

TRULL

Trull parish lies between Bishops Hull to the north-west, Wilton to the north-east, Pitminster to the east, Angersleigh to the south-east and West Buckland and Bradford on Tone to the south-west. Trull village, on the north-east boundary of its parish, is *c.*2 miles south-west of Taunton town centre. The parish included Comeytrowe, Dipford, Daw's Green, Budleigh and part of Sweethay, several farmsteads, Batts Park and Queen's College. Its north-east to south-west axis is just over 3 miles (*c.*5 km.). Before enlargement it averaged 1 mile (1.6 km) north-west to south-east but is now 3 miles (*c.*5 km) east to west. A detached plot in Angersleigh and the latter's field in Trull were exchanged by 1901.¹ Originally covering 2,232 a., in 1921 Trull lost the Queen's College and Batts Park area to Taunton borough and in 1986 Comeytrowe to a new civil parish and Budleigh to Pitminster but gained Staplehay and other adjoining areas from Pitminster increasing its acreage to 2,567 a. (1,039 ha.).² Apart from the flood plain of the Sherford stream, the north of the ancient parish has been built over. In the south the motorway and its service station have obliterated a large area of the remaining rural parish.³

LANDSCAPE, SETTLEMENT AND BUILDINGS

Trull sits on Mercia mudstone, with a limestone intrusion south-west of Lipe Hill, and river deposits and gravel along the streams and at Hamwood. A long ridge carrying the Honiton road rises south from Taunton reaching *c.*46 m. (150 ft) in Trull village. East of the Sherford Stream the land rises to *c.*61 m. (200 ft) on Cotlake Hill. In the west a row of steep-sided hills

¹ TNA RG 13/2273. This article was completed in 2026.

² SHC, tithe award; below, local govt.

³ *The Taunton Deane (Parishes) Order 1986.*

runs north to south. The highest is Lipe Hill at 298 ft. (91 m.).⁴ The only natural features of the ancient parish boundary, apparently pre-Conquest, are short stretches of the Sherford stream, Galmington stream or Dipford water and an unnamed Tone tributary, probably the Boome or Boones brook of c.1653.⁵ The Sherford stream was liable to flood and in 1968 the village was badly affected.⁶ Since 1986 the M5 motorway has formed the southern and south-eastern boundary. The parishioners still perambulated the boundary in the 1850s.⁷

COMMUNICATIONS

Roads

Medieval messenger duties, possibly to Winchester, imply a reasonable road network.⁸ The Taunton to Honiton road, formerly called the deep way, is joined in Trull village by side roads from Pitminster to the east and Comeytrove, West Buckland and Angersleigh on the west and south-west. The last two converge near Dipford and originally joined the Honiton road north of Trull Green as well as south. The north route closed after 1842.⁹ In 1794-5 the parish was ordered to spend £100 mending the road from Angersleigh and bought c.590 waggon loads of stone.¹⁰

The Taunton to Honiton road was turnpiked in 1752.¹¹ Hoveland Lane from Galmington on the northern boundary was not turnpiked but a tollbar was placed across its junction with the turnpike at Wheatleigh cross and a tollhouse was built c.1857. Taunton's Shuttern tollgate was moved to the entrance to Wild Oak Lane in 1851.¹² Both were sold in

⁴ Geol. Surv. Map, 1:50000 sheet 311 drift (1976 edn).

⁵ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/4 (1754); DD/CT/35.

⁶ C.W. Green, *Trull and Staplehay* [1993], 14.

⁷ SHC, D/P/tru 4/1/4 (1815), 4/1/5 (1831, 1852), 24/50.

⁸ Below, econ. hist.

⁹ SHC, tithe award.

¹⁰ SHC, Q/SR/363/4/12, 14.

¹¹ J.B. Bentley and B.J. Murless, *Som. Roads*, I, 57; SHC, DD/SP/2, 22/41, 417 nos. 2, 4, 8.

¹² Bentley and Murless, *Som. Roads*, I, 54; SHC, DD/SAS/C795/TN/26; D/T/ta/11, pp. 61, 193, 549, 689; below, Wilton, intro.

1874-5 when the trust was wound up.¹³ Wild Oak Lane possibly originated as merged church paths from Comeytrowe and Galmington. The former was closed between 1805 and 1822 but the latter, Claremont Lane, remains a public footpath.¹⁴ Pook Lane recorded by 1581 led south from Trull village through Staplehay.¹⁵

Some roads were altered or closed to suit local landowners notably those to Higher Comeytrowe c.1769 and 1815 and Cutsey in 1867.¹⁶ In c.1811 there were over 13 miles of 'bye roads' and from 1815 closure of 'unnecessary highways' in the west of the parish including Balance, Blind, Chilliswood and Hurtnell's lanes was paid for by selling them. A few survive as footpaths but others including that to Rumwell over Lawbridge by Higher Comeytrowe are lost.¹⁷ In 1853 public paths across the churchyard were closed or diverted.¹⁸ Maintaining 12 miles of parish roads in the 1860s cost up to £180 a year.¹⁹ In 1885 Taunton Highway Board had the Honiton road declared a main road, which changes its name from Trull Road to Honiton Road at the Wild Oak Lane junction.²⁰ Lanes were diverted or closed to construct the M5 motorway in 1975-6 and housing estates at Comeytrowe.²¹

Bridges and fords

A county bridge carried the Comeytrowe road over the Galmington stream. It is a single-arched brick bridge named Horts after an adjoining smallholding.²² The 1566 Buncombe bridge was possibly that across the Sherford stream from the village to Eastbrook,

¹³ SHC, D/T/ta/12, 23.

¹⁴ SHC, C/GP/HF/343; DD/CT/22; T/PH/sro/11; J.B. Harley and R.W. Dunning, *Somerset Maps*, map 1822.

¹⁵ SHC, DD/SP/73 (Hull hundred).

¹⁶ TNA, C 202/158/16; SHC, DD/SP/18/32; Q/SR/362/3/30-2; DD/CT/22, 27; *Taunton Courier* 3 Apr. 1867: BNA accessed 25 March 2026.

¹⁷ SHC, D/P/tru/9/1/2, 23/7-13, 24/28; DD/SP/210; tithe award.

¹⁸ SHC, Q/SR/599/2-7.

¹⁹ SHC, D/R/ta/32/3/35.

²⁰ Som. HER 42330; SHC, Q/SR/743.219-20

²¹ SHC, C/CA/31/158/1-12; C/GP/HF/600, 1146.

²² SHC, Q/AB/2, 17.

Pitminster.²³ Downstream Batts footbridge was swept away by floods in 1745 and replaced by a single-arched, stone bridge with Ham stone voussoirs. A stepped waterfall was added, presumably by the owners of Batts Park, and a vehicular bridge when Batts Park came under military use.²⁴ Steart bridge, which carries the road to West Buckland, was rebuilt in brick probably in 1876.²⁵

Dipford, the deep ford, had a causeway in 1576 known in the 19th century as Frog Street.²⁶ The ford was replaced by a culvert between 1804 and 1842 but the footpath from Staplehay still fords the stream.²⁷

Buses

In 1923 there were four buses rising to ten each way Monday to Saturday by 1947 but none reached Taunton before 9 a.m.²⁸ In 1965 hourly bus services from Taunton railway station to Duddlestone, Pitminster and from Taunton to Churchinford served the village.²⁹ Services declined, especially for commuters, and in 2026 there was an hourly service between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to Taunton and the hospital. A daily service enabled pupils to access Taunton secondary schools.³⁰

Dynasphere

This motor-driven, latticed wheel was patented in 1930 by Dr John Purves of Chilliswood. The motor and seat on internal rails remained level as the wheel travelled up to 30 m.p.h. A

²³ SHC, DD/SP/71 (N. Trendle).

²⁴ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/2 (1697-8), 4/1/3 (1745); A/DIF/116/226; Som. HER 40626; below, soc. hist.

²⁵ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/3 (1717-20); D/R/ta/32/3/35 (1876).

²⁶ TNA, PROB 11/58/319; HO 107/1922; RG 10/2367.

²⁷ SHC, DD/CT/22; tithe award; D/PC/tru/1/2/1 (1914).

²⁸ *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1923); SHC, A/AGH/1/343.

²⁹ SHC, DD/WI/293/10/1.

³⁰ SHC, A/AGH/1/343.

beach version with passenger seats was developed. Braking difficulties caused the project to be abandoned.³¹

POPULATION

In 1333 Woodland tithing had 16 taxpayers and in 1381 North Trendle and Dipford had 42 poll taxpayers.³² In 1642 123 males signed the protestation.³³ Mid 16th-century baptisms greatly outstripped burials but from the 1680s burials exceeded baptisms until the later 18th century.³⁴

Trull's population grew from 407 in 1801 to 547 in 1851 and, following the arrival of Queen's College and housing development, to 960 in 1881. Taunton's borough extension reduced it from 985 in 1921 to 675 in 1931 but later 20th-century housing development increased it dramatically to 2,997 in 1971 and 4,122 in 1981. Most new housing was at Comeytrowe, which became a separate civil parish in 1986 with 5,533 people, halving Trull's population. In 2026 Trull had c.2,500 residents, older than average and including fewer people from ethnic minorities.³⁵

SETTLEMENT

Most archaeological evidence comes from developing Comeytrowe where a palaeolithic hand axe, Bronze-age pottery, and evidence of Romano-British farming and crop-drying were found.³⁶ Possible Mesolithic flakes were found at Cotlake Hill, Neolithic flints near Cutsey and a Bronze-age collared urn west of King's Gatchell.³⁷ Castleman's Hill farm was built in

³¹ SHC, A/DZV/1-16.

³² TNA, E 179/169/6; C.C. Fenwick, *The Poll taxes of 1372, 1377 and 1381*, 440; Woodland is missing from 1381.

³³ HL, PO/JO/10/1/104/37.

³⁴ SHC, D/P/tru/2/1/1-3, 5-6.

³⁵ *Census*. Comeytrowe included Galmington, from Wilton.

³⁶ Som. HER 36733, 36848, 41449, 44295.

³⁷ Som. HER 31477, 36733, 44216-17.

an ovoid, double-ditched, Iron-age hillfort. The hill was a Second World War decoy site for Taunton.³⁸ An undated, ditched enclosure was discovered south-west of Sweethay and possible Iron-age activity at Zaney.³⁹

Trull, formerly Trendle, and the tithings of North Trendle and South Trendle, formerly in Pitminster but now largely in Trull, may take their name from a prehistoric enclosure, possibly the churchyard.⁴⁰ Settlement was widely dispersed until the 19th century. Some farmsteads represent tiny hamlets whose other farms became labourer's cottages.

Medieval

Until the 19th century Trull village, occupied since at least the 10th century, was a hamlet of widely-spaced homesteads and cottages scattered along Church Road, round the churchyard and near Trull Green.⁴¹ Few medieval houses survive but one south of Church Road had a neighbour, gable end to the road, which was demolished between 1842 and 1857. Buttressed Witham, Woodham or Wadham House, divided into cottages and demolished in the 1950s, may have been medieval in origin.⁴²

Cerney or Serney was recorded in 1208.⁴³ Comeytrowe, Castro, probably Castleman's Hill, Chilliswood, as Chilwardeswode, Budleigh, Dipford, Steart, Herswell as Hethwell, Hamwood, Cothay and Sweethay existed by the mid 13th century. Cothay, recorded until 1566, was possibly Cob, now Stone House, near Sweethay.⁴⁴ Cutsey as 'Cutteleshegh' and Reaphay were surnames by 1302 and 1327 respectively.⁴⁵

³⁸ Som. HER 16419, 44154, 44684.

³⁹ Som. HER 43702, 43708.

⁴⁰ Below, rel. hist.

⁴¹ Som. HER 44624.

⁴² SHC, DD/CT/22-3; tithe award; DD/KIT/2/5; TNA, RG 13/2273; below, built character.

⁴³ SHC, T/PH/win 1207-8.

⁴⁴ T.J. Hunt, *Medieval Customs of Taunton Manor*, 38, 43, 54-5, 59-60; SHC, DD/SP/71 (Woodland tithing); D/P/tru/4/1/1.

⁴⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1301-2; F.H. Dickinson, *Kirby's Quest*, 147, 150, 152

Cerney, later Zaney, perhaps an assart from Hamwood, had possibly six houses in the 12th century. In 1804 there was only Zaney House, which by 1841 was two cottages demolished under a 1937 slum clearance order. The site is under the motorway.⁴⁶ Pottery from the 12th to 13th centuries found between Cutsey and Lipe Hill farms near a 19th-century barn site indicates a lost homestead. The 13th to 20th-century pottery scattered across fields near Cutsey is presumably from Cutsey house. A Steart homestead produced pottery from the 14th to 19th centuries but had gone by 1804 and the hamlet was redeveloped.⁴⁷

1500-1850

Pottery from the 17th to 19th centuries was found at the site of an agricultural building between Cutsey and Harpers and a barton east of Harpers may also have been a former house site. Harpers hamlet, shared with Angersleigh and recorded by 1579, was part of the Cerney estate.⁴⁸ Gentilsplace between Daw's Green and Chilliswood had three houses *c.*1579 but only one by 1804, named Thomazin's cottage probably after a pre-1566 tenant, later demolished.⁴⁹

Several greens at road junctions including Trull, formerly Cockheys, Dipford and Daw's greens were encroached upon in the post-medieval period. Trull Green had two cottages, one described as new in 1566, and more were added including large houses like Keppel Cottage *c.*1803,⁵⁰ demolished after 1871 when the cottages had all been subdivided.⁵¹ Under half an acre at the north end remains public open space. Before 1566 land was taken from Dipford Green, probably for Boxen Hedge farm. The remaining 22 perches was allocated for public recreation in 1851 but a bungalow was built on it in 1960. The owner

⁴⁶ Som. HER 43698; SHC, DD/CT/23-4; TNA, HO 107/959; HLG 23/1129; below, landownership.

⁴⁷ Som. HER 39493, 43699, 43758, 43762; SHC, DD/CT/22-3.

⁴⁸ Som. HER 43700, 43705; SHC, DD/CT/22-3; DD/SP/331; tithe award; below, landownership.

⁴⁹ SHC, DD/SP/71 (Woodland), 331; DD/CT/22; tithe award.

⁵⁰ SHC, DD/CT/22; DD/MT/27/1/15; tithe award; DD/VL/2/3.

⁵¹ SHC, DD/CT/22; DD/MT/27/1/15; DD/CH/109/6, 125/5; tithe award.

paid Trull parish council to extinguish the common rights.⁵² Most cottages at Daw's Green, possibly named for the Dawe family who held land there, were apparently post-medieval encroachments.⁵³ Hovelands farm, formerly Overlands, was created before 1766.⁵⁴ Some farmhouses lost their agricultural status, probably in the 18th century, and were rebuilt as genteel residences, notably Batts, Gatchell House and King's Gatchell.⁵⁵

The 1780s reference to c.100 houses around the church is an error for the whole parish. There were a dozen houses round the church and a few more around Trull Green, an area, with Dipford, known as Higher Trull in 1911.⁵⁶ Two houses north-east of Trull Green were called Wild Oak House in the 18th century; one, first recorded in 1783, became the vicarage and the other was replaced shortly before 1817 for the Duncan family who later moved to Batts.⁵⁷ Oakfield south of the last was built in the 1840s and a cottage in Claremont Lane c.1842. Apart from further encroachment on Trull Green and the building of Queen's College on 6a. of arable in 1847 the area hardly changed until the later 19th century.⁵⁸

1850-1945

Shortage of accommodation resulted in subdivision of houses and conversion of outbuildings by 1860.⁵⁹ Terraced worker's housing was built from the 1870s including Eastview off Church Road, replacing Wild Oak farm, Glencoe and Fairview terraces on Wild Oak Lane and Oakfield Terrace on Church Road. Later Southview terrace of smaller houses was built behind them.⁶⁰ At the same period villas were built between the main road and Wild Oak Lane beginning with Claremont, demolished c.1970, and ending with Summerleigh and Wild

⁵² SHC, DD/SP/71 [Woodland tithing], 331, DD/DP/121/1; DD/HC/181/2; C/E/4/401/129.

⁵³ SHC, DD/SP/71 (Dipford tithing); 72, f. 180; Q/SR/64/115.

⁵⁴ SHC, Q/REI/35/28; DD/CT/22-3; DD/DP/37/5; TNA, HO 107/959, 1921.

⁵⁵ Below, landownership, built character.

⁵⁶ M. McDermott and S. Berry, *Rack's Survey of Som.* p. 285; SHC, DD/CT/22; *Devon and Somerset News* 31 July 1902; BNA accessed 25 March 2026; TNA, RG 14/14216.

⁵⁷ SHC, Q/REI/35/28; below landownership, rel. hist.

⁵⁸ SHC, DDCT/22; DD/SP/211; DD/BR/ehp/26 (1831); tithe award; below, built character.

⁵⁹ SHC, DD/CPHS/6; DD/VL/2/3.

⁶⁰ SHC, tithe award; Green, *Trull and Staplehay*, 7; TNA, RG 14/14216.

Oak Villa. Apart from the 1908 vicarage there was no further development there until the late 20th century.⁶¹ Large terraced, semi-detached and detached houses were built west of Trull Road extending the development in adjoining Wilton.⁶² After 1900 detached houses and bungalows were built east of Trull Road and down Wild Oak Lane. Smaller houses were built in Church Road and New Road.⁶³

In the rural parish there were few changes apart from rebuilding of farmsteads like Cutsey and subdivision of former farmhouses.⁶⁴ Dipford House, Cottage and Barton were built in the 1850s replacing a small farmstead, as a retirement home for William and Mary Blake of Cutsey.⁶⁵ Castleman's Hill Farmhouse, apparently a 16th-century cross passage house, was replaced in the late 19th century although its late 17th-century, stone cross-wing with ornate chimneys survived until 1963.⁶⁶ A terrace of four cottages built on Farthings land north of Chilliswood c.1850 was destroyed by fire in 1892 and replaced by a farm and adjoining cottages.⁶⁷ In the 1890s the south end of Comeytrowe Road was developed including Jubilee Terrace and in the 1900s parallel New Road.⁶⁸ Development at Comeytrowe itself increased in the 1930s.⁶⁹ An unusual house was New Barn at 41 Comeytrowe Lane, created in 1926 out of an 18th-century barn by William Webber for his own use in Jacobethan style with an elaborate main chimney stack, leaded glazed cupboards and large staircase but demolished in 2003.⁷⁰ From the 1930s large houses were built on the new Jeffreys Way between Comeytrowe and Wellington Road. The redevelopment of the Batts Park estate for

⁶¹ TNA, RG 10/2367; RG 11/2364; SHC, DD/CH/119/5; DD/SAS/C2273/T1/20; OS Map, 1:25,000 ST 2122 (1962 edn, 1980 edn).

⁶² Below, built character.

⁶³ SHC, D/R/ta/14/9a/1 (1916); 14/16/6 (1922, 1924-6); 24/2/46, 118, 122, 675, 694, 704, 708; D/B/ta/24/1/71/1425.

⁶⁴ Below, econ. hist.

⁶⁵ SHC, tithe award; TNA, HO 107/1922; RG 9/1613

⁶⁶ SHC, DD/HC/36/1/24; tithe award; Som. HER 38846.

⁶⁷ SHC, tithe award; DD/DP/52/1; D/PC/tru/7/2; *Taunton Courier* 6 Apr. 1892: BNA accessed 25 March 2026.

⁶⁸ SHC, DD/SAS/C2273/1/T5/1; DD/KW/1945/49.

⁶⁹ SHC, D/R/ta/14/9a/1; 24/1/308; 24/2/506, 679, 696-7, 705, 711, 717-8.

⁷⁰ SHC, A/CBA/21.

detached houses had barely begun when the site was taken over as Sherford Camp but the avenue of wellingtonias and other mature trees survived.⁷¹

1945 to present

After the war large houses were converted into flats, several became nursing homes and gardens were offered as building plots.⁷² Houses were built on the Comeytrowe Road allotments and east of Honiton Road as Orchard and Trull Green Drives. In 1965 50 houses were under construction around the village.⁷³ Other developments were refused especially by the Sherford Stream.⁷⁴

Sherford Camp was extended across the stream with 50 semi-detached married-quarters houses on a new Wessex Road in 1950 and by 1965 there were 83 dwellings. The site was sold for housing and redeveloped from the mid 1980s to early 1990s as Queen's Gate, now Drive, and Batts Park. In the early 21st century Queen's Drive was extended with densely-packed detached houses and Wessex Drive was redeveloped with rendered semi-detached dwellings.⁷⁵ North of the camp Haines Park was built in 1970 amid complaints of poor quality housing and bungalows and chalet bungalows were built as Gatchell Green south of the village.⁷⁶ Several Trull Road houses were absorbed into Queen's College, which added many buildings to its site in the 20th century. Furlong Green opposite and Lady Lawn behind the church were completed in the 1980s. Infilling has taken place throughout the village and at Dipford.⁷⁷

Comeytrowe developed alongside Galmington in Wilton, including Somerset Avenue, a large oval of c.76 two and three-bedroomed houses begun in 1949 for Somerset County

⁷¹ SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/715, 782.

⁷² SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/457, 516; 24/2/796; D/B/ta/24/1/109/3535; 24/2/113/4209; DD/SAS/C2273/1/T5/1.

⁷³ OS Map, 1:25,000 ST 2122 (1962 edn); DD/WI/152/10/1.

⁷⁴ SHC, D/DC/tau.d/24/3/13.

⁷⁵ Som. HER 17017; SHC, DD/WI/152/10/1; A/DIF/114/18.

⁷⁶ SHC, A/DIF/116/119.

⁷⁷ OS Map, 1:25,000 ST 2122 (1980 edn); SHC, D/PC/tru/5/5/6.

Council staff and police.⁷⁸ Land to the south was developed in 1958-61 either side of the present Claremont Drive and in 1966 Comeytrowe Rise west of Somerset Avenue was built by J.K. Monsell Ltd. Further west Jeffreys Way off the Wellington road was extended from the early 1960s.⁷⁹ In the late 20th century Queensway opened up the entire east side of Comeytrowe Road to development. Orchard Grove estate was created along the west side in the 2020s.

BUILT CHARACTER

In 1999 a conservation area was designated including Trull village, Trull Green, Gatchell House and Trull Road but excludes most 20th-century development.⁸⁰

Village

By the churchyard late medieval Chantry, formerly Clerk's or Church, Cottage, presents to the street a colourwashed brick wall over stone with two small windows and a stone south gable.⁸¹ Rendered and pantiled Vine Cottage, 2 Church Road, is a partly demolished medieval open-hall house.⁸² A few 18th or early 19th-century roughcast houses survive often subdivided notably 11 and 15 Church Road and Cherry Orchard and Cherry Orchard Lodge south of the road. The latter are divisions of Orchard Cottage probably built shortly before 1842 with a five-bay front, central door and canopy porch. On the corner of Mill Lane early 19th-century rubble and roughcast cottages adjoin later stone and tile houses on Church Road.⁸³

⁷⁸ SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/501; C/CA/18/11/660-9.

⁷⁹ SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/718, 756, 855, 941.

⁸⁰ SHC, D/PC/tru/2/1/1, 5/5/3.

⁸¹ Below, rel. hist.

⁸² Som. HER 36979; SHC, DD/CT/22-3; OS Map, 1:25,000 ST 2122 (1962 edn, 1980 edn).

⁸³ SHC, DD/CT/22-3.

Most village houses are late 19th-century terraces of buff brick with red brick dressings and 20th-century infill of semi-detached and detached dwellings in red brick, a few rendered. Some houses are slated but most are tiled, many with pantiles, and slate is usually confined to the large villas north of the village. Less usual contemporary buildings are 1 Lady Lawn with metal roof and grey cladding and the white-rendered church rooms.

Honiton Road and Wild Oak

On the corner of Church and Honiton roads is post-medieval, rendered, T-shaped Lower Gatchell, later Gatchell Cottage, Southwick House from 1858 and King's Gatchell since 1888, presumably from the arms of James I in a bedroom.⁸⁴ In the large, four-bay, north-south range the southern rooms are angled and the northern room has straight, thinner walls indicating it and the passage are additions. Apparently a two-room plan farmhouse has been progressively enlarged into a genteel residence with extensions, a new roof by the 19th century and large outbuildings, conservatories and vineries. Brick replaced cob and many historic features have been destroyed but the hall has a panelled ceiling and large fireplace with moulded surround. The courtyard has a cobbled surface beneath the present one. The three-bay south-west wing, built before 1804 and rebuilt internally in the 1920s, contained service rooms and an entrance tower with conical roof in the north-west angle. The south-west kitchen was added in 1937. To the south is King's Gatchell Cottage, a late 19th-century brick and tiled lodge with stone window surrounds including hipped dormers and an early 20th-century extension.⁸⁵

In 1828 Gatchell House, west of Honiton Road, was already a gentleman's residence with three large reception rooms, six bedrooms, a coach house and stables.⁸⁶ The Revd William Jeffrys Allen (d. 1862) or his son Jeffrys Charles probably built the enlarged stucco

⁸⁴ O. Hallam, *The Story of Trull* (Som. W.I., 1953), 24; SHC, DD/SP/161; DD/CT/22-3; DD/KIT/2/5.

⁸⁵ SHC, D/R/ta/24/2/740; DD/V/TAR/29/14; DD/CT/22; DD/SAS/C/2273/1/T5/1. The tithe award's north-west wing is apparently an error.

⁸⁶ SHC, DD/CT/22; DD/HC/18/4/27.

and slate mansion with its five-bay east front, enclosed porch and plain parapet, two-bay north elevation with a stone single-storey bay window, west elevation with two-storey projecting bay and large, lower southern service extension. In 1998 the house was bought to provide accommodation for the elderly and c.2006-9 44 buff and red brick dwellings were built in the grounds.⁸⁷

Of the terraced cottages east of Honiton Road, the oldest to the north have cob walls and may be 18th century the others were rebuilt in the 19th century and the present post office in the early 20th.⁸⁸

Stuccoed, double-pile Wild Oak House was built shortly before 1817 facing up Trull Road. Now subdivided, it has a three-bay, two-storey front over cellars, a central porch with Doric columns and 16-pane sash windows. The 1877 four-storey extension, built to house school boarders and now Wild Oak Mews, is of buff brick with decorative features.⁸⁹ Builder Samuel Derham reputedly built the houses to the south including his own Oakfield, a painted brick and slate villa, in the 1840s, stucco and slate Italianate Greenfield in the 1860s and Wild Oak, now Wild Oak Place, in 1876 of stone with buff brick dressings under a slate roof. The Place's contemporary, brick and tile coach house was converted into a house c.1948 and extended as Green Meadow. Its gardens were built over including Wild Oak, a courtyard house designed by Taunton architect J.H.A. Coleman.⁹⁰ Queen's College's 'Tudorbethan' Channon House was built in the 1870s as semi-detached Summerleigh and Wild Oak Villa in buff brick with arched side porches under steep slate roofs with gables and dormers.⁹¹ Among individually designed 20th-century houses east of Wild Oak Lane are Red Tile and Wild Oak

⁸⁷ SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/408, 659; A/DQO/418/2103; Selwood and Duncan, *An evaluation of the walled garden at Gatchell House* (2003).

⁸⁸ SHC, DD/CT/22-3; tithe award.

⁸⁹ SHC, Q/REI/35/28; Som. HER 40653; below, soc. hist

⁹⁰ Som. HER 46895, 46899, 47705-6; SHC, DD/KW/1947/10.

⁹¹ Som. HER 46896.

Cottage, a divided and extended c.1900 brick house with high brick boundary walls, 1920s roughcast Withywind and 1930 Sunningdale, roughcast with green glazed roof tiles.⁹²

Trull Green

South of Trull Green, Gatchell Cottage and Gatchell Spinney are divisions of a 15th-century, rendered cob farmhouse, presumably thatched but now tiled, which had been divided by the late 18th century.⁹³ The house had four bays with a large central chimney stack. The western bay has a timber-framed, jettied front gable, part of 16th-century improvements culminating in the hall ceiling. The windows are 19th-century, including three dormers, but Gatchell Cottage has a medieval ogee doorframe.⁹⁴

Across Dipford Road Trull Green Farmhouse, formerly called Buces after Jeremiah Bewsey, is a 16th-century, blue lias rubble and thatch, three-bay, cross-passage house enlarged with a large one-bay, south-east wing possibly in 1637 and a 19th-century rear extension.⁹⁵ Some ovolo-moulded windows survive. No longer a farmhouse, its grounds have been built on, mainly with large brick houses forming Barton Green and 21st-century stone houses on Dipford Road. Of the late 17th or early 18th-century buildings, the cob linhay was demolished but the brick linhay, converted to a cider house, survives as a dwelling.⁹⁶ The late 17th or early 18th-century Thatched Cottage north-west of the green has a two-storey, three-bay front of roughcast brick under a thatched roof.⁹⁷

Fairlawn, described as new and elegant in 1871, was built on the site of several cottages. It is asymmetrical, built of buff brick with stone window surrounds, decorative iron box holders and ground-floor quoins. Its two-storey, three-bay front faces north with bay

⁹² Som. HER 46894, 46897, 47707.

⁹³ SHC, Q/REL/35/28; DD/BR/ehp/26; tithe award.

⁹⁴ SHC, DD/V/TAR/29/7; Som. HER 40649.

⁹⁵ Gable datestone 1637 RS MS possibly for Richard Stockman: SHC, D/P/tru/23/41; Q/REL/35/28.

⁹⁶ Som. HER 40646-7.

⁹⁷ Som. HER 40561.

windows to the ground floor and a two-storey central porch on Corinthian columns. The western service wing, built after 1871 on the site of Keppel Cottage, is now a separate house.⁹⁸ South of Fairlawn some small rubble and rendered cottages survive from the early 19th century. The oldest may be Jessamine, set back from the road.⁹⁹ Between the cottages and Trull Green Farmhouse is the 1872 former Fairlawn coachhouse of rubble with brick detailing.¹⁰⁰

South-west of Comeytrowe Road are mid 20th-century detached houses and bungalows mostly brick and tile but some rendered. To the north is the 1890s and later New Road development. The earliest houses are either buff brick with red detailing or red brick with buff detailing and have slate roofs.

Trull Road

The oldest house is The Old Vicarage, a five-bay, rendered cob house under a slate roof first recorded in 1783.¹⁰¹ Across the road the Tudor Gothic Wesleyan Collegiate Institution, Queen's College since 1887, was built in 1846-7.¹⁰²

Housing west of Trull Road was built from the late 1860s. The most northerly was Hoveland Terrace of c.1869-70 designed by James Henry Smith. Two blocks each contained four houses of buff brick with stone dressings including balustrades over bay windows. In the 1960s one house was destroyed, the gap between the blocks filled and the whole converted into flats as Hoveland Court with the insertion of dormers and other alterations. Hovelands, non-identical semi-detached villas, were built of buff brick with red-brick and rendered dressings c.1868-9.¹⁰³ Number 68, a rendered Voysey-style house designed by H.E. Causley

⁹⁸ SHC, tithe award; DD/CH/109/6; DD/VL/2/3; DD/SAS/C2273/1/T5/1.

⁹⁹ SHC, tithe award.

¹⁰⁰ Datestone.

¹⁰¹ SHC, Q/REI/35/28; below, rel. hist.

¹⁰² Below, soc. hist., education.

¹⁰³ Som. HER 47603, 47700; SHC, D/B/ta/24/1/151/9226.

of Taunton in 1934, has Burgundy brick pilasters and doorway under a pyramid roof.¹⁰⁴ In 1912 number 72 was designed by H.S.W. Stone of Taunton in Arts and Crafts style with hand-made red bricks under a steep tiled roof, leaded windows and moulded brick stacks.¹⁰⁵ Even numbers 82-96 and 104-6 were probably all built in the 1870s and early 1880s by Thomas Penny and his son Thomas, builders and developers of Taunton, in Italianate style of buff brick with red brick banding under slate roofs, some with deep bracketed eaves. Most large houses have been altered as flats, nursing homes or annexes to Queen's College but Cotlake House was purpose-built as a three-storey, Gothic-style school boarding house in 1880 in pink brick with red brick dressings. It has been greatly extended in plain red or rendered brick.¹⁰⁶

East of Trull Road are 20th-century rendered or red-brick houses. The most notable development is landscaped Queens Drive, which has houses from the planned pre-war redevelopment, one in plain brick and one rendered, and detached red brick or rendered 1980s houses, some with mock-timbering and leaded lights.

Dipford

Among the early 21st-century rendered and stone-clad houses are Gatchell Farmhouse, a two-bay, double-pile, rendered house under a slate roof, probably rebuilt in the later 19th century when the rubble and tiled adjoining cottages were built, and a pair of mid 19th-century, cement-rendered, slate-roofed, semi-detached houses with a shared porch.¹⁰⁷ Roughcast rubble and slate-roofed White Lodge and The Lawn, formerly Bolts or Fairfield by 1851, originated as a 17th-century, two-room, cross-passage house of roughcast rubble under a slate roof. By 1832 it had ceased to be a farmhouse and The Lawn was added behind.¹⁰⁸ The houses have Doric doorcases, that on The Lawn having pilasters and a broken pediment. The

¹⁰⁴ Som. HER 47691.

¹⁰⁵ Som. HER 47604.

¹⁰⁶ Som. HER 47605-9, 47611.

¹⁰⁷ SHC, tithe award.

¹⁰⁸ SHC, Q/REL/35/28 (1832); D/P/tru/13/3/8; TNA, HO 107/1922.

Lawn has lead lion masks on its cornice. White Lodge has a three-bay front with overhanging bracketed eaves and little trace of its origin.¹⁰⁹

Dipford Farm in Higher Dipford may be a 16th-century or older, cross-passage house of roughcast rubble and cob. It is two-storeyed under a slate roof with decorative ridge tiles and exposed stone quoins on the south-east corner. It was much altered possibly c.1808 when the abutting barn was built but retains panelled ceilings and hollow-chamfered beams.¹¹⁰

South of the road Higher Dipford farmhouse was a late 16th or early 17th-century, three-room, cross-passage house with attached barn. The two-storey, four-bay, rendered cob house was reroofed in the 19th century with double Roman tiles possibly when it was divided into cottages. After 1951 the house was re-united and incorporated the partially weatherboarded barn.¹¹¹ Boxen Hedge is a rendered rubble, four-bay house with a small west wing possibly dating from the 17th century but the three western bays have sash windows and a central door with Doric portico representing the rebuilding of this section of the house in the early 19th century.¹¹² Coxes, now Greenacres, is a much restored 17th-century, three-room, cross-passage house of rendered rubble under asbestos slates, presumably replacing thatch. The west end is heavily buttressed. A panelled ceiling survived inside.¹¹³

Further west in the hamlet of Daws Green Sylvan Cottage is a mid 19th-century U-shaped rubble house under hipped slate roofs. A third west bay was added c.2010. The Old Forge is a rendered, two-bay, 19th-century cottage and its brick and Roman tile smithy is now garages. The brick and slate 1890s mission room is now a dwelling.

Comeytrowe

¹⁰⁹ SHC, D/P/tru/23/61; *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1899, 1902); Som. HER 40644-5

¹¹⁰ SHC, DD/V/Tar/29/10; Trull parish archive group [TPAG], *The new story of Trull*, (Taunton, 2024), 20.

¹¹¹ Som. HER 40463; SHC, DD/CT/23; D/R/ta/24/1/538; E. Byford and E. Holloway, *Sampling Somerset* (Chiselborough, 1988), 43.

¹¹² SHC, DD/DP/121/1; DD/CT/22; DD/V/Tar/29/16.

¹¹³ Som. HER 40462.

Higher Comeytrowe is a 17th-century, two-storey, rendered cob and rubble house under a slate roof largely rebuilt in the mid 19th century. The three-bay main range has sash windows and a 20th-century porch. Fragments of a compartmented ceiling remain from the 17th century. The attached stone, brick and Roman tile farmbuildings, now a separate dwelling, were a modest attempt at emulating Cutsey model farm shortly before 1889. They incorporated part of a Ham stone frieze carved with the instruments of the Passion, retrieved from a demolished or rebuilt church.¹¹⁴

Two early houses survive among the large housing estates including Lower Comeytrowe, a three-bay, rendered and pantiled house, said to have some cob walling, with a three-bay cross wing and brick stacks. It was remodelled probably in the later 19th century. Comeytrowe Manor, so named by the Baker family from the 1930s and now two houses, was formerly Comeytrowe House. It was built as a country house, probably for John Whitmash, between 1769 and 1773 of rendered brick under a slate roof with Carrara marble and alabaster fire surrounds, wainscot and mahogany doors. In 1901 the L-shaped range consisted of a two-storey, six-bay front with central entrance under a full-length veranda and a southwest one-bay wing of two storeys with attics. The two-storey, five or six-bay west range was demolished in the early 20th century.¹¹⁵

Although most Comeytrowe housing is mass produced, Jeffreys Way has many individually designed brick and tile detached houses, some rendered, and 1930s Stonegallows House designed in the International Modern style by Stone and Francis.

Farmsteads

Many early farmhouses survive of which Chilliswood is the largest and possibly oldest. It is a multi-period, two-storey house of rendered cob and rubble under slated and tiled roofs

¹¹⁴ SHC, DD/DP/184/6; Som. HER 40630.

¹¹⁵ I W 1773 on rainwater head: Som. HER 44369; TNA, C 202/158/16; MAF/32/156/285; Harley and Dunning, *Som. Maps*, map 1782; SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/252; A/BYS/1; DD/KW/7/11.

arranged around a courtyard with substantial early farmbuildings to the north and west. The four-bay, three-room east range was probably late medieval and has a jointed-cruck roof and a possible corn-drying kiln at the north end but has 19th-century casements. The former hall has a plank-and-muntin screen, panelled window benches and a fireplace with chamfered ashlar jambs and timber bressummer. A misaligned south wing containing the best rooms with plank-and-muntin screens and newel stairs was probably cut through the end of the house in 1594.¹¹⁶ It was remodelled and enlarged in Tudor Gothic style in the 1830s, possibly by Richard Carver, with stone chimney stacks, casements with stone hoodmoulds, a gabled centre bay that breaks forward with rusticated quoins and flanking gables with finials and Tudor arches. The north range is a late 16th-century, five-bay barn, with jointed-cruck roof and a 19th-century horse engine house attached, linked by late 17th-century rooms to the house. The 19th-century west wing of outbuildings contains a 17th-century window, possibly re-sited. The buildings were renovated in the 2000s.¹¹⁷

Reaphay was presumably a 16th-century, three-room cross passage house of chert rubble and rendered cob under thatch. It had some four-light mullioned windows, the remains of a framed parlour ceiling and some jointed crucks but was altered in 1945-9 and later. The large thatched, hipped roof barn, at right angles to the house, and other farmbuildings have been converted for residential use.¹¹⁸ Similarly Herswell, partly rebuilt in the 18th century, divided into two cottages in 1957 and drastically altered has the remains of a framed ceiling and a 17th-century brick fireplace. An outbuilding contains ovolo-moulded stone windows presumably from the original house front.¹¹⁹

Higher Sweethay, probably a 16th-century, cross-passage house, was rebuilt after 1904 as an L-shaped Tudor-style mansion named Sweethay Court probably for W.M. Cavill.

¹¹⁶ Datestone W 1594; SHC, D/P/tru/23/14.

¹¹⁷ Som. HER 40631; SHC, A/EAQ/1/252/2;

¹¹⁸ SHC, DD/V/WLNR/14.5; D/R/ta/24/2/398; DD/KW/1949/17.

¹¹⁹ SHC, DD/V/TAR/29/11; D/PC/tru/7/2; D/R/ta/24/1/685.

Its asymmetrical, rendered and slate, five-bay south front has stone mullioned and transomed windows under square hood moulds. The large north porch has double doors. A weatherboarded cider barn survives.¹²⁰ Budleigh Farm was a small 16th-century house enlarged in the 17th century into a three-bay, two-room, cross passage house of rendered, rubble and cob with a jointed-cruck roof covered with concrete pantiles between brick stacks. It has ovolo-moulded, Ham stone-mullioned windows and a fireplace with bacon-curing chamber from the 17th-century enlargement. Rendered or timber-clad stone outbuildings are in residential use. Butleigh House Farm is a mid 19th-century, three-bay, rendered and slate house.¹²¹ Georges is a five-bay, blue lias and thatch cross-passage house, probably of 17th-century date with one panelled ceiling. It was divided into two cottages but restored in the late 20th century.¹²²

Hamwood Farm with surviving cider house and barn were built or faced in red and pink brick for John Baker (d. 1677). Presumably the clay was dug and burnt on the farm and stone rubble, probably from the old house, was used at the back to save cost. The L-shaped house follows no traditional form. It has a three-bay, north-west facing range with six Ham stone-mullioned windows under square drip moulds, irregularly spaced to accommodate a central chimney serving back-to-back fireplaces. The north-east side, of equal length, has a combined entrance and stair tower, possibly reduced when the 19th-century, overhanging slate roof was built. The house has been enlarged and was restored in the late 20th century. The garden was walled in slightly deeper red brick with a ha-ha on the east side.¹²³

Only the house and a few farmbuildings survive from Cutsey's 1867-9 model farm. The house, restored c.1984, is roughcast over brick and rubble under a hipped slate roof with prominent stone quoins. The two-storey, three-bay main range is square with overhanging

¹²⁰ SHC, tithe award; DD/SAS/C2273/1/P2/2; DD/IR/T/27/3.

¹²¹ SHC, tithe award; DD/V/TAR/29/5.

¹²² SHC, DD/SAS/C/2273/1/T5/1, 3; DD/KW/1945/49; Som. HER 40639.

¹²³ Som. HER 40627-9; TPAG, *New story of Trull*, 84.

eaves and two-storey projecting outer bays in the south front. The entrance is through a battlemented east porch. The west wing with 17th-century plasterwork survives from the earlier house and there is a large northern service wing. A few redbrick model farm buildings survive converted to residential use from 1998. In 1984 a replacement farmstead was built across the road.¹²⁴

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¹²⁴ Som. HER 40637, delisted; below, econ hist.; SHC, D/DC/tau.d/24/2/14; TPAG, *New story of Trull*, 81.