five four-light mullioned and transomed windows. The badly worn arms and initials of Bishop Fox are above the eastern door into the room.⁴¹⁵ After becoming council offices an extension was completed in 1904 in Tudor style damaging the historic roof and destroying the west end of the building. The garden, occupying the former castle moat, was taken in 1894 to build Corporation Street.⁴¹⁶ The forecourt is now bordered by a large retaining wall being above the level of Corporation Street and reached by two flights of stone stairs. In Tower Lane the Willow Tree Restaurant is an L-shaped brick building, which was still thatched in 1883.⁴¹⁷ It may have originated as a small house, timber framed with a jettied first floor over a cob base, in the late 16th-century. It is now mostly a late 17th-century brick building of two storeys with attic in the gable, roughcast and whitewashed under a pantile roof.

Castle Lodge west of the castle is a late 17th-century brick fronted two storey house, remodelled in mid 18th-century when it was provided with the present staircase. The house was altered at the east end to enable the building of the Wyndham Hall, a lecture room, by the Archaeological Society in 1927.⁴¹⁸ In Mill Lane the public house currently named Mambos was a late 17th-century house later known as Ine's Cottage. The two bay, four storey brick and tile house was given its octagonal staircase, dormers and other features such as corbel heads, architectural decoration in the passage and a carved wyvern over the doorway in 1875 by William Surtees who created a passage through the building and over the castle wall to

⁴¹⁵ SHC, DD/V/TAB 27; Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 249—60.

⁴¹⁶ SHC, DD/SAS/S1122/1/35; *VCH Som. II*, 445—6; Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 260.

⁴¹⁷ SHC, A/DAS/2 (12283).

⁴¹⁸ SHC, DD/SAS/S1122/1/56—7; D/B/ta 24/1/65/1222.

provide members of the Archaeological Society with daytime access to the castle.⁴¹⁹ It has since been restored with replacement replica windows.

Early 19th century The Winchester Arms, formerly the 18th-century Horse and Jockey, was altered and refronted in the early 19th century with battlements to match the south wall of the castle. It has been altered since and considerably extended but retains that frontage, rebuilt as a replica in the 1960s with a single entrance after failed attempts to rebuild to a different design.⁴²⁰ The western part of the present Castle Hotel, formerly Clarke's Hotel, was created in 1833 out of three houses on the site. A portico was added to the entrance, all the windows were converted to a simple arched design and the Castle Bow was incorporated and had two floors of bedrooms built over it, replacing a room apparently built shortly before 1821, and it was buttressed and crenellated as was the new north parlour wing to create a symmetrical façade and to match the Winchester Arms opposite. Two stone plaques were to be re-sited beneath the second floor windows at either end but they were both installed on either side of the Bow, including a worn coat of Arms of Bishop Langton of 1498 taken from the old house.⁴²¹ Two further floors were also added in two phases during the 20th century increasing capacity to 44 bedrooms and in the early 20th century most of the windows were altered to a rectangular stone mullioned design.⁴²²

The Tower Lane house formerly called Tower House then Ivor House is a much altered, three-storey brick house of the early 19th century. The east entrance front is obscured by a modern extension but is of red brick under a hipped slate roof with projecting eaves with curved brackets. 3 windows with painted voussoirs. The central window on the first floor 1st floor is tall with a round head, the rest are eight-pane sashes. The other sides have later

⁴¹⁹ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/1/10/311; DD/SAS/S1122/1/42, 49; DD/V/TAB 24.

⁴²⁰ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/1/145/8753.

⁴²¹ SHC, DD/CN 29/7; DD/MT 29/4/1; DD/X/SOM 25.

⁴²² SHC, DD/MT 27/1/4; T/PH/chn 1; *Globe*, 31 Dec. 1833; BNA, accessed 12 Oct. 2017; TNA, RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375; RG 11/2369; RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14241.

irregular fenestration. The outbuildings were replaced by a modern two storey extension in the early 1970s the house was used as an NHS offices psychiatric centre.⁴²³ The premises are now the Taunton Islamic Centre. Its neighbour, the later Alpha Cottage, is a three bay house of painted brick under a hipped slate roof attached to the Moose Hall built on the site of the industrial buildings formerly attached to the house. Most of its garden has been taken for road widening. It is now offices.

South of Tower Lane Paul's House was a double-piled house with four-bay, three storey fronts *c.* 1846⁴²⁴ but is now a square house with a central valley having a three bay east range and a triple gabled west range abutting the north end of the former convent chapel. The house is stuccoed under a hipped slate roof, the first-floor windows have balconies and the doors are semi-circular headed with fanlights that on the east front having an open pediment. For nearly a century the house has been used as offices. To the west Paul's Cottage, later Lodge, was also owned by Edward Coles.⁴²⁵ It was converted from a stable in 1870.⁴²⁶ It is a plain two storey, three bay rendered house under a hipped roof with a single bay extension set back on the west. The windows are four-pane sashes and the door has a moulded semi-circular headed stone surround.

Later 19th century to the present Cann Street is the only residential street left in the old urban area of the parish but the houses were rebuilt in the 19th and 20th centuries and now look out onto three lanes of a one-way road system. The former convent chapel was built of salvaged stone in 1871.⁴²⁷ The stone and slate Taunton Technical Institute, now a public house, was built west of the former grammar school in Corporation Street in 1898.⁴²⁸ More

⁴²³ SHC, D/H/yeo/23/10/1.

⁴²⁴ Ibid., D/DC/tau.d 38/46.

⁴²⁵ Ibid., DD/AY 6; *Som. Co. Gaz.* 16 Sep 1846: BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017.

⁴²⁶ SHC, tithe award; D/B/ta 24/1/220; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

⁴²⁷ Below, rel. hist.

⁴²⁸ Orbach, *S. and W. Som.* 625.

recent buildings have usually been of brick. The art deco former Gaumont cinema, now a bingo hall, was built in 1931—2, to designs by W. T. Benslyn, clad in 'golden sand-faced' Bishops Hull brick. Parts of the original interior survive and only very minor changes were made *c.* 1968 to the exterior.⁴²⁹ The Wyndham Hall, built by F. W. Roberts for the Archaeological Society as a lecture room in 1927 incorporates a 16th-century oak doorway rescued from North Street, Taunton.⁴³⁰ The area has several late 20th-century office blocks and flats usually three-storey of red. Those built from the 1980s to 2000s have banding of contrasting bricks and decorative tiled roofs. The most recent development is Castlemoat Place, shops and flats south of Corporation Street dating from 2010, which is four-storey white framed building with various forms and colours of decorative cladding.

⁴²⁹ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/75/1563, 24/1/203/11516; inf. from B. Murless of S.I.A.S.; Orbach, *S. and W. Som.* 625.

⁴³⁰ SHC, DD/SAS/S1122/1/56—7; D/B/ta 24/1/65/1222; Orbach, *S. and W. Som.* 617.