

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Before the 19th century the parish was largely agricultural with some clothmaking. Bishops Hull mostly formed part of the great manor of Taunton Deane whose demesne farming was conducted across parish boundaries. The weakening of the manorial agricultural system in the early modern period allowed the emergence of large farms across the parish. In the same period milling, of both grain and cloth, was a significant activity. In 1767 only three people in the parish were taxed on stock in trade but in 1791 it was 21.¹ In 1830 the parish was known for milling, paper and silk.² During the 19th century the growth of Taunton led to the development of trades in the parish from laundry to brickmaking. As development spread west the parish was divided into two but even the rural parish is now partially urbanised. During the later 20th century industries were displaced by housing and retail and business premises especially in the south. Other economic activities in the parish include large nursing homes. Most people commute to work but agriculture remains important in the still rural west of the parish where there is a large farm shop.

AGRICULTURE

As Bishops Hull, apart from Fideoak, formed part of the infaring hundred of Hull within the large manor of Taunton Deane it is difficult to determine the agricultural landscape of the parish in the Middle Ages. Most meadow and probably pasture would have lain along the river Tone. There is no evidence of conventional open field farming but there was demesne arable at the Taunton end of the parish near the barton. Place and field names indicate that woodland was far more extensive in the Anglo Saxon and early post Conquest period. By the 19th century only c. 10 a. was recorded. and a large community woodland was planted on 24

¹ SHC, Q/REI 35/3.

² Pigot Dir. (1830).

a. by the river at Netherclay c. 2000. Fishing was a jealously preserved manorial preserve and does not seem to have benefitted the local economy significantly.

Medieval

As part of the manor of Taunton Deane Bishops Hull's demesne lands were farmed together with those in adjoining parishes. In the mid 13th century the tithing of Hull had 15 tenants, some with additional plots. Holdings varied from a house or croft to the seven half-virgate holdings. There were also 15 recorded tenants in Rumwell tithing but they had larger farms, namely two ferling holdings, 12 half-virgate holdings and one virgate holding. The virgate was assessed at 40 a. and most rents were fixed at 3d. an acre but a few paid more and there were also renders of wheat. There were at least nine demesne labourers, including one woman, who had 5 a. each but other tenants at Rumwell, possibly cottars, had varying amounts of land, one held a half virgate and four shared another half virgate. The total recorded tenanted arable in the parish was c. 630 a. but the 280 a. demesne covered at least two parishes and the amount of freehold arable is unknown. Labour services varied between tenants and whereas most owed ploughing some also were to mow, reap or provide oxen. Some had to work by the day and others by the acre. There were also liable to serve as reeve but were rewarded with an acre of wheat and a rick of hay and release from hundred penny. Renders of wheat, hay, rye and other food were given to those doing customary labour. Tenants at Rumwell had few or no works but the Hull demesne workers were required to do one day a week or pay less rent and work two days a week in addition to three days harvesting. The two ploughmen could have the lord's ploughteams on alternate Saturdays for their own land, pasture for a pig and a cow and received 4d. each and Christmas and Easter. The other seven only received a penny apiece but all were quit of hundred penny. Two workers who kept the waterleat were released from their two days' work and might put two

cows with the lord's oxen in the waterleat.³ The bedel was also quit of rent and received renders of food during the customary harvest work, presumably he was responsible for overseeing the work. Two oxherds were paid 5s. a year and seven quarters of grain.⁴

Wheat and oats were the usual crops in the 13th century with small quantities of barley, rye, peas and beans but amounts of rye increased in the 1210s as did the total arable sown from 139 a. in 1208 to 173 a. in 1220.⁵ Thereafter the accounts also covered Trull. The demesne meadows included Madbrook along what is now known as the Galmington Stream in the south-east of the parish and totalled 50 a. A further 7 a. were mown by Staplegrove tenants, presumably this was one of the meadows north of the river. Most of the land in the town area was meadow along the river some allocated to manor officials.⁶ Sometimes tenants were fined for mowing badly. In the mid 13th century there were regular fines for not doing work well.⁷ Other tenants may have owed mowing there as the reeve of Hull received mead silver from Holway, Poundisford, Staplegrove and Mill Lane tithing tenants in 1566.⁸ The tenants kept pigs and cows but oxen and horses are the only animals recorded on the demesne, which appears to have been mainly arable and meadow producing marketable produce. The oxen were pastured in the waterleat and in the 1240s Bishops Hull and Trull shared four ploughteams and four oxherds and in the 1250s there was a cowman and a dairymaid also shared.⁹ By the later 13th century rye was no longer grown, pastures were farmed out and there appears to have been assarting by tenants on the waste. In 1283 marling was practised with marl taken mainly from 7 a. overland in the south of the parish called Flore, part of an area of demesne arable usually sown with wheat and occasionally rye

³ T.J. Hunt, The Medieval Customs of Taunton Manor (SRS 66), 62—5. The names in the custumal appear in pipe rolls of the 1250s

⁴ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—1316.

⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—1321.

⁶ Below, local govt.

⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—1316.

⁸ SHC, DD/SP 71.

⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—1321; Hunt, The Medieval Customs of Taunton Manor (SRS 66), 65

and just possibly the site of the later brickyards, and required the purchase of a gimlet, fork and scoops and the employment of two carters and the workers for 21 days in the summer.

That year 76 a. were sown with wheat at Bishops Hull and 42 a. with oats. Marling appears to have been an occasional not a regular practice and tenants had to pay to marl small amounts of their land. The two parishes of Bishops Hull and Trull had 36 demesne oxen in the 1290s but the cows appear to have been moved to Poundisford. The oxen were worth at least 20s. each and there were oxsheds in the St Paul's barton and also in the castle.¹⁰

St Paul's barton for produce and oxen stood near the chapel of St Paul west of Taunton castle.¹¹ It was possibly the new barton recorded in 1214, which lost land to the moat indicating its closeness to the castle. Its walls and gates often needed repair and locks and a new wall was provided in 1285—6.¹² A new oxshed was built in 1257—8¹³ and by 1309 there were three but they required constant repair and new locks. A ditch was dug round them, 350 poplar were planted and the wall by the gates was seven and a half feet high, presumably because of security problems.¹⁴ Within a few years the oxen were moved inside the castle but manor waste, west of the later Cann Street, was known in the 16th and 17th centuries as the yoking place although by then built over.¹⁵ The shed of St Paul's was entered under castle buildings in 1316 and it took 22 days to roof it in 1320.¹⁶ It was known as the Hull cattleshed in 1363 but only one shed was in use by 1410 and was last recorded in 1435.¹⁷ The barton by St Paul's (1 a.) appears to have gone out of use and by 1341 pasture there was sold.¹⁸ In 1528—9 a barn and 1a. were called Poles or Paul's barn and held with

¹⁰ SHC, T/PH/win 1282—1377. Not the same as the post medieval la Flowers, which was near Longrun Farm: DD/SP 87; tithe award.

¹¹ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—1321.

¹² SHC, T/PH/win 1213—15, 1218—21, 1284—6; Webster, Taunton Castle, 23.

¹³ SHC, T/PH/win 1257—8.

¹⁴ SHC, T/PH/win 1284—1319.

¹⁵ SHC, DD/SP 4, 71, 149, 212.

¹⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1307—8, 1318—20.

¹⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1410—11, 1435—6.

¹⁸ Webster, Taunton Castle, 22; SHC, T/PH/win 1340—1, 1362—3.

1a. of overland called Paulesmeade.¹⁹ Those names were retained until enfranchisement and the 2-a. between the Millstream and Tower Lane and Street is now divided by Castle Street and under buildings.²⁰ However, in 1586 a barn on Paul's Field, to the south in Taunton, was also called Paul's Barn.²¹

In the early 14th century the demesne at Bishops Hull seems to have concentrated on wheat and oat production and in 1316 there was little pasture to sell as three fields had been sown with wheat but 26s. was received from the tenants for pannage of pigs. The fields appear to have been enclosed. Some works were sold and there were only six workers in the parish rather than nine but in 1316 266 works were bought from the king to help with hoeing and other tasks. Twenty-eight carts were needed to carry the harvest to the grange and a man was hired as hayward for three weeks presumably to assist the bedel who was responsible for both parishes. In 1320 a boy was employed to mind the corn for three weeks.²²

In 1330 the Aylands, in the south-east next to Taunton, were sown with wheat and were newly ditched and hedged in 1347—8 but ploughing works only amounted to 28 a. at Hull and only the holders of nine and a quarter virgates owed ploughing, threshing or winnowing work. A hundred mowing works were owed but 30 tenants at Hull owed 1,470 manual works.²³ As time went on the last were more important for construction and repair work on the castle, weirs and mills rather than for agricultural work. The Black Death and cattle disease affected the parish in 1348—50 when several heriot oxen were acquired and across the hundred the works due from nine holdings and over £24 in rent were lost due to pestilence mostly at Rumwell. However, there was no lack of people ready to taken on vacant holdings, often widows or relatives of the old tenants. By 1350 the losses due to pestilence

¹⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1528—9.

²⁰ SHC, D/D/SP 215; tithe award.

²¹ SHC, DD/SAS/C795 M22/3.

²² SHC, T/PH/win 1305—20.

²³ SHC, T/PH/win 1330—8.

had fallen to 12s. 6d. mostly from overland and the works of one family and many Rumwell widows bought licenses to remarry.²⁴

The area within the outer ward of the castle was used for the secure storage of demesne livestock and produce in the 13th and 14th centuries. Until the 14th century the granges were used for different grains but by 1325 the granges were named for the manorial hundreds and presumably stored their grains regardless of type. The Hull grange, was apparently by the West Gate and formerly the oat grange. Before 1360 a new grange was built possibly on the east side with the other granges but the old one was repaired for some other use.²⁵ The grange was recorded until the 1460s and needed regular structural repair but by 1502 there was only one grange at the castle.²⁶

Oats seem to have been the more important grain crop for the demesne arable in the later 14th century but hay was equally important on the demesne coming mostly from Hull parish, probably 18 ricks in 1377 later falling to 13. Much of it was used to feed horses both at the castle and when carting. Most demesne meadow was let for pasture after mowing. The customary mowing of 50 a. at Hull continued until the 1430s although by then most agricultural works had been sold. It is not clear where the meadows were but may have included Rixham and Roughmoor on the tone and Rumwell Moor on the western boundary, only recorded by name from the 17th century by which date it was parcelled into strips of overland. The parish shared with the rest of the hundred a reeve, bedel and three ploughmen, reduced to two by the early 15th century, but had six or seven workers of its own rising to nine again in the 1430s who did two days work a week except in the autumn when they did three. The increase in workers may be due to the sale or release of customary works: 3,862 out of 4,993 in 1377.²⁷

²⁴ SHC, T/PH/win 1348—51.

²⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1324—5, 1360—1; Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 16.

²⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1425—6, 1457—8, 1462—3, 1466—7, 1501—2.

²⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1360—1434; DD/SP 77, 95; DD/CWCw 3.

By the early 15th century demesne arable farming was in decline and only 9 oxen were kept in Hull hundred by the 1410s when sales of works brought in more than sales of produce. By 1416 there was only one ploughman for the whole hundred and none by 1423.²⁸ The demesne in the parish was let by the 1430s when the tenant of Ayland arable was to supply straw for the horses at the castle and receive the manure.²⁹ The riverside pastures of Roughmoor and Newley were let in the 1440s as were the castle gardens and orchard.³⁰

Although pannage was recorded regularly in the Middle Ages there does not appear to have been much woodland in the parish, at least on the demesne. A few wood sales were recorded in the early 13th century, two ash trees blown down in the street were sold in 1301—2, and tenants paid ‘woodway’ from the 1360s to 1560s but the wood may have been elsewhere in the hundred.³¹ There appear to have been small woods at Rumwell. Men of Rumwell had felled oaks in the 1250s when Baldwin of Hull kept the wood badly.³² Hutcombe was enclosed and gated but its pasture was sold implying the oaks there were timber trees. Brushwood and oaks were last recorded at Hutcombe in the early 15th century and although a coppice was recorded in 1673 it had been cleared before the 18th century when Northwood with Hutcombe were pasture closes. Fields at Rumwell were called Allers and Woodland in the 1840s.³³ Rumwell Wood (3 a.) in the Hutcombe area was in Wilton parish and was still wooded in the 1840s.³⁴ Withybere, recorded from 1633,³⁵ was probably a former withybed and there were complaints in the mid 17th century that willow planting was altering the course of the river.³⁶ Withybeds were planted on the wet northern boundary of

²⁸ SHC, T/PH/win 1409—12, 1416—18, 1423—4.

²⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1433—4.

³⁰ SHC, T/PH/win 1448—9.

³¹ SHC, T/PH/win 1217—19, 1225—6, 1301—2, 1360—1; DD/SP 71.

³² SHC, T/PH/win 1254—7.

³³ SHC, T/PH/win 1299—1410; DD/SP 111; DD/BD 51; tithe award.

³⁴ SHC, Wilton tithe award

³⁵ SHC, DD/SP 77, 142, 197, 214.

³⁶ SHC, DD/SP 23.

Rumwell and near Roughmoor c. 1727 but had been given up by the early 19th century, the latter converted to a fir plantation.³⁷

There appear to have been severe floods in 1408—9, which destroyed the hay and straw ricks. Russham and Roughmoor are recorded by 1410 and appear to have been used to graze oxen after mowing. The arable fields named North Ayland and Newley were in the parish and grew wheat and oats.³⁸ Part of the waste near the present Cann Street in Taunton was known as the yoking place but had been built over by 1590. Presumably it was where the lord's oxen from the nearby barton were yoked.³⁹

Although some tenants had been exchanging lands between holdings in the late 13th century it became more common in the 15th century and was to be an important feature in farm formation later.⁴⁰ Between 1434 and 1453 Rixham ceased to be mown for the lord and was parcelled out to tenants as overland, some for arable cultivation. Similarly the former demesne arable fields like Ayland and Honeycroft were divided up and let with the former barton at St Paul's.⁴¹ Tenants also paid for licences to water meadows and paid fines for parcels of manorial waste.⁴²

16th to 18th centuries

By the early 16th century most holdings including parcels of overland. The demesne workers continued to be recorded, nine at Bishops Hull, but by the end of the century they seem to have become 'Deane men', who owed casual work when summoned.⁴³ In 1566 the bondland holdings in Hull tithing were unchanged since the mid 13th century but the virgate holding at

³⁷ SHC, tithe award; DD/SP 20; DD/CH 77/5, 80/6.

³⁸ SHC, T/PH/win 1409—10. Newly field was on the river east of Roughmoor not at later Newley farm.

³⁹ SHC, DD/SP 77, 104, 212.

⁴⁰ SHC, T/PH/win 1289—90, 1423—4, 1451—2.

⁴¹ SHC, T/PH/win 1298—9, 1433—4, 1453—4, 1528—9; DD/SP 85, 138.

⁴² SHC, T/PH/win 1500—1.

⁴³ SHC, T/PH/win 1535—6; DD/SP 4, 71.

Rumwell had disappeared and in both tithings some tenants had combined two holdings. A tenant of two farms at Rumwell had a dovecot. There were 26 cottages recorded, eight on farms and only a few with land, either bondland measured in daynes or overland. In addition to overland held with homesteads there were 38 holdings consisting of overland only, all but two in Hull tithing. The tenants of Rumwell paid 6d. a year to have the use of Rumwell Green, possibly the triangular area, now built on, by the Wellington Road.⁴⁴ Bishops Hull appears to have been a prosperous farming parish with several wealthy yeoman families. John Willis alias Slow (d. 1590) left an unusually detailed account of debts owed by and to him with his will including quantities of wheat and £5 for an ox. He gave his wife two cows. John Hiatt in 1593 left his family ploughs and horses.⁴⁵ Many tenants exchanged lands between their holdings. In this way some overland became bondland by being permanently attached to a tenement and bondland became overland by being held with another holding. Such exchanges were very common from the later 16th to early 18th centuries. Unfortunately the fossilised nature of manorial record keeping makes it difficult to determine the acreage of holdings or the layout of farms.⁴⁶

In 1625 many tenants also held parcels of overland and of 42 cottagers, 26 had parcels of overland. A further sixteen cottages were held with farms. The holdings were still assessed on half virgate or yardlands but several amalgamations had taken place resulting in virgate holdings at Hull and a one and three quarter-virgate holding at Rumwell although most of the holdings there were unchanged from 1566 and earlier. However, in Hull tithing there had been much subdivision and amalgamation of holdings. The two largest individual overland holdings, rated at the equivalent of a half virgate or more, were held by cottagers.⁴⁷ As late as the early 19th century there had been little change at Rumwell with 14 half-virgate and two

⁴⁴ SHC, DD/SP 23, 71.

⁴⁵ TNA, DPROB 11/26/390, 11/86/301.

⁴⁶ SHC, DD/SP 71, 77, 85, 87, 91, 95—6, 103, 138, 199.

⁴⁷ SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/1

quarter-virgate holdings held by seven copyholders, although the actual acreage of those holdings is unknown, but in Hull tithing there had been more subdivision with only five half-virgate and two quarter-virgate holdings. Most of the remaining 23 holdings were 5-a. tenements but some people held more than one.⁴⁸

Pigs were popular even among non-farmers, a clothier had eight in 1666,⁴⁹ but cattle were the most valuable assets for most 17th-century farmers followed by corn. Sheep were less common, possibly due to the low-lying nature of most land in the parish but a man from Rumwell who died in 1640 had 13.⁵⁰ Some farmers made cider and cheesewrings and cheese feature in several inventories and there are inventories with ploughs and tools but no livestock.⁵¹

John Brimsmead, yeoman, (d. 1681) gave legacies totalling over £130.⁵² Morgan Davy (d. 1682), a former fuller, had invested his wealth in farms and farmed one himself. At his death, he had the produce of 5 a. of wheat and 4 a. of barley, 11 a. of hay and 12 hogsheads of cider worth £1 each; also cattle, sheep, horses and pigs worth £94.⁵³ In 1690 William Doble of Frethey had bullocks, sheep, lambswool, pigs, cider-making equipment and hay worth £12 but very little grain. His large house was well furnished and included books and plate.⁵⁴ At the other extreme a poor husbandman who died in 1697 had only tools so presumably worked for someone else.⁵⁵

By the 18th century probably as a result of the weakening of the manorial system larger farms were being created and wealthy copyholders amalgamated several holdings, which they presumably sublet. Farm names were more widely used in non-manorial records

⁴⁸ SHC, DD/DP 43/4/1

⁴⁹ SHC, DD/SP 1666/53.

⁵⁰ SHC, DD/SP 1640/37.

⁵¹ SHC, DD/SP 1664/241671/38, 1672/38.

⁵² TNA, PROB 11/365/402

⁵³ SHC, DD/SP 1682/30.

⁵⁴ SHC, DD/SP 1690/32.

⁵⁵ SHC, DD/SP 1697/54.

and the descriptions of farms when let out diverged from those used when the lessors entered or surrendered the copyhold of the same property. Many copyhold farms came to be regarded as ‘customary freeholds’ and were inherited, sold and leased like freeholds with new owners paying a fine to release estates from ‘lockage’, when the lives on the copyhold had died and in theory the land had returned to the lord.⁵⁶ Some farms like Frethey and Barr were a mix of copyhold and freehold fields and were farmed by the copyholder others like the 60-a. farm known as Parsonage farm in 1725 were sublet for seven-year terms with conditions such as how many grain crops could be taken.⁵⁷

Roughmoor Farm was probably created by Edward Jarman in 1705 when a new house was built. It appears to have comprised part of a customary tenement, without the house, and overland by the river, which was inclosed by 1629.⁵⁸ A rare annotated map of 1718 states that the orchard was planted in 1717 and a row of walnut trees in 1718. There were also several nurseries. The farmyard was shown beyond a formal garden with duck pond. In the yard were linhays, ricks, staddles for grain mows and cattle. During the 18th-century a new house and farmyard, the present Roughmoor Farm, were created on a former nursery, presumably for the subtenants, and the 1705 house site became Roughmoor House and was also rebuilt and the farmyard removed, 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 1919.⁵⁹

Farms were similarly created in the early 18th century at Rumwell where the Risdon family created the Rumwell Hall Estate out of four copyhold farms and 27 a. of overland, the Petten or Petton family turned a group of copyholds into the Rumwell Hill estate and the Spiller family created Rumwell Farm. Copyhold estates at Upcott and Newley were amassed

⁵⁶ SHC, DD/CH 67/5; D/P/b.hl 13/1/1

⁵⁷ SHC, DD/SAS C/909/58; DD/FJ 7.

⁵⁸ SHC, DD/CH 80/6; Q/SR 63/116.

⁵⁹ SHC, DD/AY 86; DD/CH 77/5, 80/6, 109/7.

by the Gardner family of Fideoak by the 18th century and at the same time the Buncombe family amalgamated at least three copyhold farms and some overland to create Upcott farm.⁶⁰

Grass, especially for dairying had probably increased at the expense of arable in the early modern period although one farmer grew flax in the 1780s, presumably for the bounty.⁶¹ At Frethey farm a former dairymaid recalled milking cows in the field in the middle of the 18th century and seeing the farmer riding over his fields when he became too infirm to walk.⁶² In 1790s the tenant of Birchin mill was allowed to create water meadows, building sluices and drains and taking water on Sundays when the mill was idle.⁶³

19th century

In 1801 the parish grew 96 a. of wheat, 53 a. of barley 13 a. of potatoes, 9 a. of peas, 37 a. of beans and 10 a. turnip.⁶⁴ Potatoes and peas were produced on Roughmoor farm in 1815.⁶⁵ A threshing machine, presumably a horse gin, was recorded in the 1820s and 1830s and Upcott Farm appears to have had a gin as part of its large complex of farmbuildings.⁶⁶ In 1821 and 1831 only just over a quarter of families were engaged in agriculture and of 182 labourers in 1831 only 72 were employed in agriculture.⁶⁷ Only 460 a. was arable in 1842 compared with 750 a. of grass. There was also 78 a. of orchard. There was no evidence of further amalgamations and farms remained small only Newley Farm near Upcott was over 100 a. There were eight holdings of between 50 a. and 100 a., ten between 20 a. and 50 a, and 29 between 5a. and 20a. Even where a freeholder or copyholder held several estates they were all let to separate tenants.⁶⁸ By 1851 three farms were over 100 a. and a total of 34 labourers

⁶⁰ Above, landownership.

⁶¹ SHC, Q/RLh 63.

⁶² SHC, DD/SAS C/909/58.

⁶³ SHC, DD/BD 27.

⁶⁴ Crop Returns 1801 (List and Index Soc. 1900), 197

⁶⁵ SHC, A/AOW 62.

⁶⁶ SHC, D/P/b/hl 4/1/3, 13/1/5; SHC, tithe award. The Upcott farmyard was demolished before the 1880s.

⁶⁷ Census.

⁶⁸ SHC, tithe award. Most of the rest of this section relates to Bishops Hull Without only.

were recorded on farms. There was a poulterer at Rumwell where at least three farms kept ducks and other fowls in the 1850s. Two farmer won prizes for their poultry.⁶⁹ Bees were also kept and there was at least one large 'bee farm' in the 1850s.⁷⁰ By this period enfranchisement of copyholds was taking place and that may have encouraged farm expansions. In 1861 there were at least five farms over 100 a. out of eleven recorded farms employing at least 54 labourers, some describing themselves as carters, cowboys or ploughboys. There was also a dairy in the village and one farm had a resident dairymaid. Two women were poulterers and there were butter and corn dealers in 1861 and butter and poultry dealers at Rumwell in 1871.⁷¹ In 1866 the parish had 80 milk cows and 163 other cattle, 1,214 sheep, and 71 pigs and produced 176 ½ a. of wheat, 36 ½ a. of barley, 38 ½ a. of beans, 37 a. of mangolds, 33 a. of turnips, 17 a. of potatoes, 48 a. of vetches and clover and had 714 a. of grass.⁷² Although only fat cattle and sheep were recorded at Fideoak farm in 1868, there was a dairy in use there between 1878 and 1894.⁷³ The largest farms continued to grow and in 1871 there were three with over 200a. and there were three dairies.⁷⁴ Land was said to be primarily grazing and only 91 a. of wheat was grown in 1886 when other arable crops had also been reduced and there was over 1,000 a. of grass, however, a threshing machine driver was recorded in 1891 and livestock numbers had barely increased since 1866.⁷⁵ The farmhouse and yard opposite Bishops Hull House were replaced before 1887 by a new model farmyard well back from the road, later known as Hillmore Farm and specialising in sheep and dairying.⁷⁶

⁶⁹ TNA, HO 107/1923; SHC, Q/SR 590/55, 604/33—5; The Royal Cornwall Gazette, 12 June 1867; Jackson's Oxford Jnl, 25 Aug 1869; BNA accessed June 2016.

⁷⁰ SHC, Q/SR 590/92; T/PH/rea 1 [sheet 62].

⁷¹ TNA, RG 9/1619; RG 10/2325.

⁷² TNA, MAF 68/60.

⁷³ Trewman's Exeter Flying Post, 29 Oct 1868; The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post, 7 Oct 1878, 29 Aug 1894; BNA accessed June 2016.

⁷⁴ TNA, RG 10/2325.

⁷⁵ Kelly's Dir. Som. (1883—1902); TNA, MAF 68/1056RG12/1878.

⁷⁶ SHC, tithe award; DD/DP 184/6; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1890 edn); TNA, RG 101/7087i.

20th and 21st centuries

In 1901 there were only 21 labourers and not all those would have been agricultural.

Dairymaids had been replaced by cow and milk boys and there was a feedstuff agent.⁷⁷ In 1905 there were only 224 a. of arable and 1,179 a. of grass.⁷⁸ Despite tree planting in the 18th century by 1842 there were only 10 a. of woodland and most of that seems to have been cleared before 1905, possibly in 1901 when there were two timber hauliers in the parish and two woodcutters boarding at Rumwell.⁷⁹ Concern was expressed about smallholdings in 1908 when Bishops Hull Without had 11 holdings of between 50 a. and 100 a. and 37 of less than 50 a. held by 26 people.⁸⁰ In 1910 the Rumwell area farms were assessed as having good land. At Wheadon there few farmbuildings, mainly cowstalls and three four-room cottages but at Fideoak there were many, some in poor repair like the house but including three piggeries, a poultry house and two calf houses. Newley dairy farm had accommodation for 44 cows and three cottages. Roughmoor farm had good land including an orchard, a cider house and apple loft, accommodation for 10 cows and piggeries. Both Roughmoor and Haydon farms were said to suffer from footpaths over their land. Longrun farm had stalls for 20 cows and a farm cottage and had invested in new buildings by 1914. Even the Manor House still had piggeries and cowstalls for 12.⁸¹

Of 41 holdings returned in 1916 there were five over 100a., ten between 20 a. and 100 a. and 26 under 20 a. most of which were under 5 a. Arable accounted for only 177 a. of which wheat covered 46 a. and 1,210 a. was under grass mostly grazed by the 600 cattle but there were also 434 sheep, 94 horses, although over a third were riding and carriage animals,

⁷⁷ TNA, RG 13/2277

⁷⁸ *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1883—1902); Bd. of Agric. Returns 1905.

⁷⁹ SHC, DD/CC 80/6; tithe award; Bd. of Agric. Returns 1905; TNA, RG 13/2277.

⁸⁰ SHC, D/PC/b.hl

⁸¹ TNA, IR 58/82128; OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1904 edn, 1914 edn).

and 152 pigs. Apple orchards covered 86 a.⁸² Following the First World War there was no change in the size of holdings but arable had shrunk to under 150 a. yet the number of cattle had hardly increased and the sheep flock had shrunk to 110. However, there were 244 pigs and over 3,000 poultry in 1926.⁸³ A cattle dealer who set himself up in business trading cattle and pigs went bankrupt in 1930.⁸⁴ By 1936 there were only 85 a. of arable and 45 a. of orchard but grass had also declined to 1,030 a. due to the loss of land to housing and industry. Cattle numbers continued to fall to 416 and horses to 29 but there were 629 sheep, 377 pigs and 8,786 poultry. Only two women were employed out of 42 agricultural workers.⁸⁵

During the Second World War the parish experienced the general loss of pigs, poultry and sheep as meat production was reduced to divert grain and vegetables to human consumption. This was offset by the number of private houses where egg-laying birds were kept replaced or cottagers who kept a raised a few pigs kept on swill and garden scraps. In 1941 several holdings classed as farms with no house were kept by Taunton people or businesses such as a removal firm and the Taunton Brick Company who were classed as farmers only because they only had a few animals or hens or had a small orchard in the parish. Other farmers were estate owners who let out their grass but grew potatoes for the war effort like the owners of Rumwell Park. A nurseryman produced potatoes and tomatoes under glass and another at Barr grew vegetables outdoors and under glass. Both kept hens as did many householders. Many larger farms consisted of fields rented from many different owners, some at a distance from the rest. However, management of all farms except one was A rated although many had no outside labour or motive power and bad buildings. The exception was Barr House, where the women, described as hobby farmers, were said to lack good farming methods although their land and buildings were in good condition. A poultry

⁸² TNA, MAF 68/2766.

⁸³ TNA, MAF 68/3312.

⁸⁴ SHC, D/CC/ta 7/65.

⁸⁵ TNA, MAF 68/3809.

farm survived at Rumwell but with only 655 birds. Several farmers had ploughed grassland but only in very small amounts except the 53 a. ploughed for wheat and corn at Newley, where a dairy herd, sheep and 1,400 hens were also kept. In addition to the four tractors in the parish two farmers used old cars and at Newley (260 a.) and Longaller (188 a.) water power was used as well as tractors and stationary engines.⁸⁶

By 1943 five women were working on farms out of a workforce of 34 and arable had risen to 310 a. producing mainly wheat and fodder. Over half the 588 cattle were dairy cows, there were 65 pigs, one goat, 143 sheep, 19 horses and 1,381 poultry.⁸⁷ Within three years there had been little change in livestock apart from a doubling of poultry but arable had shrunk, half was under barley, and tomatoes were the only vegetable produced. Three members of the Women's Land army remained at work.⁸⁸ In 1948 the county council invested in milk production at its Fideoak farm but the farmyard went out of use later in the century.⁸⁹ The village farms went out of use in the later 20th century and farming became confined largely to the west of the parish. Arable continued to fall to 211 a. in 1956 and with an end to wartime restrictions there was an increase in pig and poultry keeping with over 13,000 poultry in the parish.⁹⁰ The surviving village farms were developed for housing and Roughmoor farm was taken over c. 1965 as government offices for The Nature Conservancy, later Natural England until 2008. Farms remained small, there were only four over 100 a. in 1966 when 23 people were employed in agriculture, most of the remaining arable was under barley and livestock numbers had not changed apart from a fall in poultry to under 9,000.⁹¹ During the 1970s and 1980s the Venn family of Newley farm took over neighbouring farms

⁸⁶ TNA, MAF 32/119/262.

⁸⁷ TNA, MAF 68/4066.

⁸⁸ TNA, MAF 68/4177.

⁸⁹ SHC, D/R/ta 24/32/113.

⁹⁰ TNA, MAF 68/4547.

⁹¹ TNA, FT 33; MAF 68/4998.

including Longaller.⁹² Poultry numbers soared again in the 1970s and 1980s to over 43,000 but between 1976 and 1986 cattle declined from c. 800 to 700, sheep from 104 to 3, and pigs from c. 300 to 28. Of seven farms in 1986 one was a dairy unit and five were part-time but employed 32 people. Wheat growing had become popular again (427 a.) and there were equal quantities of arable and grassland c. 530 a. of each.⁹³ Longrun farm was a dairy unit making ice cream in the 1980s.⁹⁴ Arable and livestock farming persisted into the 21st century but with one large dairy and poultry farm at Newley using most of the remaining agricultural land in the parish.

HORTICULTURE

North of the castle lay a garden, possibly the herbarium recorded in 1225, and another to the west across the moat, possibly the new garden of 1249. The first garden was linked by a bridge to a large garden, the castle orchard so named by 1298, that lay between the castle ditch or Millstream and the river Tone and stretched west from the mills.⁹⁵ The Southam mead is recorded there in the mid 14th-century only.⁹⁶ The bishop's gardener was fined the huge sum of 20s. in 1302 for transgressions inside and outside the castle.⁹⁷ The garden contained a dovecot by 1209 and the squabs were regularly accounted for until 1480.⁹⁸ By 1536 it was let out as three parcels of waste between the mills and the West Gate and by 1655 some of it was built on.⁹⁹

Orchard

⁹² SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/16, 19.

⁹³ TNA, MAF 68/4998, 6025.

⁹⁴ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/19.

⁹⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1224—5, 1246—7, 1298—9; Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 21—2, 273.

⁹⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1346—7, 1358—9.

⁹⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1301—2.

⁹⁸ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—9, 1254—5, 1361—2, 1416—17, 1479—80.

⁹⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1536—7, 1558—9; DD/MT 12/5; DD/SP 71, 79.

The castle orchard was recorded as a nominal 5-a. site until the late 19th century although it had been developed for housing and industry.¹⁰⁰ It may have produced some of the 40 gallons of cider sold in 1255 or the 25 gallons of cherries and 13 gallons of honey sold in 1268 and was certainly producing apples and pears for sale in the 1340s.¹⁰¹ The constable's garden south of the mills in 1448 was presumably a pleasure garden.¹⁰² It had productive apple trees in 1416—17 but from 1433 there was no fruit.¹⁰³ In 1633 the walk from Bishops Hull to Taunton was said to provide prospects of a great number of orchards and cherry gardens of which the cherries ripened as early as in London. The area also produced early peas and flourishing meadows.¹⁰⁴ In 1656 a tenant was entitled to take all the apples and pears on two holdings.¹⁰⁵ An orchard near Barr was called Hop garden in the 1790s and there may have been another near the church.¹⁰⁶ In the 18th century apple orchards, presumably for cider, were planted on a large scale especially at Roughmoor but also at Barr¹⁰⁷ and by 1842 there were 78 a.¹⁰⁸

Orchard acreage, having remained stable at c. 50 a. for most of the 20th century began to fall in the 1960s to 16 a., partly under pressure for housing, and by 1986 there were none.¹⁰⁹ However, in the early 21st century orchards were planted at Rumwell.

Urban Nurseries

A nursery was established on part of the old Paul's barton site, reputedly in 1800, and kept by a succession of seedsmen probably including John and Hannah Hartnell in the 1820s and the

¹⁰⁰ SHC, DD/SP 214; above, intro.

¹⁰¹ SHC, T/PH/win 1254—5, 1267—8; 1347—9.

¹⁰² SHC, T/PH/win 1447—8.

¹⁰³ SHC, T/PH/win 1416—17, 1433—5.

¹⁰⁴ Revd Bates, Gerard of Trent (1900), 55.

¹⁰⁵ SHC, DD/SP 99.

¹⁰⁶ SHC, DD/AY 66; tithe award.

¹⁰⁷ SHC, DD/AY 66; DD/BD 77; DD/BR/hck 7; DD/CH 77/5, 80/6, 109/7; DD/SP 209.

¹⁰⁸ SHC, tithe award.

¹⁰⁹ TNA, MAF 68/4177, 4547, 4998, 6025.

Bacon and Stephens families until it passed to Robert Hofstetter Poynter c. 1860. It had large glasshouses.¹¹⁰ In 1864 Poynter imported seeds and flower roots of all kinds and produced nursery stock and potatoes on additional land at Staplegrove.¹¹¹ He was prosperous and as well as the cottages at the nursery he had Castle Gate House opposite on the street frontage of which he built two shops, one with a greenhouse attached and large warehouse above, in an elaborate Gothic style. He ran other nurseries but sold up in 1900 when he moved to a shop in Bath Place.¹¹² The nursery was described as old in 1910 and was later acquired for the bus station.¹¹³ A second much larger nursery across the Millstream on the former castle gardens adjoining the river had been established by 1927. It was still in use in the 1940s but in the 1960s it became part of Goodland Gardens.¹¹⁴ Another nursery was established before 1827 between Paul's Cottage and the Gaol Stream. Known as Tone nurseries it remained in use until the mid 20th century when Debenhams took over the site.¹¹⁵ There is a nursery and bulb farm at Barr.

MILLS

The position of the parish on the river Tone from Fideoak to Taunton's main bridge enabled milling of both grain and cloth to become a major industry from at least mid 13th to the mid 20th centuries.

Castle, Taunton or Town Mills

¹¹⁰ SHC, A/AQQ 1; DD/SAS C212/Map 148; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887); OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12. 16 (1888).

¹¹¹ Pigot Dir. (1830, 1842); Slater's Dir. Som. (1852); Goodman's Dir. Taunton (1864); SHC, DD/SP 125; DD/HS 3/2.

¹¹² SHC, A/AQQ 1; D/B/ta 24/1/14/510, 24/1/15/585; DD/HS 2.

¹¹³ TNA, IR 58/82125.

¹¹⁴ SHC, DD/SAS S1122/1/59; A/DKW 39—81; TNA, RG 101/7041f; aerial photos 1933, 1947: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW041182,005339.

¹¹⁵ SHC, DD/SP 33; D/B/ta 24/1/224/14255; OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12. 16 (1888);

The area between the castle and the town bridge now public open space was for centuries home to several businesses including both grain and fulling mills. The Millstream left the river Tone at French Weir and rejoined it in two channels just before the bridge. The easternmost channel has been filled in but the rest remains. By the 19th century the watercourse was so ancient and important it was also often called the river. In the early 19th century, the land between the watercourses was made up to bear the weight of new buildings and avoid flooding.¹¹⁶

It is possible that the Millstream originally harnessed the Sherford and Gaol streams that also fed the castle moat and that the western half of the stream from French Weir dates from the 13th century when mills around Taunton appear to have been reorganised. In 1271—2 a small sluice was made between the mill of Taunton and the castle ditch.¹¹⁷ In 1293 after storms a new sluice was made as floodwater had broken through the bank and made another course to the mill.¹¹⁸

The mill recorded in 1217—18 was presumably the mill below the castle rebuilt in 1218—19.¹¹⁹ It had a malt mill, which underwent major repairs in the later 13th century and by 1300 it was known as the Taunton or Castle, later the town mill. The miller was allowed to choose French stones.¹²⁰ In 1332—3 a new house was built, in 1338—9 the mill was rebuilt and in 1349—50 a new stone weir occupied four masons for 39 weeks after 96 men spent a day digging the foundations and it was provided with a bridge and four sluices.¹²¹ That was probably the Homewere later Town Mills weir. In 1382—3 a new sluice at the mill with weirs and ham stone cost £7 5s. 10d.¹²² and the mill weir was rebuilt again in 1452—3.¹²³

¹¹⁶ SHC, tithe award; SWHT, HER 31689.

¹¹⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1271—2.

¹¹⁸ SHC, T/PH/win 1292—3.

¹¹⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1217—19.

¹²⁰ SHC, T/PH/win 1270—1, 1286—7, 1300—1, 1301—2, 1304—5.

¹²¹ SHC, T/PH/win 1332—3, 1338—9, 1349—50.

¹²² SHC, T/PH/win 1452—3.

¹²³ SHC, T/PH/win 1382—3, 1421—2; DD/SP 71.

The mill was profitable despite expensive stones imported through Bridgwater and rebuilding French Weir in 1410. Sales of tollcorn were over £26 a year in the mid 14th century before falling back to £22 in the 1380s. They rose again in the 15th century to a peak of £62 in 1410 mainly from malt and wheat but in the 1430s beans were also ground.¹²⁴ In 1422 the mill stood idle while it underwent repairs including rebuilding the malt mill and two wheels.¹²⁵ There were several droughts in the mid 15th century but the town mill had priority for water.¹²⁶ There were floods later in the century necessitating many repairs and the timber and thatch grain mill was rebuilt for over £11 in 1482—3.¹²⁷

By 1500 the mill was farmed out for £27 rent, compared with £2 13s. 4d. for the fulling mill.¹²⁸ The rent was reduced in 1528—9 as it lay idle while the town bridge was repaired.¹²⁹ The farmer of the mill was entitled to the watercourse and suit of mill, although that does not seem to have been enforced, and the miller touted for business in the market where he faced competition. In 1522 it was let for 50 years but the lord of the manor remained responsible for the upkeep of the weirs and supplying millstones.¹³⁰ The 16th-century farmers sublet at a profit to the miller who also had to pay the lord's rent, tithe corn and repairs.¹³¹ In 1692 and probably much earlier the tenant of the mills was responsible for maintaining the bridge at French Weir in Taunton St James parish.¹³² He took a new lease in 1711, which provided that if he went abroad and did not give proof within six months that he was alive the mills would revert to the bishop, perhaps an indication that a previous miller had absconded.¹³³

¹²⁴ SHC, T/PH/win 1349—51, 1361—2, 1376—7, 1387—8, 1400—1, 1409—12, 1433—4.

¹²⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1421—2.

¹²⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1447—53, 1462—3.

¹²⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1482—3, 1486—7.

¹²⁸ SHC, T/PH/win 1500—1.

¹²⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1528—9.

¹³⁰ SHC, DD/SP 4; 21/1; 71.

¹³¹ SHC, DD/SP 21/1; TNA, E126/12, ff. 192b—3. By this period and probably earlier they were two mills under one roof.

¹³² SHC, DD/SP 21/1.

¹³³ SHC, DD/CH 68/6.

By the end of the 16th century floods were more of a problem than droughts and millers were accused of not drawing their hatches, interfering with weirs or of raising the height of sluices.¹³⁴ With the loss of the water bailiff by the 18th century those problems continued. The town mills were rebuilt c. 1730 at a cost of nearly £1,500 and the tenant claimed priority for water over all other mills and to provide flour for most of the Taunton area. The miller lived at the fulling mills because the house was better and when the mills were rebuilt a new house was made out of the stables. In 1740 the bishop sent master millers from Hampshire to manage the new mills.¹³⁵ The mills, and the fulling mills, were driven by undershot wheels probably enclosed within the buildings. In the early 19th-century the flour mill was operated by the Stacey family and called Tone Mills.¹³⁶

The flour mill site was an L-shaped area fully built over by the 19th century across the Millstream with a smaller wing on the south bank, possibly the site of the medieval mill, at the end of Mill Lane near the warehouse of John Buncombe.¹³⁷ It was clearly inadequate and allowed no room for further expansion so in 1827 mealman Robert Hitchcock, who may have built the Bathpool mills in West Monkton,¹³⁸ negotiated for the fulling mill site, which he acquired formally in 1833. He had built a brick smith's shop by 1837 and a new water grist mill by 1843 when he had acquired the old flour mills and was operating both sites. By 1844, when he went bankrupt, his enterprise comprised a water grist mill, two dwellings, a foundry with water wheel and turning shop, let to an ironfounder with one of the dwellings in 1837, an icehouse, a landing place, stable and carhouse, and a garden by the river. The old mill building and the third house on the site, both built over the Millstream, had been let that year to Joseph Davey, brewer, as the house next to the brewery belonged to the fulling mills.

¹³⁴ SHC, DD/SP 4; 18/1, 23

¹³⁵ SHC, DD/MK 50.

¹³⁶ SHC, D/P/b.hl 13/1/5; TNA, HO 107/959; *Pigot Dir.* (1830, 1842).

¹³⁷ SHC, DD/CH 68/7.

¹³⁸ *Taunton Courier* 1 May 1817: BNA accessed 12 Sep 2017.

Davey also purchased the copyhold of the fulling mill site.¹³⁹ In 1847 the mill was the focus of a riot over the price of wheat.¹⁴⁰ For most of the rest of the century the mill site was held by the Davey family, brewers and maltsters. They appear to have extended Hitchcock's new mill to use all the buildings on the site possibly c. 1851 when there was no resident miller, and thereafter employed a miller to operate the flour mills. In 1855 there was a steam engine. In 1871 the miller was also a taxidermist.¹⁴¹

The milling business expanded and before 1887 a new steam-powered mill had been built with boiler house and chimney, however a formal garden was still maintained adjoining the river, used as allotments in the 1940s.¹⁴² In 1890 the machinery included a cornish boiler, three water wheels, ten elevators and four worms or screws of varying sizes, seven pairs of French stones in two sizes and a pair of Peak stones, two roller mills, and cleaning and mixing machines. The mill was capable of producing 400—500 sacks of flour a week as well as trading in other grains. The site was still legally divided between the leasehold, the old flour mill site, and the much larger copyhold site of the former fulling mills although in 1910 the two were said to be indistinguishable. In 1891 Joseph Davey the younger went into partnership with John Tolman a baker and flour merchant who was to have the mill house rent-free, £1 a week and both men were to have free bread for their families. The mill continued to be operated by an employed miller who occupied the house. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners sold the reversion of the mills to Joseph Davey the younger in 1892.¹⁴³ A turbine was installed before 1903 and additional buildings provided c. 1910 when they were described as two three-storey mills one for barley and one for grist and a four-storey mill for both. However, the mills appear to have moved into animal feeds and were operated by G

¹³⁹ SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3; DD/CH 68/7, 9; tithe award; TNA. 107/1923.

¹⁴⁰ *Taunton Courier*, 19 May 1847, 31 Dec 1919 citing *The Times*, 25 May 1847: BNA accessed 12 Sep 2017.

¹⁴¹ SHC, DD/CH 68/6—7, 11; TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375; RG 11/2369; RG 12/1878; PROB 11/2251/196.

¹⁴² OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12.11 (1888 edn); aerial photo 1947: britainfromabove/EAW005339.

¹⁴³ SHC, DD/CH 68/7; TNA, RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; IR 58/82126.

Small and son, a firm that traded also in coal, manure and salt and burnt lime, presumably elsewhere. The mills closed before 1956 and were demolished a few years later. The site is now part of Goodland Gardens but the sluices and weirs remain in use for water control.¹⁴⁴

Other medieval mills

Apart from the castle or town mills there were many other water mills along the Tone including the Hull manor mill recorded from 1208. In the 13th century the miller was allowed seven bushel baskets of wheat and six of gruel, presumably oatmeal, and the rest of the toll corn was sold together with rye, barley and malt and mixed grains. Occasionally grain was supplied to Taunton castle. The major expense was replacing millstones, usually five or six in each decade, but the mill still returned a profit of up to 30s. a year. The millpond was maintained by customary labour but the wheel usually needed regular replacement of boards and the ironwork needed greasing and repair. An overseas stone bought in 1273—4 was presumably from Caen and French millstones were recorded in the early 14th century. These lasted much longer but were more expensive. The amount of tollcorn rose steadily from just under 30 quarters in the 1200s to nearly 60 in the 1250s but then fell to only c. 20 quarters by the 1270s, which may explain why the mill was farmed out in the 1280s and early 1290s. After it fell in hand in 1296 mill revenues were between £6 and £10 a year. A flood damaged the mill in 1299—1300 and repairs and new stones cost over £18 and by 1305 the mill was farmed out again although the manor remained liable for some repairs.¹⁴⁵ The mill hatches were repaired in 1348 but in 1349 the mill ceased working and was later said to be decayed. It was not rebuilt.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁴ SHC, D/B/ta 14/6/7; DD/SAS S1122/1/72; TNA, IR 58/82126; Kelly's Dir. Som. (1923—39); SIAS Bulletin 68 (Apr. 1995), 3; PSANHS CXII (1968), 106—7.

¹⁴⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—1320.

¹⁴⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1340—62.

There is no record of a grain mill in Fideoak manor in the Middle Ages but there was a new fulling mill in 1425.¹⁴⁷

Post-medieval rural mills

Four mills were recorded in Hull tithing in Taunton Deane manor in 1566, of which two were fulling mills,¹⁴⁸ but three millers were presented from 1567 for taking excessive toll, probably including the Town mills by the castle, and four from 1591.¹⁴⁹ Three millers including a woman were accused of carrying and grinding grain from Taunton and elsewhere on Sundays in 1612.¹⁵⁰ Two millers were charged with offences involving the sale of large quantities of wheat in 1634¹⁵¹ and later in the century two others with fathering illegitimate children.¹⁵² The number of mills on the Tone, seven in Bishops Hull parish alone by the 17th century, with another on a tributary, created problems with both shortage and excess of water. There were several complaints of millers altering and raising weirs and river banks to impound water causing problems for their neighbours upstream.¹⁵³ In 1593 Burchin mill suffered because a neighbour had made a trench to carry off the water.¹⁵⁴ In the 1590s many fulling mills were converted to grist mills including Birchyn and Hill mills.¹⁵⁵ The latter may have been on the site of the medieval Hull mill. At least one mill was described as a corn mill formerly a fulling mill in the 18th century.¹⁵⁶

Fideoak and Longaller

¹⁴⁷ Below, this section, cloth.

¹⁴⁸ SHC, DD/SP 71.

¹⁴⁹ SHC, DD/SP 2—4.

¹⁵⁰ SHC, D/D/Ca 175

¹⁵¹ SHC, Q/SR 71/173.

¹⁵² SHC, Q/SR 111/11.

¹⁵³ SHC, DD/SP 4, 23/82—4.

¹⁵⁴ SHC, DD/SP 4.

¹⁵⁵ TNA, E 134/4 JasI/Mich28.

¹⁵⁶ SHC, DD/SP 79; DD/DD 27.

Both Fideoak mill and Longaller Mill on Fideoak manor were fulling mills in 1578 and presumably until the 17th century as their millers were not fined for taking excess toll.¹⁵⁷ Longaller was claimed to be ‘ancient’ in 1593. It had been converted to a grist mill by 1691¹⁵⁸ but appears to have reverted to fulling in the 18th century. In 1731 Thomas Gunston left his half share in the mill, with his racks on Paul’s Field in Taunton to his cousin John Gunston for life and then to John’s son Thomas. Land adjoining the mill was called Tucking Leaze by 1788.¹⁵⁹ Confusingly in 1794—5 it was described as Fideoak mill when Fideoak mill to the west was a papermill.¹⁶⁰ So it is not clear which were the flour mills at Fideoak let in 1808 but in 1822 and 1836 there was flour mill at Fideoak so presumably papermaking and flour milling businesses were on the same site.¹⁶¹ In 1857 a new iron waterwheel and a 3rd pair of stones were provided for Fideoak mill and in the 1860s a miller and a maltster ran it in partnership.¹⁶² In 1919 it was a three-storey building with an iron undershot wheel and three pairs of stones and a large mill house.¹⁶³ The mill remained in business in the 1950s but has since been demolished and the leat partly filled in. The site is occupied by a commercial garage.¹⁶⁴

Longaller mill was still a fulling mill in 1810 and probably housed the water-powered gig mills, shearing and knapping machines offered for sale then when it was operated with the Roughmoor mill and weaving factories in Taunton producing black and blue broadcloth and black kerseys.¹⁶⁵ Fox Brothers of Wellington, woollen manufacturers appear to have acquired it and used it as a tucking mill in the 1820s.¹⁶⁶ It was said in 1876 to have been a

¹⁵⁷ SHC, DD/SP 4.

¹⁵⁸ SHC, DD/CH 67/4; DD/SAS C63/2.

¹⁵⁹ SWHT, HER 43363; TNA, PROB 11/648/325; SHC, DD/SAS C 63/2; tithe award.

¹⁶⁰ SHC, SANHS, Tite colln, canal map 1794; Q/Rup 8; below, this section, paper.

¹⁶¹ Bristol Mercury, 9 May 1808: BNA accessed June 2016; Harley and Dunning, Somerset Maps, Greenwood 182; SHC, D/P/b.hl 13/1/52.

¹⁶² Taunton Courier, 7 Oct 1857: BNA accessed June 2016; SHC, DD/CH 129/13.

¹⁶³ SHC, A/BNK 1/1/7.

¹⁶⁴ SHC, DD/DP 43/17; Kelly’s Dir. Som. (1939); Kelly’s Dir. Taunton, (1957).

¹⁶⁵ Taunton Courier, 7 June 1810: BNA accessed 12 July 2017.

¹⁶⁶ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 5/3/13; Somerset Maps, Greenwood 1822; SWHT, HER 43363.

flax mill until 1830 but that may have been an error for fulling although flax was grown in the 1780s. The buildings were rebuilt, probably following a fire in 1825, and although still described as a factory in 1832 the tenant was a miller, baker and maltster.¹⁶⁷ In 1842 Longaller was described as a grist mill.¹⁶⁸ The mill tenant had long been responsible for the Longaller river bridge¹⁶⁹ and a vehicular access bridge over the river was built in 1875.¹⁷⁰ New roller mills were installed before 1896 grinding up to three sacks of grain per hour.¹⁷¹ The mill was in poor repair and unoccupied in 1914 but was offered for sale in 1919 as a three-storey roller mill with an undershot wheel, a small house with attached cottage and a block of five workers' cottages.¹⁷² Additional, probably agricultural, buildings lined both sides of the road in the 1920s and 1940s but have since been largely demolished. In 1941 the mill was a farm and the water wheel was used to supply water to the cowstalls. The farmer rented extra land in the area and ploughed 6 ½ a. to grow wheat for the war effort. Milling may have been revived for a while after the war but by the 1970s the mill, mill house and attached cottage formed a single private house. The leat survives together with some machinery but the ponds have been filled in. In the 2000s a Pelton wheel was installed in the wheel pit to generate electricity. The cottages survive but reduced to four and much altered.¹⁷³

Frethey

In the mid 16th century William Brimsmead had a licence to build a new grain mill at Frethey, which was completed before 1566, possibly near the confluence of the river with the

¹⁶⁷ McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey of Som.* p. 268; SHC, Q/REI 35/3; tithe award.

¹⁶⁸ SHC, tithe award; below, this section, trade and industry.

¹⁶⁹ SHC, DD/SP 2.

¹⁷⁰ Date on bridge.

¹⁷¹ *Taunton Courier*, 9 June 1875: BNA accessed June 2016; SWHT, HER 43363.

¹⁷² TNA, IR 58/82128; SHC, A/BNK 1/1/7.

¹⁷³ TNA, MAF 32/119/262; OS Map 1;10860 Som. LXX.SW (1929 edn); SWHT, HER 44638, RAF image . 1946.

Shutewater or Shuttswater.¹⁷⁴ In 1593 the miller was accused of raising his weir holding water back upriver and damaging the ‘ancient’ mill at Longaller.¹⁷⁵ Ironically by the mid 17th century his successor was having problems operating as so much water was impounded by the mills immediately downriver that water could not be released to drive his wheel.¹⁷⁶ Another William Brimsmead had sold the mill before 1657 and it passed with Frethey farm from the Vinnicombe family to William Doble before 1684 and to William Gardner by 1721 when it was last recorded.¹⁷⁷

Burchin

A fulling mill until the later 16th century,¹⁷⁸ Burchin mill was a grain mill by 1585.¹⁷⁹ It was at Roughmoor and may have been on the site of the later Bridge mill. It changed hands many times¹⁸⁰ but was held by a branch of the Brimsmead family for half the 17th century¹⁸¹ and in the late 18th century by the Darch family.¹⁸² In 1786 it had a house and two grist mills, presumably under one roof, described as in decay and notice was given to the tenant to repair but in 1787 the premises were described as ruinous. From the 1790s it passed through many hands and was apparently out of use. The copyholders were entitled to water meadows from the ‘mill water’ between 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 8 p.m. on Sundays when all the mills would have been idle.¹⁸³

Bridge Mill

¹⁷⁴ SHC, DD/SP 71, 85, 108.

¹⁷⁵ SHC, DD/SP 4.

¹⁷⁶ SHC, DD/SP 23/82.

¹⁷⁷ SHC, DD/SP 77, 101, 108, 151, 214.

¹⁷⁸ SHC, DD/SP 71; below, this section, fulling mills.

¹⁷⁹ SHC, DD/SP 4.

¹⁸⁰ SHC, DD/SP 72, 85, 142.

¹⁸¹ SHC, DD/SP 77, 79, 98, 157.

¹⁸² Below, this section, fulling mills.

¹⁸³ SHC, DD/CH 67/5; 77/5; DD/BD 27; Q/REI 35/3; Q/Rup 8.

Bridge corn mill may have been the threshing machine and mill recorded between 1824 and 1836. It appears to have operated as an adjunct to Bishop Hull mills until 1842 when they were both held by the Tytherleigh family.¹⁸⁴ The present building probably dates from the early 19th century with the house, which retains contemporary casements, butting against the long west wall of the mill and a much later buff brick domestic extension to the north. After 1892 it was also known as Bishops Hull Mill.¹⁸⁵ In 1910 it was in bad repair and milling seems to have ceased. The three storey gristmill had an undershot wheel. It stands on the north bank of the river Tone and instead of being sited on a millstream like the other mills, water was taken off the river through a tunnel north of the weir into a millpond formed within the river by the weir. Sluices formerly controlled the flow of water between the tunnel, the river and the millstream that served the former Bishops Hull Mill on the south bank.¹⁸⁶ Bridge mill was a guesthouse in the late 20th century, The Old Mill, but is now a private house, Bridge House. The weir has largely gone having been replaced by a modern weir upstream but the water tunnel can still be seen.

Bishops Hill Mill

A mill on the site of either the later Bishops Hull mill or Bridge mill, east of Netherclay, was described as new from 1612 but by then had had two previous tenants and in 1652 had been in existence at least 60 years.¹⁸⁷ It was probably the Hill fulling mill converted in the 1590s.¹⁸⁸ The miller was responsible for the bridge over the Tone in 1624.¹⁸⁹ In c. 1775 a new house and grist mills were built there, known as Bishops Hill Mill in 1795 but also as

¹⁸⁴ SHC, D/P/b/hl 4/1/3, 13/1/5; Q/REI 35/3.

¹⁸⁵ TNA, RG 9/1619; RG 12/1878; RG 14/14246.

¹⁸⁶ TNA, IR 58/82128; OS Map 1:25,000, SOM. LXX.11 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

¹⁸⁷ SHC, DD/SP18/23, 25; 77; 91; 197; 199; 214—5; 319/265.

¹⁸⁸ Below, this section, fulling mills.

¹⁸⁹ SHC, DD/SP 10.

Netherclay Mills.¹⁹⁰ It is not clear if the previous mill had been on this site or closer to the road at the present Bridge mill. They may have been the unoccupied mills suggested as a site for a tobacco factory in 1834.¹⁹¹ In 1835 they had three pairs of stones, bolting and other machinery capable of grinding 1,000 bushels a year. The buildings needed repair, which the owner undertook to carry out for a new tenant.¹⁹² Until 1842 they were held with Bridge mill and were described as a corn mill with house and malthouse but from that year they were in separate ownership and changed hands several times.¹⁹³ They were rebuilt again and provided with a new house shortly before 1885 when there were three pairs of stones driven by a waterwheel on the millstream running between the mills and the house. In 1887 a sawmill was recorded although it was not mentioned in the lease. Shortly afterwards the first floor was converted into a steam-driven roller mill, said to be worth £1,000, two pairs of stones being retained to grind oats and barley. The capacity of the mill required working day and night six days a week and three waggons. In 1892 the mills were destroyed by fire.¹⁹⁴ They were not rebuilt although the house was saved and was known as Mill House, later Tytherleigh after an earlier owner. The blackened mill walls were retained as garden walls and some still stand.¹⁹⁵

Roughmoor mill

Roughmoor mill was in existence by 1718¹⁹⁶ and later was held with Roughmoor farm. It stood on a millstream east of a tributary of the Tone, and may have had an undershot

¹⁹⁰ SHC, DD/MY 35; Q/Rup 8.

¹⁹¹ SHC, DD/SAS PR 463/2.

¹⁹² Sherborne Mercury, 16 March 1835: BNA accessed March 2017.

¹⁹³ SHC, tithe award; DD/CH 110/4; D/P/b.hl 13/1/5.

¹⁹⁴ West Som. Free Press 17 June 1882, 20 June 1885; Taunton Courier 15 June 1892: BNA accessed March 2017; SHC, QRDe 165h; OS Map 1:25,000, SOM. LXX.11 (1890 edn, surv. 1887); SHC, DD/KIT 14/1.

¹⁹⁵ SHC, tithe award; DD/CH 111/7; OS Map 1:25,000, SOM. LXX.11 (1890 edn, surv. 1887; 1904 edn, 1914 edn).

¹⁹⁶ SHC, DD/CH 80/6 records a field by the mill; Q/Rup 8.

wheel.¹⁹⁷ It was a factory in the 1780s and in 1810 was probably preparing yarn and possibly finishing in connection with Longaller mill.¹⁹⁸ It was unoccupied in 1820—1 probably due to the decline in the Taunton cloth industry.¹⁹⁹ It seems to have been converted into a silk mill before 1830.²⁰⁰ In 1833 it had recently been destroyed by fire when the site was offered for sale and by 1835 a flour mill had been built.²⁰¹ It remained in use until 1861 but by 1871 Mary Jacobs the miller had taken over Longaller mill. Roughmoor mill had been demolished by 1886 and the house was three cottages, since demolished.²⁰² One outbuilding on the site has been converted into a dwelling called Greenbrook Mill and others have been replaced by a second house Roughmoor Cottage. Fragments of the weir survive.

Whipples mill

In 1718 Mrs Tuthill's mill at Roughmoor on the Tone near Longrun Farm was said to be the former Whipples fulling mill.²⁰³ It is not clear what sort of mill it was in 1718 but it had an unusual millstream and appears to have altered the shape of the river. The house lay on the south-west bank with the mill straddling the water on arches and presumably housing an undershot wheel. It survived until 1822 but had completely disappeared by 1842 except for the mill pond, which survives.²⁰⁴

INDUSTRY, TRADES AND CRAFTS

¹⁹⁷ SHC, tithe award; Q/RDE 165h.

¹⁹⁸ Below, this section; Taunton Courier, 7 June 1810: BNA accessed 12 July 2017.

¹⁹⁹ SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3.

²⁰⁰ Pigot Dir. (1830), under Taunton.

²⁰¹ Taunton Courier, 9 Oct 1833; Dorset County Chronicle, 11 June 1835: BNA accessed 12 July 2017.

²⁰² TNA, RG9/1619, RG 10/2325; OS Map 1:25,000, SOM. LXX.11 (1890 edn, surv. 1887; 1904 edn, 1914 edn).

²⁰³ SHC, DD/CH 80/6; DD/SP 79; below, this section.

²⁰⁴ Somerset Maps, Greenwood 1822; SHC, DD/CH 80/6; tithe award. Traces of possible related watercourses are visible on the 1940s RAF photographs: SWHT, HER 43365.

Clearly many non-agricultural trades recorded Bishops Hull relate to the Taunton area but medieval surnames indicate that there were smiths, carpenters, turners and cooks in the parish.²⁰⁵ The parish was also home to many industries such as cloth, malt and paper. It is also possible that as with fulling, trades like butchery and soap boiling were carried out away from the urban area.²⁰⁶ A soapboiler in 1756 was at Rumwell and there were two tallow chandlers in the parish in the later 18th century.²⁰⁷ In 1924 there were complaints that a slaughterhouse at Frethey dumped pig parts in the river, possibly the slaughterhouse recorded at Fideoak in 1928.²⁰⁸ By the 1930s the spread of residential development meant that a proposed engineering factory on the Wellington Road was successfully objected to despite claims that it would have added £1,500 a week to the economy.²⁰⁹ However, the growing population also created a demand for shops and services. The parish remains home to many businesses mainly trade suppliers and motor repairers based on the Cornishway industrial estate on the former brickyards south of Wellington New Road and at Tangier.

An increasing number of people worked in Taunton by the mid 19th century.

Professional men chose to live in the village, which was also home to Taunton factory, gas and railway workers. By the early 20th century large numbers of people commuted to work in Taunton, no doubt encouraged by the development of bus services.

Clothmaking

Little is known of early clothmaking in the parish but the making of serge was an important industry in the area from the mid 17th century. John Jennings was entrusted with his siblings to the care of a Bishops Hull yeoman by an Exeter, fuller in 1610.²¹⁰ By 1653 he was a

²⁰⁵ C.C. Fenwick, *The Poll taxes of 1372, 1377 and 1381*, 440—1.

²⁰⁶ SHC, D/D/Ca 243, f. 191; DD/BR/hn 2; DD/SP 319/66TNA, C 11/600/21.

²⁰⁷ SHC, DD/DP43/4; 215; 217.

²⁰⁸ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/2; D/R/ta 13/1/1.

²⁰⁹ SHC, D/R/ta 24/2/123A.

²¹⁰ TNA, C2/JasI/G13/65.

clothier with a spinning house at Crowcombe.²¹¹ It is not clear where in the parish cloth was woven. In 1666 John Jarman clothier not only had a stock of worsted wool and yarn wrought, unwrought and dyed, wool, raw cloth and cloth out for finishing worth over £220 and coarse wool kept in the coal house but also a workshop with two pair of looms in 1666.²¹² Farming families would spin for clothiers and one house in 1671 had four spinning wheels.²¹³ Clothier William Barber issued tokens in 1674, a time when he had a troublesome apprentice.²¹⁴ The usual cloth made at that time was serge but a man who had 11 yards of serge and 30 yards of dowlais in 1685 may have bought them locally. He had perhaps had a fulling mill as he owned an old waterwheel and cogs.²¹⁵ A woolcomber and two sergemakers, one also called a clothier, were recorded in the early 18th century.²¹⁶ Several clothworkers were recorded moving between Bishops Hull and the two Taunton parishes and some fell on hard times with fluctuations in the cloth trade,²¹⁷ which seems to have survived until the later 18th century when it had declined elsewhere in west Somerset.²¹⁸ Two sergemakers were trustees of Pauls meeting in 1734.²¹⁹ Cloth was shipped to Lisbon by a Bishops Hull fuller in the early 18th century but its provenance is unclear.²²⁰ The trade seems to have survived until the later 18th century when it had declined elsewhere in west Somerset²²¹ and woolstaplers were in business until the mid 19th century.²²²

²¹¹ SHC, Q/SR 87/2—3.

²¹² SHC, DD/SP 1666/53.

²¹³ SHC, DD/SP 1671/38.

²¹⁴ G. Williamson, Trade Tokens issued in the 17th century (1891), 973; Dawes, Quarter Sessions Records 1666—77, 157.

²¹⁵ SHC, DD/SP 1685/41.

²¹⁶ TNA, C 11/2178/47, C 11/2206/16, C 11/2225/27; SHC, DD/SP 199, 217; Q/SR 324/4/58.

²¹⁷ SHC, DD/SAS PR 23; Q/SR 288/1, 313/134; TNA, C 11/2178/47, C 11/2206/16, C 11/2225/27; C 11/2315/28.

²¹⁸ SHC, DD/BR/hck 4; DD/DP 12/8; 62/12; 205; D/P/b.hl 13/3/5.

²¹⁹ SHC, D/N/tau.mst 2/1/2.

²²⁰ TNA, C 11/498/26.

²²¹ SHC, DD/BR/hck 4; DD/DP 12/8; 62/12; 205; D/P/b.hl 13/3/5.

²²² SHC, DD/BR/hck 4; DD/DP 12/8; 62/12; 205; D/P/b.hl 13/3/5; Q/REI 35/5.

In 1658 a cottage was called the dyehouse.²²³ Several sergemakers were recorded from the late 17th to early 18th century of whom Hugh Cross the elder went to Holland c. 1685 where he was said to have helped manufacture English cloth. It is not clear where in the parish they worked and whether they were workers or employers.²²⁴ Edward Searle sergemaker may have been a capitalist rather than manufacturer and lived on a house on the site of Milligan Hall.²²⁵ A manufactory of druggets, duroys and serges was said to employ many of the poor in the 1780s probably at Roughmoor where a factory used waterpower probably for carding and scribbling yarn or finishing cloth woven in Taunton in 1810. It was run in conjunction with the fulling mill at Longaller.²²⁶ It burnt down c.1833 and was replaced by a flour mill.²²⁷

At the town fulling mills a woollen yarn factory was run by Norman and Co. in the late 18th century and in the 1790s there was disputes over the southern part of the site between the tenants who wanted to extend the mills and the owner of Tone House, whose garden adjoined the site and who claimed a building.²²⁸ In 1793 it was agreed the new mill building should have a hipped roof and no windows in the wall overlooking the latter's courtyard. The building survived until demolition in the 1950s.²²⁹ In 1813 when the tenancy of the factory was offered the water was said to be capable of driving up to six carding and scribbling machines and there was a room for spinning frames.²³⁰ There may have been no takers due to the decline in the sergemaking industry as the two-thirds share in the leasehold

²²³ SHC, DD/SP 99.

²²⁴ SHC, DD/DP 212, 214; DD/CH 67/6; DD/FJ 7; TNA, C/11/2315/28; C 11/2225/27; W. Wigfield, The Monmouth Rebels 1685, 44.

²²⁵ SHC, DD/DP 60/8.

²²⁶ Taunton Courier, 7 June 1810: BNA accessed 12 July 2017.

²²⁷ Taunton Courier, 9 Oct 1833; Dorset County Chronicle, 11 June 1835: BNA accessed 12 July 2017.

²²⁸ SHC, DD/MK 50.

²²⁹ SHC, D/S/MO 2; aerial photo 1947: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW005339.

²²⁹ Aerial photo. 1925: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW005340.

²³⁰ Taunton Courier 4 March 1813: BNA accessed 12 Sep 2017.

was offered for sale again in 1817 but with no reference to equipment.²³¹ The factory was unoccupied from 1820.²³²

Two cottages in Mill Lane were replaced by a warehouse with a counting house to the north in the early 19th-century either by John Capon, woolstapler of Tone House, or his grandson John Buncombe Capon, also a woolstapler who went bankrupt in 1822.²³³ The new owner of Tone House let them to Fox Brothers, weavers of Wellington, until 1872 or later as a wool warehouse.²³⁴ Described as a three storey building with rooms 41 ft. by 25 ft. and two ground-floor counting houses, they were held by a coachbuilder in 1882 and bought by brewer Thomas Starkey. The counting houses have been demolished but apart from a brief period as a place of worship the warehouse has remained in commercial use and in 1968 was bought by Chapman's department store, now Debenhams and partially reconstructed.²³⁵

Fulling

Bishops Hull played an important part in the Taunton cloth industry, especially in providing fulling, while many clothworkers possibly worked in the Taunton area fulling was carried out at mills throughout the parish. Fuller Aaron Rodbard was sending cloth to Lisbon in 1730 employing a Cornishman as his factor.²³⁶ Other finishing work was also carried out. Rackhay was recorded in the Castle area from the 1520s²³⁷ and Rackley at Rumwell in the 1840s.²³⁸ In 1595 the parish paid to apprentice a boy and provide him with shears.²³⁹ In 1658 a cottage was called the dyehouse.²⁴⁰

²³¹ Taunton Courier, 27 Feb. 1817: BNA accessed 12 Sep 2017.

²³² SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3; DD/CH 68/11.

²³³ SHC, DD/SAS S1122/1/5; DD/SP 215.

²³⁴ SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3, 13/1/5; DD/SAS S1122/1/16, 49; Slater's Dir. Som. (1852); Morris and Co. Dir. Som. (1872).

²³⁵ SHC, DD/SAS S1122/1/43, 49; SHC, D/B/ta 24/1204/11617; below, rel. hist.

²³⁶ TNA, C 11/498/26.

²³⁷ SHC, T/PH/win 1528—9; DD/SP 71, 151.

²³⁸ SHC, tithe award.

²³⁹ SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/1.

²⁴⁰ SHC, DD/SP 99.

The fulling mill built in 1218—19 was presumably that recorded later near the castle. It was originally kept in hand and a fuller employed by the manor but by the later 14th century it was farmed out.²⁴¹ In the early 15th century land by the mill was let for washing cloth and the mill was farmed out.²⁴² During times of drought the town fulling mill was stopped to keep the town grain mills working. The resulting loss of rent was a few shillings compared with over £40 revenue from tollcorn.²⁴³ By 1500 the premises included fulling mill, house and garden adjoining the town mills but presumably upstream and possibly on the north side of the water.²⁴⁴ Droughts continued to be a problem in the early 16th century and in the 1530s and 1540s the fulling mill was out of action for over half the year.²⁴⁵ In 1576 the tenant and others were forbidden to wash cloth at the foot of the fulling mill unless it had been fulled in the mill.²⁴⁶ In the 1580s it was said that as the more recent of the town mills it was entitled to ‘waste water’ only and the watercourse belonged to the grain mills.²⁴⁷

The Row family held the mills in the 17th century and Nathaniel Row (d. 1681) appears to have been trading in serge as well finishing it. His shop was furnished with a hot press worth £20 10s., a keeping press and three pairs of shears. He had a comfortably furnished house of six rooms and a buttery and was owed £60 in good debt presumably for work done.²⁴⁸ The mill in 1681 was milling serges for a Taunton fuller, some of which were stolen by two workmen.²⁴⁹ There were two fulling mills with four stocks in 1699 and in the early 18th-century the houses, fulling mill and dyehouse were held by the Periam family, and almost encircled by the river and Millstream.²⁵⁰ By that period both grain and fulling mills

²⁴¹ SHC, T/PH/win 1218—19, 1361—2.

²⁴² SHC, T/PH/win 1421—2, 1433—4.

²⁴³ SHC, T/PH/win 1447—53, 1462—3.

²⁴⁴ SHC, T/PH/win 1500—1.

²⁴⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1518—19, 1528—9, 1535—9, 1544—5.

²⁴⁶ SHC, DD/SP 3

²⁴⁷ SHC, DD/SP 21/1.

²⁴⁸ SHC, DD/SP 1681/3.

²⁴⁹ SHC, Q/SR 148/5—6.

²⁵⁰ SHC, DD/SP 302.

were often held together. In 1718 William Periam sold to William and Mary Sweet a third share in a grain mill and five fulling mills.²⁵¹ The two mills of 1699 were described as six, presumably the number of stocks, in 1789 when they passed to Samuel Coade and later to the Culverwell family of clothiers and dyers.²⁵² They appear to have been sublet and divided between the back factory at the northern end adjoining the town mills, later a silk mill, and a woollen yarn factory, which accounted for two-thirds of the lease.²⁵³ Robert Hitchcock acquired most of the site in 1833 to build a new grain mill²⁵⁴ but he sublet some of the old buildings, which had been converted into a foundry by 1837.²⁵⁵

A fulling mill further upstream called Whipples was recorded from 1416, usually shared by two tenants and probably named from 'Wibbepol' recorded in 1245.²⁵⁶ It was held by the wealthy Tose family of Taunton in 1501.²⁵⁷ Last recorded as a fulling mill in 1646 it was probably a corn mill by the early 18th century.²⁵⁸ A new fulling mill was built at Fideoak before 1425 when it was let to Richard Grygge of Taunton, although it was later said to have been built on land called Coom by Richard Philpott, tenant of Sir Edward Brooke.²⁵⁹ In 1558 it was held by Thomas Adams of Taunton²⁶⁰. It may have been the freehold fulling mill recorded between 1686 and 1721.²⁶¹ Two men were accused of obstructing or diverting a watercourse to the lord's mill in Fideoak tithing in the early 16th century.²⁶² Longaller mill was a tucking mill in Fideoak manor in the 1590s, its value indicated by the £160 fine

²⁵¹ TNA, CP 25/2/1056/5 Geo I Mich.

²⁵² SHC, DD/CH 68/9; London Metropolitan Archives, MS 11936/390/559898, 568947, 605344.

²⁵³ SHC, DD/SAS C112/19/1.

²⁵⁴ SHC, DD/CH 68/9; D/P/b.hl 4/1/3; DD/SAS S1122/1/15; above, this section.

²⁵⁵ SHC, DD/CH 68/11; below, this section.

²⁵⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1244—5, 1416—17.

²⁵⁷ F. W. Weaver, *Som. Wills 1501—30*, 27.

²⁵⁸ SHC, DD/SP 79; above, this section.

²⁵⁹ BL, Harl. MS 46H7; TNA, C1/197/87.

²⁶⁰ M. Siraut, *Somerset Wills*, 3.

²⁶¹ SHC, DD/SP 4; TNA, CP 25/2/795/2 Jas II Mich.; CP 25/2/869/3 Wm and Mary East.; CP 25/2/1056/5 Geo I Hil.; CP 25/2/1057/8 Geo I Mich.

²⁶² Hants. R.O., 11M59/C1/19/4, 7—8.

payable for a lease.²⁶³ Fideoak still had two fulling mills in 1615.²⁶⁴ John Cowling had a fulling mill that had passed to the Durston family by 1462—3 when it appears to have had a blade mill and a watercourse called Strete Water.²⁶⁵

First recorded as Birgyn mills belonging to John Best a Taunton clothier (d. 1502), Birchin or Burchin mill it was converted to a grain mill after 1580.²⁶⁶ In 1508 John Togwell left a tucking mill in Bishops Hull with woad to his son Thomas but that may have been near Taunton Castle.²⁶⁷ A decline in business in the late 16th century led to the conversion of fulling mills to grist mills including Burchin and Hill mills.²⁶⁸ However, some mills probably had equipment for both and fulling revived later. The grain and five fulling mills in which William Periam sold a share in a grain and five fulling mills in 1718, including at least one at Longaller.²⁶⁹ The Gunston family made their wealth from cloth and the first recorded in Bishops Hull, John Gunston, was described as sergemaker when he died in 1695 although he was then farming and had nothing to connect his with the trade but his grandson Thomas Gunston esquire owned racks in Taunton in 1731.²⁷⁰

Dyehouses

The site of the later town brewery, surrounded on all sides by water except for the fuller's house, was a dyehouse in the 17th and 18th centuries with land, presumably for drying the cloth.²⁷¹ Dyeing had ceased before 1815 when it was held by Joseph Davey, brewer.²⁷² John Welch and his son James had a dyehouse near the flour mills before 1829 when they fitted up

²⁶³ TNA REQ 2/44/251, 2/126/511.

²⁶⁴ TNA, CP 43/170, rot. 40.

²⁶⁵ SHC, T/PH/win 1462—3, 1500—1, 1535—6, 1537—8.

²⁶⁶ Weaver, Som. Wills 1501—30, 30—2; SHC, DD/SP 71, 85, 87; above, this section, mills.

²⁶⁷ Weaver, Som. Wills 1501—30, 163.

²⁶⁸ TNA, E 134/4 JasI/Mich28.

²⁶⁹ TNA, CP 25/2/1056/5 Geo I Mich.; above this section.

²⁷⁰ SHC, DD/SP 1695/3; TNA, PROB 11/648/325; above, landownership.

²⁷¹ SHC, DD/SP 302.

²⁷² SHC, DD/SP 303.

a new dyehouse adjoining their house in Mill Lane, later Ine's Cottage. They offered dyeing, scouring, hot and cold pressing and calendering for silk and wool in a building at the back of the cottage until 1871 or later and had the benefit of a long garden above the castle perimeter wall. The house and dyehouse were acquired by William Surtees before 1875 when he demolished the dyehouse to create a passage and steps to the castle.²⁷³

Silk

By the 1820s silk had replaced serge as the dominant cloth produced in the area. The back factory at the town fulling mills was occupied as a silk factory by 1821 operated by the Stokes and later Ball families, who also worked the silk mill at Roughmoor.²⁷⁴ It was disused in the 1830s²⁷⁵ and was acquired by Robert Hitchcock in 1833 for his new grain mill.²⁷⁶ A few women and girls from the parish worked in a silk mill either in Staplegrove parish or at Roughmoor before 1833, earning 6d. to 9d. a day.²⁷⁷ However the trade was already in decline with the silk manufacturer assessed for tax on his trade at only 5s. in 1832 whereas his predecessor had been assessed £1 10s in 1817 and 1826.²⁷⁸ Even in the town area recorded silkworkers fell from a peak of 21 in 1851 and it is not clear where they worked. Women worked in Taunton factories by the 1870s including a silk throwster, machinists and button holers. Others worked in the flock factory, the former silk mill, in Staplegrove.²⁷⁹ Taunton factories continued to employ silk winders and shirt makers from Bishops Hull until the mid 19th century.²⁸⁰

²⁷³ Taunton Courier, 23 Dec. 1829; BNA accessed 12 Sep 2017; Pigot Dir. (1830, 1842); SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3, 13/1/5; D/B/ta 24/1/1/10/311; DD/SP 210; DD/SAS S1122/1/17, 47, 49; tithe award; TNA. TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375.

²⁷⁴ SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3, 13/1/5.

²⁷⁵ SHC, D/P/b.hl 13/1/5; D/PC/b/hl 5/3/13.

²⁷⁶ SHC, DD/CH 68/9; D/P/b.hl 4/1/3; DD/SAS S1122/1/15; above, this section.

²⁷⁷ VCH, Som. II, 329; Pigot Dir. (1830); above, this section, mills.

²⁷⁸ SHC, Q/REI 35/3.

²⁷⁹ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2325, RG 11/2369; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14246.

²⁸⁰ TNA, RG 101/7087i.

Clothing

A collar factory opened shortly before 1854 at the west end of Tower Lane on the site of a three-storey former builder's workshop. It may have employed some of the 11 collar and shirt workers recorded in the area in 1881. It was run by four men in the early 1880s as the Collar Works Co. They may have moved the business to the Alma Works in Taunton. The Tangier factory was demolished before 1888 although part of the east wall survives.²⁸¹ However, there were many such works in Taunton and by 1911 at least 46 people from Tangier worked in them including a manager and a shorthand clerk.²⁸² There was a small garment factory on part of the gasworks site at Tangier in the 1960s and 1970s.²⁸³

Tailors, shoemakers and dressmakers were in business in the village. An upholsterer was recorded in 1861, between 1861 and 1911 up to four women were glovers and there was a corsetiere in 1939.²⁸⁴ In 1851 there were 31 dressmakers, tailors, milliners and staymakers in the town area and in 1861 there were 21 glovers and 14 male and female boot and shoemakers. Glovers were not recorded again, perhaps there was a short-lived workshop in Tangier but c. 30 people in Bishops Hull Within were engaged in clothing trades in 1911.²⁸⁵

Malting

Malt was produced in the parish from the 13th century in two grades and was ground at the customary mill.²⁸⁶ There may have been a malthouse in 1622 and a maltster was licensed in 1654.²⁸⁷ The Whetham family were maltsters in Taunton and Bishops Hull in the 17th

²⁸¹ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375; RG 11/2369; SHC, DD/CH 68/9; A/DFU 1/9 (plan); D/P/tau.ja/23/17 (1880—1); D/P/west m 23/4; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

²⁸² TNA, RG 13/2277; RG 14/14241.

²⁸³ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/188/10555; A/DIF 116/228.

²⁸⁴ TNA, HO 107/959, 1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2325, RG 11/ Map 1;10860 Som. LXX.SE (1889 edn, surv 1886); *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1939).

²⁸⁵ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 14/14241.

²⁸⁶ SHC, T/PH/win *passim*.

²⁸⁷ SHC, DD.SP 10; Q/RLa 5

century possibly with a malthouse on the north-west side of what is now Bath Place formerly Hunts Court.²⁸⁸ Two of the family were involved in the Monmouth rebellion of whom Joseph was hanged.²⁸⁹ The malthouse was out of use in 1704 but by the 1780s a large malthouse there was operated by Martha Hardwell and her second husband Robert Coram.²⁹⁰ In 1811 they sold the copyhold property to James Davey, maltster, apart from a long piece of land to the north on which Tangier Cottage was built, now part of Corporation Street. Davey went bankrupt in 1815 and the property was divided with the malthouse being bought by a butcher.²⁹¹ However, Robert England ran the malthouse in the 1840s followed by Sarah Chorley who described herself as a miller, maltster and baker in 1851. The Chorley family also had Longaller mill.²⁹² The malthouse was still in use in 1869 as part of the Four Alls public house site.²⁹³ In 1885 the three-storey former malthouse was offered for sale as a warehouse with coachhouse and stables.²⁹⁴

Other maltsters recorded in the 18th century included George Skinner (fl. c. 1740—66) who was said to have been sent down from Hampshire to the newly-built Town Mills, presumably to manage the malting.²⁹⁵ From the mid 19th century malting appears to have been carried out entirely in connection with breweries, presumably as domestic brewing was given up. In 1869 there was a malthouse north of the millstream on the site of Cox's foundry and belonging to the Tangier brewery. It was bought by Starkey and Co. and used as a workshop before being converted to a horse repository. A second malthouse was occupied by the Davey family of the Town Brewery at Tangier west of the original gasworks but after the

²⁸⁸ SHC, DD/SP 79, 199, 213; TNA, PROB 11/383/359.

²⁸⁹ W. Wigfield, *Monmouth Rebels*, 184; SHC, D/P/tau.m 2/1/32.

²⁹⁰ SHC, DD/SP 213, 319/339

²⁹¹ SHC, DD/DP 60/2, 74/4; DD/SP 319/339.

²⁹² SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3; TNA HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; *Slater's Dir. Som.* (1852).

²⁹³ SHC, D/P/west.m 23/24; A/DFU 1/9, plan; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

²⁹⁴ *West Somerset Free Press*, 20 June 1885:BNA accessed 10 March 2017.

²⁹⁵ SHC, Q/SR 313/134; DD/MK 50; D/P/tau.ja 23/9; D/P/b.hl 13/3/5.

latter expanded, malting moved to premises at Tangier wharf east of the gasworks. That was also held by Starkey in 1899 and survives as the Taunton scout and guide centre.²⁹⁶

Samuel Hine and Cornelius Marsh had a malting partnership at Barr in the late 18th century and John Buncombe had a malthouse at Barr in 1821 but the malthouse had gone by 1842.²⁹⁷ The Longaller miller was also a maltster in 1832.²⁹⁸ In 1835 the malthouse at Bishops Hull Mills could make 4,000 bushels a season and may have been the malthouse let to a miller and maltster in 1842 but malting had been given up for cider production by 1879.²⁹⁹

There were also two malthouses in the village in 1842 both occupied by Isaac Bryant, one behind the New Inn and the other south of the Congregational chapel bought from the landlord Richard Buncombe in 1854 and demolished before 1887.³⁰⁰ Bryant (d. c. 1869) also had an interest in several beerhouses including the New Inn.³⁰¹ Both malthouses were still in use in 1869 but only the one behind the New Inn, known by that date as Langdons, appears to have survived in 1876 when it was sold by the Bryant family. It was described as malthouse with kiln in 1900 but by 1910 had been bought by brewers Hanbury and Cotching and was disused.³⁰² In 1921 it covered three floors each 65ft by 22ft with a furnace and a steep, a tiled drying floor and storage.³⁰³ Malting later eased, and the site was used by a haulage business by 1972. In the 1980s it was redeveloped and nearby sheltered housing is known as Malthouse Court.³⁰⁴

²⁹⁶ SHC, DD/SP 210; D/B/ta 15/6/1, 24/1/229/14772; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887); below, this section.

²⁹⁷ SHC, DD/DP 10/8; DD/CH 106/9; D/P/b.hl 4/1/3; tithe award.

²⁹⁸ SHC, Q/REI 35/3.

²⁹⁹ SHC, DD/CH 110/4; *Sherborne Mercury*, 16 March 1835; *Taunton Courier*, 11 June 1879; BNA accessed March 2017.

³⁰⁰ SHC, tithe award; DD/SAS C/238/37; OS Map 1:25,000, SOM. LXX.11 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

³⁰¹ Below, this section.

³⁰² SHC, DD/CH 77/5; D/P/west m 23/24; TNA, IR 58/82128.

³⁰³ SHC, DD/KIT 19/9; D/R/ta 13/1/1.

³⁰⁴ SHC, D/N/scu 7/6/2.

There was a maltster at Upcott in 1841, probably working at Barr where there was a maltings in the early 19th century.³⁰⁵ It seems to have closed by 1851.³⁰⁶ In 1861, when there five maltsters in the rural parish, a maltster entered into partnership with the Fideoak miller with whom he had been carrying on a business with stock estimated at £1,900.³⁰⁷ However, no malthouse was recorded there in 1875.³⁰⁸

Brewing

Although inns and private homes did a small amount of brewing;³⁰⁹ an alehouse at Tangier had a brewhouse in 1693,³¹⁰ the Four Alls had one in 1792 and later and Mary Sweet brewed at her hotel, now the Castle,³¹¹ by the mid 19th century the area was dominated by two brewers at Tangier and Mill Lane.

Shortly before 1843 a brewery was established in the grounds of a house in Tower Lane, now known as Alpha Cottage by William Pattison whose father kept the Castle Hotel in Taunton. He also acquired and converted the coachhouse and stable of the neighbouring house for cellars or stores.³¹² It passed to the Oram family including William who bought the Four Alls, and who traded as a hop merchant in Tangier in 1859 by which date the Oram family appears to have been running the brewery themselves.³¹³ By 1869 there was an aerated waters manufactory, steam-powered, and the brewery was known as Oram and Co. but by 1877 the premises were known as the Tangier Brewery and the house was offices.³¹⁴ William's widow Elizabeth Oram ran the business employing six men and a boy in 1861 but

³⁰⁵ TNA, HO 107/959; SHC, DD/DP 10/8.

³⁰⁶ TNA, HO 107/1923.

³⁰⁷ TNA, RG 9/1619; SHC DD/CH 129/13.

³⁰⁸ SHC DD/DP 43/17.

³⁰⁹ SHC, DD/SP 1670/38, 1691/32.

³¹⁰ SHC, DD/SP 452.

³¹¹ SHC, DD/SP 319/228; DD/CPHS 24/3; inscr. on hotel; below, this section.

³¹² Taunton Courier, 15 Feb 1843; BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017; SHC, A/DFU 1/7, 9; TNA, HO 107/1923.

³¹³ SHC, A/DFU 1/5—6; Harrison, Harrad and Co., Dir. Som. (1859).

³¹⁴ SHC, DD/HC 15/36, 69/16, 79/30; A/DFU 1/8.

later handed it over to her son Edward.³¹⁵ In 1877 it was sold to John Hoskyns, brewer who operated under the name of Oram and Co. employing two clerks as well as the six men and a boy.³¹⁶ In 1881 it was sold to the Taunton Brewery Co., which in 1882 entered into partnership with the Stogumber brewery but in 1890 the malthouse, north of the brewery, was sold to Starkey, Knight and Co. and the house, large stores, a factory and former brewhouse and premises were bought back by Edward Oram. He sold them to a builder the same year and the brewery later became a hide market.³¹⁷

The Town Brewery was built on made-up ground being an island surrounded by the river and two branches of the Millstream, the eastern described as a horse pool in 1840.³¹⁸ The business may have originated in maltings attached to the Town Mills but when Joseph Davey, a Taunton brewer mortgaged the site in 1815 it was said to be a former dyehouse and land surrounded by water.³¹⁹ The mortgage may have been to raise money to build the brewery as it was in business by 1821.³²⁰ It was described as a malthouse and brewery in 1825³²¹ and by 1840 the premises were substantial and steam-powered.³²² Joseph Davey (d. 1857) was followed by his son John, brewer of beer and pale ale, who employed a traveller, three maltsters, four brewers and two carters in 1861 and 1871.³²³ In the early 1880s the brewery was acquired by Thomas Starkey who joined up with Knight in 1888 and Ford in 1895 to create Starkey, Knight and Ford. Their main breweries were in Bridgwater and Tiverton and they acquired the large Taunton brewery of Hanbury and Cotching as well so the Town Brewery appears to have been used mainly to produce mineral waters in the early 20th century. In 1910 the brewery was in poor repair and comprised cellars, engine house

³¹⁵ TNA, RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375; SHC, A/DFU 1/8.

³¹⁶ SHC, A/DFU 1/8, 12; TNA, RG 11/2367.

³¹⁷ SHC, A/DFU 1/14, 16; DDX/BUSH 20; below, this section.

³¹⁸ SHC, DD/SAS C212/Map 148.

³¹⁹ Above, this section; SHC, DD/SP 303.

³²⁰ SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3.

³²¹ SHC, Q/RUp 82.

³²² SHC, DD/SAS C212/Map 148.

³²³ SHC, A/EFE 13; TNA, PROB 11/2251/196; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375.

with two boilers, a brewing room with disused machinery, hop room, disused two storey malthouse and kiln used for storage and a cottage. The premises were damaged by fire in 1952 and the borough council bought the site in 1954. The buildings were demolished in 1959, the northern branch of the Millstream was filled in together with the many wells sunk on the site for brewing water and the site was thrown into Goodland Gardens.³²⁴

Paper

Fideoak mill was a papermill in the 1790s, probably kept by John Wood (d. 1823).³²⁵ It was then kept by his widow Martha Wood, papermaker, and workers were recorded between 1824 and 1831.³²⁶ In 1832 the mill was offered with accommodation for working two vats and drying houses and access to the canal but papermaking probably ceased and in 1836 Fideoak had only a flour mill.³²⁷

Smithies

There was at least one smith in the 13th century who was a customary tenant of Taunton Deane and received 2s. and pannage for a pig for repairing two plough using the bishop's iron and charcoal.³²⁸ A smith at Rumwell paid for extra land to enlarge his house in 1289³²⁹ and there was apparently a smith there in 1379.³³⁰

A smithy was built onto a former barn called the Prioress House in the village before 1731.³³¹ A blacksmith built a cottage on the waste at Upcott c. 1678³³² and another built a

³²⁴ SHC, A/BUG 1/32/1; DD/FIV 2/9; DD/SAS S1122/1/72; TNA, IR 58/82126; inf. from M. Bromwich.

³²⁵ SHC, Q/Rup 8; Q/REI 35/3.

³²⁶ Pigot Dir. (1830); SHC, Q/REI 35/3; D/P/b.hl 2/1/9, 23/2—3 (males only).

³²⁷ SHC, Q/REI 35/3; D/P/b.hl 13/1/5.

³²⁸ Hunt, Medieval Customs of Taunton Manor, 64.

³²⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1288—9.

³³⁰ C.C. Fenwick, The Poll taxes of 1372, 1377 and 1381, 440.

³³¹ SHC, DD/SP 214.

³³² SHC, DD/SP 24c.

new house and shop opposite the previous one there before 1801.³³³ That smithy was still in use in 1939 but is now a cottage.³³⁴ In 1841 there were six smiths in the rural parish and a smithy at Rumwell. Numbers peaked at nine in 1851 but there were still three in 1911 and there was a smithy east of the village.³³⁵ The smithy at Rumwell west of the Crown was demolished in the early 20th century.³³⁶ In the late 20th century a steel fabricating business was established and remained on the Cornishway industrial estate in 2017.

Foundries

The Cox family of Taunton, iron and brass founders, had acquired before 1827 part of a house³³⁷ and garden at Tangier on which they had a warehouse and other buildings. They probably supplied West Monkton with its iron register chest that year.³³⁸ By 1836 their Tangier Iron Works or Foundry north of the Millstream had a smithy, a copper smithy, a brush manufactory and furnishing warerooms³³⁹ By 1858 it occupied over 35,500 square ft.³⁴⁰ William Charles Cox, copyholder of most of Tangier, built Castle Street and its bridge before 1839 with a side road to access the foundry.³⁴¹ The business had expanded into house and estate agency by 1842.³⁴² However, William's son Sergeant gave up the business c. 1858 selling the premises to William Oram and the Tangier brewery expanded into the site,³⁴³ which by 1888 was a horse repository.³⁴⁴

³³³ SHC, DD/AY 66; DD/SAS C63/2; tithe award.

³³⁴ SHC, tithe award; D/PC/b.hl 2/1; OS Map 1:10860 Som. LXX.SE (1889 edn, surv 1886); Kelly's Dir. Som. (1939).

³³⁵ SHC, DD/SP 210; TNA, HO 107/959, 1923; RG 14/14246; OS Map 1:10860 Som. LXX.SE (1889 edn, surv 1886).

³³⁶ OS Map 1:2500, LXXXV. 11 (1887 edn, 1930 edn); Kelly's Dir. Som. 1883—9.

³³⁷ Possibly the brick building found on excavation in 2005: SWHT, HER 17762.

³³⁸ SHC, D/P/west.m 4/1/1.

³³⁹ SHC, DD/SP 21; tithe award; Taunton Courier, 13 July 1836: BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017; Robson's Dir. Som. (1839); Som. Co. Gaz. Dir. (1840).

³⁴⁰ SHC, A/DFU 1/7.

³⁴¹ SHC, DD/SP 210; A/DFU 1/3.

³⁴² Pigot Dir. (1842).

³⁴³ SHC, A/DFU 1/7—9; DD/X/BUSH 20.

³⁴⁴ Below, this section.

By 1837 Joseph Savery had built a foundry adjoining the silk mill on the old fulling mill site near the castle.³⁴⁵ It seems to have been short-lived as by 1859 he was in St James Street.³⁴⁶ However, William Smith was a brazier in Mill Lane in 1872.³⁴⁷

Brickmaking

Brickmaking may have been carried out between Barr and Upcott where Brick Orchard was recorded in 1790 and 1842 and large ponds may be flooded diggings. Both hamlets contain 18th-century brick houses and the mill house and cottages at Longaller are also brick.³⁴⁸ The Brick Field between the village and the river was pasture in 1842 and most older property in the village is stone but in 1900 it was said to have valuable clay beds although there is no evidence that they were used at that date.³⁴⁹ In 1811 a Thornfalcon brickmaker was hired to make 50,000 bricks in the first instance then an unspecified number of additional bricks of which at least two thirds were to be hard to build Hillmore House south of the village. He was paid 11s. 6d. per 1,000 and 21s. for casing each clamp of 50,000 with his employer providing the materials and had the existing house rent-free.³⁵⁰

Shortly before 1851 a brickyard opened south of Wellington New Road. It also had a pottery and flax ground, drying houses, foreman's cottage and 2 ½ a. of brick, tile and pottery clay when it was offered for sale in 1857.³⁵¹ In 1865 the yard offered bricks at 24s. per 1,000, double roman, pan and plain tiles in two colours and drainpipes.³⁵² Only about a dozen local men were employed, although some of the unspecified labourers may have worked there.³⁵³ By 1879 there were two yards side by side that on the west known as New Road associated with the Penny family and that on the east known as Bishops Hull controlled by the Cornish

³⁴⁵ SHC, DD/CH 68/11; below, this section.

³⁴⁶ Harrison, Harrad and Co., Dir. Som. (1859).

³⁴⁷ Morris and Co. Dir. Som. (1872).

³⁴⁸ SHC, DD/AY 66; tithe award.

³⁴⁹ SHC, tithe award; DD/CH 77/5.

³⁵⁰ SHC, DD/DP 9/14. The house and grounds were destroyed to build a housing estate in the 1970s.

³⁵¹ TNA, HO 107/1923; Trewman's Exeter Flying Post, 12 March 1857; BNA accessed 16 March 2017.

³⁵² Taunton Courier, 12 April 1865; BNA accessed 16 March 2017.

³⁵³ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2325, RG 11/2369; RG 14/14246.

family each with two sets of kilns and fronted on the road by a long terrace of cottages, the eastern, which survives, built in 1881 as Florence Cottages. The former's clay pits were extensive and flooded by 1886.³⁵⁴ In 1891 it covered 4 ½ a. and had a steam engine.³⁵⁵ In 1898 a new 100-foot chimney was built and it served the yard until closure.³⁵⁶ In 1928 when the engine house was replaced, shafting drove a travelling trackway to the mixing machines.³⁵⁷ By that date both yards covering 8 a. belonged to the Taunton Brick and Tile Company and were described as the old and new yards.³⁵⁸ The old eastern yard had four kilns and both had conveyors or inclined planes from the claypits to the tippers above the mixing machines.³⁵⁹ A third pit was opened on Galmington Lane, the clay being 'nearly worked out' in 1910, and as early as 1913 there were complaints that old pits were used as rubbish dumps.³⁶⁰ The eastern yard ceased working c. 1939 when a new kiln was added to the western yard. The eastern yard was bombed in 1940 but the chimney survived to be demolished after the war.³⁶¹

The western yard remained in production and before the war produced c. 70,000 bricks a week. Workers were relatively well paid especially the clay diggers. In 1947 the company took over war department huts as temporary accommodation but in 1948 a new drying shed was added to the western yard, which comprised one continuous Hoffman kiln capable of holding 232,000 bricks, two down draught kilns and a brickmaking machine. Bricks had to be dried before burning in the kilns and high-quality bricks were pressed and even sanded and dyed at first by hand³⁶² and later by machine. The kilns were manned in

³⁵⁴ SHC, DD/CH 120/1; OS Map 1:10860 Som. LXX.SE (1889 edn, surv 1886).

³⁵⁵ SHC, DD/KIT 14/1.

³⁵⁶ Date on chimney in 1964: E.G. Wide, 'Brick making at Bishops Hull 1940 to 1950', *SIAS Bulletin* 68, Apr. 1995, 9.

³⁵⁷ SHC, D/R/ta 24/1/120.

³⁵⁸ SHC, D/R/ta 13/1/1.

³⁵⁹ OS Map 1:25,000, SOM. LXX.11 (1914 edn).

³⁶⁰ TNA, IR 58/82126; SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/2.

³⁶¹ SHC, D/R/ta 24/2/107; Wide, 'Brick making at Bishops Hull 1940 to 1950', *SIAS Bulletin* 68, 6.

³⁶² These hand-made 'sand-faced' bricks can be seen in the façade of Taunton's former Gaumont Cinema.

three eight-hour shifts each day.³⁶³ Hand-made tiles were given up before the war as uneconomic but military construction led to greater output of bricks and some employees were released from military service but later demand fell and up to one million bricks were stockpiled at the yard in 1946.³⁶⁴ In 1947 up to 20 local people were employed at the yard but it closed c. 1962 and the buildings and many of the houses were demolished.³⁶⁵ The disused claypits were used as refuse dumps and by 1962 the Cornishway industrial estate had been planned for the site with the first businesses moving in before the end of the decade.³⁶⁶

Gas

The manufacture of coal gas began at Tangier when the Taunton Gas Light and Coke Company in 1845 bought copyhold land, a new wharf and houses between the river Tone and the new Castle Street, often known later as ‘the road to the gasworks’, with the right to dig up roads and lay mains.³⁶⁷ Residents of Castle Green and Tangier were among the first subscribers.³⁶⁸ It acquired an Act of Parliament in 1846 to borrow money to complete its works. In 1855 the company acquired additional land with a cottage for the foreman.³⁶⁹ In the 1860s they used their wharf to ship ammoniacal liquor, stored in a large tank, via the river and Grand Western Canal to Fox’s cloth mill at Wellington but after the canal closed in 1866 the wharf was probably redundant. A large gasholder, later known as the town holder, was built in 1867 and the site was extended westwards. By that date the castle and St John’s church were lit with gas as well as the streets and commercial premises and private houses across a wide area with new mains being laid to outlying areas c. 1870.³⁷⁰ It is not clear how

³⁶³ SHC, D/R/ta 24/2/159, 162; Wide, ‘Brick making at Bishops Hull 1940 to 1950’, *SIAS Bulletin* 68, 10.

³⁶⁴ Wide, ‘Brick making at Bishops Hull 1940 to 1950’, *SIAS Bulletin* 68, 12.

³⁶⁵ SHC, A/AGH 1/35; D/R/ta 24/1/1093.

³⁶⁶ SHC, D/R/ta 24/1/1093.

³⁶⁷ SHC, DD/SP 210; A/DFU 1/11.

³⁶⁸ SHC, D/P/gdl 2.

³⁶⁹ SHC, DD/X/LON 1; DD/SP 210; D/B/ta 24/1/9/258; T/PH/rea 3/113.

³⁷⁰ D. Gledhill, *Taunton Gas 1816—1949* (1989), 27, 31; SHC, DD/CH 22/4; D/B/ta 31/7/1, 24/1/9/278; Q/RUp 348; below, rel. hist.

many men were employed and surprisingly few were from Tangier.³⁷¹ The site continued to expand as more areas were supplied with gas in the 1890s³⁷² and again in the 1920s when a vertical retort house and extra gas holders were built. By the 1940s the site had extended almost to French Weir and occupied most of the Tangier area north and west of the houses including a new retort house and tank.³⁷³

In 1933 the company opened a factory manufacturing gas appliances branded 'Effecon' including flueless heaters and 'ice chests'. It also made billiard cue case and repaired gas meters. It employed up to 12 men and six women but after the war production gradually ceased.³⁷⁴ The company had absorbed smaller companies in Ilminster, Milverton and Wiveliscombe to become Taunton and District Gas Co. in 1937³⁷⁵ but in 1949 gas was nationalised and the gas works became part of the South West Gas Board. Gas production ceased in 1957 and the site was used for gas storage but in 1986 the gasholders were demolished.³⁷⁶ Most of the site was redeveloped for other commercial uses, offices and road extension and widening.

Printing

Woodley and Co.'s printing offices, which produced the Somerset County Gazette from 1843 until 1985, were established by William Augustus Woodley, son of Cornish clergyman, editor of the Gazette and founder of the Bridgwater Mercury, Devon and Somerset News, and several short-lived weekly and daily Taunton papers also printed at Tangier. The buildings were sited south of the Millstream across the newly built Castle Street from the Tangier

³⁷¹ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375; RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14241.

³⁷² SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/25/1690.

³⁷³ D. Gledhill, Taunton Gas 1816—1949 (1989), 32, 72; SHC, DD/FIV 4/52; D/B/ta 24/1/105/2948; aerial photo 1947: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EAW005135.

³⁷⁴ D. Gledhill, Taunton Gas 1816—1949 (1989), 37, 72; SHC, T/PH/gdl 3.

³⁷⁵ SHC, Q/RUp 670.

³⁷⁶ D. Gledhill, Taunton Gas 1816—1949 (1989), 27, 41.

Brewery and were leased from the Cox family of iron founders.³⁷⁷ In 1861 six printers and a reporter lived near the works.³⁷⁸ In 1863 a printers' apprentice started on 2s. a week rising to 7s. in his last year.³⁷⁹ The steam-powered building had two floors for compositing and proofing and a ground-floor printing room and could produce 3,500 papers an hour. In 1875 the site comprised Tangier Villa and garden with printing offices. There were stables north of the Millstream accessed by a private bridge. In 1884 William Augustus Woodley the elder (d. 1891) took his son William, Thomas George Williams and John Thomas Upjohn Durnford into partnership and in 1891 left the business to his son and his daughter Ada Bilderbeck.³⁸⁰ The works remained in the family for three generations. The company was the first to try an electric-powered press in 1884 but it could not compete with steam presses and by 1910 gas-driven presses were used. The building was enlarged, the yard was infilled with a new machine room on 1904, the offices were remodelled and the former house extended to provide a new entrance in the 1930s. A new Crabtree press was installed in 1972 but with the advent of computerisation printing was moved to the Midlands in 1985 and the offices to St James Street in Taunton. The old works were demolished and an office block was built on the site.³⁸¹

A carriage works on the filled-in outer moat east of the castle but accessed from North Street, Taunton, was converted into a printing machine room before 1910 occupied by Eastman's. In 1926 it was rebuilt as a printing works for Goodman's, which closed shortly before 1972 and was demolished.³⁸²

³⁷⁷ Taunton Courier, 20 Sep 1843; BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017; SHC, DD/CH 122/4; ODNB Geo. Woodley: accessed 12 Apr. 2018.

³⁷⁸ TNA, RG 9/1619.

³⁷⁹ SHC, DD/X/COP 2.

³⁸⁰ SHC, DD/SAS S1122/1/50, 2/9.

³⁸¹ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/32/242; K. Burge, The Story of a Community and its Newspaper (Taunton, 1986), 7—25; aerial photo 1933: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW041182; TNA, IR 58/82126.

³⁸² OS Map, 1:500 LXII.12.11 (1888 edn); TNA, IR 58/82126; Webster, Taunton Castle, 237; SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/2225/14298; DD/SAS S1122/1/62.

Hides

The Bristol and Western Counties Butchers Hide, Skin, Fat and Wool Company occupied the old Tangier Brewery site from c. 1918. They bought skins which they stored in salt before sending them to their Bristol depot. The business not unnaturally upset nearby residents and led to a conviction for causing a nuisance in 1919 when evidence was given of the stench of putrid skins, the filthy state of the premises and the salted liquid running into the soil.³⁸³ However, they stayed in business and bought the premises in 1920,³⁸⁴ and remained in possession until 1978 when the site was sold to the county council and partly demolished for road widening. The remainder was bought in 1980 by the Loyal Order of the Moose who sold the cottage and built a new hall on the rest of the site.³⁸⁵ The company, then Dorset Hide Market, had planned to establish a store from bones and offal either at Frethey or Silk Mills, in Bishops Hull but there were objections and the plans were dropped.³⁸⁶

Other trades

In 1401 Thomas Payntour was pardoned for murder³⁸⁷ and in 1419 Philip Peyntour was in dispute over tithe of his craft of painting for three years.³⁸⁸ Edward Collins, a potter, died in 1685 in possession of 12 ton of clay, tools and unspecified earthenware.³⁸⁹ There was a saggar maker in the parish in 1734, possibly working for a Taunton potter.³⁹⁰ A family of ropers lived opposite the Independent chapel in the 18th century.³⁹¹

³⁸³ SHC, Q/SR 877/14—24.

³⁸⁴ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/60/1088, 24/1/72/1462; A/DIF 116/228.

³⁸⁵ SHC, DD/X/BUSH 20.

³⁸⁶ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/5, 2/16.

³⁸⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1399—1401, 438.

³⁸⁸ Holmes, *Bishop Bubwith's Reg.* II, pp. 353—5.

³⁸⁹ SHC, DD/SP 1685/56.

³⁹⁰ SHC, A/DLR 1/1.

³⁹¹ SHC, DD/SP 211, 215; Q/SR 321/2/21; tithe award.

In the late 18th century carpenters used Castle Green to prepare roof trusses and probably to saw planks.³⁹² There were many woodworkers not only carpenters and joiner but cabinet makers by 1788³⁹³ and French polishers from 1851 until 1911. Three carvers were at work in the 1860s.³⁹⁴ A large workshop at the west end of Tower Lane was built before 1821³⁹⁵ and was occupied by builder John Atton until 1843 when he retired. The building had two floors of workshops over a basement. Atton also had a timberyard near the east end of the lane and a stock of oak, ironmongery, and Welsh and Cornish slates.³⁹⁶ The workshop was sold separately to the rest of his property and was rebuilt as a collar factory.³⁹⁷ Another builder John Spiller had a large yard at Stepswater which was given up after his death in 1875 when the contents were sold.³⁹⁸ In 1890 the Tangier Brewery was bought by builder Alfred Spiller possibly as a builder's yard but from c. 1918 it was a hide store.³⁹⁹ There was a timberyard in the 1880s behind Tangier Cottage but it was demolished in 1894 to create Corporation Street.⁴⁰⁰

There was a cooper at Castle Green in the mid 19th century, occupying the house west of the castle and no doubt serving the local breweries although brewer William Oram had his own cooperage in Hunts Court.⁴⁰¹ There was a firm of glass manufactures in Tangier in 1859 but they were not recorded again.⁴⁰²

The rural parish had many building workers especially carpenters and masons throughout the 19th century. There was at least one wheelwright until 1911, one employing

³⁹² SHC, A/DIF 101/6/15.

³⁹³ M. McDermott, Sir Benjamin Hammet 1736—1800 (Taunton, 2017), 36.

³⁹⁴ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2375; RG 11/2369; RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14241; P.O. Dir. Som. (1866).

³⁹⁵ SHC, A/AQD 1.

³⁹⁶ SHC, A/DFU 1/3—4; tithe award; Robson's Dir. Som. (1839); Pigot Dir. (1842); Taunton Courier, 15 Feb. 1843; BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017.

³⁹⁷ SHC, A/DFU 1/9 (plan); above, this section, cloth.

³⁹⁸ Taunton Courier, 5 May 1875; BNA accessed 1 Nov. 2017.

³⁹⁹ SHC, A/DFU 16; DDX/BUSH 20.

⁴⁰⁰ OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12. 16 (1888); OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

⁴⁰¹ Robsons's Dir. Som. (1839); Pigot Dir. (1842); TNA, HO 107, 959, 1923; SHC, DD/CPHS 24/3.

⁴⁰² Harrison, Harrad and Co., Dir. Som. (1859).

three men in 1881 at Rumwell, and basket and wicker chair makers were at work between 1891 and 1939. No saddler was recorded after 1841. Tailors, shoemakers and dressmakers were in business in the village. An upholsterer was recorded in 1861, between 1861 and 1911 up to four women were glovers and there was a corsetiere in 1939. There were charwomen, coachmen, gardeners and road menders.⁴⁰³ A washing place on the river was recorded in 1581.⁴⁰⁴ As Taunton grew there was a great demand for laundry and in 1871 there were 53 laundresses in the rural parish.⁴⁰⁵ The rise of commercial laundries probably led to a reduction in numbers and there were only 13 in 1911 and one and a laundry van driver in 1939.⁴⁰⁶ Less common trades were Henry King a wood carver between 1881 and 1911, a paper folder in 1891 and a quiltmaker in 1901. William Henry Knight organ builder had a small factory at Hamwood by 1887 and formed a company with his son before moving to East Reach, Taunton by 1911. He was probably trained by John Minns in Taunton. By 1911 there was a chauffeur at Rumwell although still outnumbered in the parish by four coachmen and six grooms.⁴⁰⁷ However, by 1939 at least nine people were employed in motorised transport and nine on the railway.⁴⁰⁸ During the 20th century housing development provided work for plumbers, carpenters, builders and decorators. There was a builder's yard at Hamwood opposite Haydon Farm in 1948, now offices of a pet supplies company.⁴⁰⁹ By the 1930s, however, businesses were increasingly based on Wellington New Road. By 1957 there were agricultural machinery and motor engineers.⁴¹⁰ A car restoration business was established near the Bradford boundary in the late 20th century. In the early 21st century the

⁴⁰³ TNA, HO 107/959, 1923; RG 9/1619; RG 10/2325, RG 11/2369; RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14246; OS Map 1;10860 Som. LXX.SE (1889 edn, surv 1886); Kelly's Dir. Som. (1939).

⁴⁰⁴ SHC, DD/SP 8.

⁴⁰⁵ TNA, RG 10/2325. It is sometimes said that many prostitutes described themselves as laundresses but no evidence has been found Bishops Hull and laundresses were labourers' wives.

⁴⁰⁶ TNA, RG 14/14246; RG 101/7087i.

⁴⁰⁷ Goodman's Dir. Taunton (1897); Kelly's Dir. Som. (1902); TNA, RG 11/2369, RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14246.

⁴⁰⁸ TNA, RG 101/7087i.

⁴⁰⁹ SHC, D/R/ta 24/2/164.

⁴¹⁰ Kelly's Dir. Som. (1939); Kelly's Dir. Taunton (1957).

Cornishway industrial estate was home to many motor repairers, but also joiners, electricians and glaziers.

MARKETS

The Taunton Market Trustees had acquired ground on Castle Green c. 1819 presumably to build a covered butcher's market c. 1820, behind the Market House on the Parade in Taunton. There were constant disputes over rates in the early 19th century.⁴¹¹ There were 127 fixed standings in 1836, valued at £600 a year in 1843.⁴¹² In 1910 standings were let by the day and not only to butchers.⁴¹³ The covered markets were demolished in the later 20th-century redevelopment of the Parade area in Taunton.⁴¹⁴

By 1840 the area housed the cattle and sheep markets, the monthly great markets, twice monthly by the 1870s, horse sales and Taunton Agricultural Society livestock shows.⁴¹⁵ The large garden adjoining the school, described as the porter's garden and at least part of which belonged to Sweet's hotel in the 1830s was acquired before 1840 to create a large permanent cattle market. It was enlarged by incorporating the hotel garden before 1861.⁴¹⁶ The sheep market adjoining the castle inner moat was said in 1866 to be a right attached to the office of castle porter.⁴¹⁷ The cattle market was laid out between the stableyards of the Winchester Arms and the present Castle hotel.⁴¹⁸ After the sale of the Castle Green estate in 1866 part of the Winchester Arms stableyard west of the cattle market was acquired for a calf market,⁴¹⁹ a pig and calf market by 1921.⁴²⁰ The market trustees could only use the open land

⁴¹¹ SHC, DD/DP 38/1, 74/1; D/P/b.hl 9/1/2; Q/REI 35/3.

⁴¹² SHC, D/P/b.hl 4/1/3, 9/1/2.

⁴¹³ TNA, IR 58/82126.

⁴¹⁴ Taunton, econ. hist., markets.

⁴¹⁵ SHC, D/P/b.hl 9/1/2; DD/DP 74/1; Kelly, *Somerset* [1875], 465; *Western Gaz.* 13 Nov. 1874: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2017.

⁴¹⁶ SHC, Q/RUp 142; T/PH/chn 1; DD/CPHS 24/3; DD/HS 3/2.

⁴¹⁷ SHC, DD/CH 23/5.

⁴¹⁸ SHC, DD/SAS C2550/12.

⁴¹⁹ SHC, T/PH/chn 1; OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12.16 (1888).

⁴²⁰ SHC, DD/KIT 19/9.

in the centre of Castle Green on market days. The cattle and calf markets were paved and had permanent structures by the 1880s and also in the sheep market fencing was left in place permanently by the early 20th century.⁴²¹

A new pig market was built for the Taunton Market Trustees on a garden north of the former Tangier Foundry in 1883⁴²² but it was short-lived and had been demolished by 1917. After use as a builders' yard it became a car park.⁴²³ Pig trading was transferred to the calf market.⁴²⁴ In 1929 the livestock markets were all moved to a new site off Station Road in Taunton and the sites were used for car parking but in 2010—11 were landscaped as public open space for events.⁴²⁵

RETAIL SERVICES

In 1630 Edith Dodington was licensed to sell butter and cheese in neighbouring counties and buy corn for sale in the county provided she did not use more than three horses. In John Herring, probably her brother, was licenced to trade in barley.⁴²⁶ Edith's daughter-in-law Mary Doddington (d. 1674) kept a shop selling tape, lace, buttons, thread, paper, spices, candy, sugar, dried fruits, hops, and various linen and woollen cloths.⁴²⁷ Mary's son John was a mercer and died in 1691 when he also sold silk, stockings, pockets, fishhooks, spices, oil and tobacco. His house was also a public house with a brewhouse, cellar full of beer and cider, glasses and 211 lb. of pewter, brass and bellmetal.⁴²⁸

⁴²¹ SHC, D/B/ta 31/5/6; DD/CH 23/5; A/DIF 101/3/59, 70; TNA, IR 58/82126; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1929).

⁴²² SHC, D/B/ta 14/6/1, 24/1/17/684, 694; OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887).

⁴²³ SHC, A/AQO 29.

⁴²⁴ SHC, DD/KIT 19/9.

⁴²⁵ Taunton, econ. hist., markets.

⁴²⁶ E. H. Bates-Harbin, Quarter Sessions Records, 1625—39 (SRS 24), 119, 236.

⁴²⁷ SHC, DD/SP 1674/28.

⁴²⁸ SHC, DD/SP 1691/32; Q/RLa 19/1.

A baker was recorded in 1724 and a grocer in 1735.⁴²⁹ There had been a baker at Birchin mill before 1818,⁴³⁰ the year in which the innkeeper of the Old Inn sublet part of the inn site as a bakehouse to his son, who went bankrupt in 1832,⁴³¹ and William Chorley, white baker, took an apprentice.⁴³² In 1832 Chorley was a miller, baker and maltster at Longaller⁴³³ and in 1838 supplied charity bread for the parish. He later moved to Hunt's Court.⁴³⁴ There were four bakers in the rural parish during the 19th century rising to nine by 1891.⁴³⁵ There was a bakehouse and shop near the vicarage until it was demolished with adjoining cottages c. 1911 and the Tuck family moved their bakery from Galmington to the Wellington Road before 1891. Anna Tuck kept the business until her death in 1929 and her son William until 1939 or later.⁴³⁶

The development of housing at Tangier led to the creation of small shops. A grocer was recorded in 1851⁴³⁷ and there were three shopkeepers in Tangier in 1866 probably on Tower Street where a new shop was built c. 1875 and two shops including a seed merchant's were attached to Castle Gate House c. 1881 all with attractive shopfronts.⁴³⁸ In 1880 a stable in Dorset Place, Tangier was converted into a grocer's shop, in 1891 there were four grocers besides several shop assistants,⁴³⁹ and in 1899 a new shop was built next to the Winchester Arms.⁴⁴⁰ The Dorset Place shop and two others were recorded in 1921 but were lost to later slum clearance and demolition for road improvements.⁴⁴¹

⁴²⁹ SHC, DD/SP 214.

⁴³⁰ SHC, DD/CH 80/6.

⁴³¹ SHC, DD/SP 211; Lond. Gaz. 13 Apr. 1832.

⁴³² SHC, DD/FD 20.

⁴³³ SHC, Q/REI 35/3; tithe award.

⁴³⁴ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 5/3/13; Robsons' Dir. Som. (1839).

⁴³⁵ TNA, HO 107/959, 1923; RG 12/1878.

⁴³⁶ TNA, RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14246; SHC, DD/AY 210; Kelly's Dir. Som. (1939).

⁴³⁷ TNA, HO 107/1923.

⁴³⁸ PO Dir. Som. (1866); SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/15/585, 24/1/307; DD/HS 3/2.

⁴³⁹ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/14/510; TNA, RG 12/1878.

⁴⁴⁰ SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/26/1700.

⁴⁴¹ SHC, D/B/ta 14/6/7.

In the village in 1851 there was a general shop with butchery, in 1861 also a grocery near the Old Inn, a post office and a general shop at Rumwell⁴⁴² and by 1891 a shop near the brickyard. The stores presumably employed some of the eight recorded errand boys.⁴⁴³ In the 1880s a shop and post office were built annexed to a new house on the Netherclay road but by 1911 it was a private house and the post office had moved across the street. The shops employed at least 12 people in 1911 and there were six postal and telegraph clerks.⁴⁴⁴ The new terrace between the vicarage and the Old Inn was partly designed to provide a shop and post office but the last shop there closed in 1997. In 1928 there was a cycle shop as well as the post office, bakery and Crescent Stores.⁴⁴⁵ The development of the Wellington Road area led to the conversion of a house on the corner of Galmington Lane into a second post office stores from 1933 and the establishment of a co-operative store on the corner of Mountway Road.⁴⁴⁶ There were four retail dairy workers and a coal roundsman in 1939.⁴⁴⁷ By 1947 there were three grocers, a butcher, a baker, and a newsagent.⁴⁴⁸ In 1979 there were three grocers, a butcher, a greengrocer, two general stores including the post office, a plant shop and a fish and chip shop. There were also travelling shops.⁴⁴⁹ The Wellington Road post office closed in 1966⁴⁵⁰ followed later by the village grocery in the 1912 terrace. In 2017 a butcher's and a post office with general shop remained open in the village near the top of Shutewater Hill, as did the fish and chip shop, and a small supermarket was located on the industrial estate. Also in the Wellington Road area were car, motor parts and tyre dealers, a furniture store, petrol stations, a betting shop, wine warehouse and builders' merchants. Professional services included accountants and veterinary surgeons. At Rumwell there was a large farm shop and

⁴⁴² TNA, HO 107/1923.

⁴⁴³ TNA, RG 12/1878.

⁴⁴⁴ TNA, RG 14/14246; RG 78/855.

⁴⁴⁵ SHC, D/R/ta 13/1/1; DD/X/WBB 34.

⁴⁴⁶ SHC, D/R/ta 24/2/145; ukpostofficesbycounty: accessed 21 July 2017; Kelly's Dir. Som. (1939).

⁴⁴⁷ TNA, RG 101/7087i.

⁴⁴⁸ SHC, A/AGH 1/35; Kelly's Dir. Taunton (1957).

⁴⁴⁹ SHC, A/AGH 1/35.

⁴⁵⁰ ukpostofficesbycounty: accessed 21 July 2017.

café business. In the urban area in the 20th century new shops were built on Corporation Street to be replaced in 2010 by Castlemoat Place, a block of flats with shops and restaurant between Corporation Street and Bath Place. There are also two large supermarkets at Stepswater.

Merchants

Merchant Francis Hobart and his family has several properties in the Castle Green area in the 18th century.⁴⁵¹ By 1841 Davidge and Sons. Coal merchants, were trading from Tangier wharf probably built by Benjamin Gerrard.⁴⁵² In 1852 it was a timber and stone wharf⁴⁵³ but there were two coal merchants at Tangier in 1859, one of whom had the wharf in 1866.⁴⁵⁴ By 1890 it was occupied by William Thomas and Co. Wellington brick and tile manufacturers, coal, salt, slate, cement and manure merchants.⁴⁵⁵ In 1910 they used the former three-storey malthouse as stores but also had offices, stabling and a weighbridge.⁴⁵⁶ They were in business there until 1931 or later.⁴⁵⁷

Bank

Edmund Trowbridge Halliday, Matthew Brickdale and Thomas Darch entered a partnership in 1777 in what became known as the Taunton Old Bank. Halliday had acquired the old Fountain Inn in 1776 and that became the bank premises. It was rebuilt about this time in red brick with 12 pane sashes and both front and back doors were flanked by columns. In 1806 the partners expanded east across the castle ditch taking part of the ruined Kings Arms on

⁴⁵¹ SHC, DD/SP 191/156; 201; 214; 391/6.

⁴⁵² Taunton Courier, 22 Sep. 1841: BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017; SHC, DD/SP 210; Q/SR 538/67—8.

⁴⁵³ Slater's Dir. Som. (1852); PO Dir. Som. (1866).

⁴⁵⁴ Harrison, Harrad and Co., Dir. Som. (1859).

⁴⁵⁵ SHC, A/DFU 1/16; A/ADR, box 4, cat.

⁴⁵⁶ TNA, IR 58/82126.

⁴⁵⁷ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 5/3/8.

Taunton's Cornhill. However, a few years later they were in difficulties and in 1813 two partners withdrew and the Brickdales, father and son, were left on their own.⁴⁵⁸ Despite a letter of support signed by 88 merchants in 1814⁴⁵⁹ the bank temporarily suspended payment in 1816.⁴⁶⁰ Eventually in 1819 the Brickdales were bankrupt, there were losses of bills of exchange and many other problems with the collapse of the bank and the ramifications lasted into the 1850s.⁴⁶¹ The property was conveyed to William Esdaile in 1819 and later demolished, the Taunton site was acquired in 1843 by the Market Trustees who had already built an indoor butchers' market on the adjoining Bishops Hull site.⁴⁶²

Professional Services

James Stowey architect and surveyor of Bishops Hull built a large house on Fore Street in Taunton in 1788.⁴⁶³ The Easton family and Ralph Ham, all land surveyors, lived on Castle Green in the 19th century.⁴⁶⁴ By 1842 there were three attorneys there, one of whom was based in the Castle,⁴⁶⁵ and by 1852 a bath proprietor, the cold, hot and medicated baths being in a building in the castle yard opposite Castle House. In the 1860s they were held with the hotel but were demolished by the archaeological society after 1874.⁴⁶⁶ There was a veterinary surgeon with an assistant by 1841 and the practice remained until 1910 or later even building new premises c. 1900.⁴⁶⁷ In the 1930s a veterinary practice in Tower Lane planned a kennels for 10 dogs with operating theatre.⁴⁶⁸

⁴⁵⁸ SHC, DD/DP 6/4, 38/1; DD/SAS C63/2; SANHS drawings 12492, 12494: C. Webster, Taunton Castle, 246—7.

⁴⁵⁹ SHC, DD/HC 21/23/2.

⁴⁶⁰ SHC, DD/SF 17/5/3; DD/WY 151.

⁴⁶¹ SHC, DD/DP 6/12—13, 7/2, 10/9, 53/7.

⁴⁶² SHC, DD/DP 38/1; DD/SAS C212/MAP/148.

⁴⁶³ M. McDermott, Sir Benjamin Hammet 1736—1800 (Taunton, 2017), 35—6.

⁴⁶⁴ SHC, Q/REL 35/3; Robsons's Dir. Som. (1839); TNA, HO 107/939.

⁴⁶⁵ Pigot Dir. (1842).

⁴⁶⁶ Slater's Dir. Som. (1852); Harrison, Harrad and Co., Dir. Som. (1859); SHC, DD/CPHS 24/3; T/PH/chn 1; above, castle.

⁴⁶⁷ TNA, IR 58/82126.

⁴⁶⁸ Kelly's Dir. Som. (1931, 1939); SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/73/1504.

Transport Services

There was a coach office and stables c.1816 later part of Sweet's Hotel,⁴⁶⁹ and Mary Sweet was a coach proprietor supplying post chariots, post chaises, flys and post horses and horsed the Bath and Exeter stage coach from Bridgwater to Whiteball inn until the 1830s first at the Castle and then at her new hotel on Castle Green.⁴⁷⁰ Maria Whitmash, carrier and coach proprietor, was at Tangier House in the 1820s and 1830s and the family maintained their adjoining stable and coach yard into the 1860s.⁴⁷¹

A horse bazaar and livery stables had been established on Castle Green, south of the Winchester Arms, by 1839, probably by 1832 and there was a farrier there in 1842 presumably working in the smithy recorded in 1888.⁴⁷² The livery stables was kept in the later 19th century by John White of Taunton, who in 1881 added a first-floor tier of stables and gradually rebuilt most of the stabling near Tangier House, formerly occupied by the Whitmash family⁴⁷³. In 1887 he ran a removal, funeral and wedding business, sold and hired horses and kept a hunting stable.⁴⁷⁴ Also in the 1880s the former Tangier brewery was a horse repository with auction room but, after serving as a warehouse for Chapmans department store in the early 20th century, by the mid 20th century had become a coach garage.⁴⁷⁵ In the early 21st century the site was occupied by car repair workshops and an office block called Millstream House. There was a second horse repository adjoining the Castle Hotel by 1904,

⁴⁶⁹ SHC, DD/CPHS 2.

⁴⁷⁰ SHC, DD/DP 54/3.

⁴⁷¹ TNA, HO 109/959; SHC, Q/REL 35/3; Q/RUp 142; DD/SAS TN 162/6; D/B/ta 24/1/6/177; Taunton, econ. hist.

⁴⁷² SHC, Q/REL 35/3; DD/SAS C212/MAP 148; Robsons's Dir. Som. (1839); Pigot Dir. (1842); OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12. 16 (1888).

⁴⁷³ SHC, DD/HS 3/2; DD/KIT 14/1; D/B/ta 24/1/16/620

⁴⁷⁴ Goodman's Dir. Taunton (1887).

⁴⁷⁵ OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887); SHC, DD/IR/T 5/1; D/B/ta 24/1/224/14255.

which went out of use c. 1924 when the yard adjoining the castle was bought by the archaeological society.⁴⁷⁶

Those premises probably accounted for the numbers of ostlers, grooms, drivers, mail guards and postboys in the area in the mid 19th century. In 1861 23 men were employed in transport services including two boatmen probably working at the wharves at Tangier. In 1871 there were also 14 porters and seven errand boys and in 1881 two omnibus drivers. Although horse transport remained important in the early 20th century by 1911 railway workers, three bicycle fitters and a motor washer had joined grooms and cab drivers.⁴⁷⁷

By 1933 the former horse repository, stabling and coach houses south of the Winchester Arms had been replaced by a large garage, begun as a small workshop in 1927 and which later extended to cover the whole block between Corporation Street and Tower Street apart from the cinema. It was replaced in the late 20th century by an office block. Other repair garages were opened at Stepswater and two at Tangier; the last remain in business.⁴⁷⁸

Public Houses and Hotels

In 1208 two tenants paid to be quit of the bishop's ale and later some were fined for breaking the assize.⁴⁷⁹ One or two tapsters were presented in late 16th century for assize breach.⁴⁸⁰ Most early licensed premises were in the Taunton area; there were complaints in 1627 that the great barn in the castle precinct, which had been converted into a stable, was being used as a public house. The manor court restored the property to the clerk of the castle.⁴⁸¹ The

⁴⁷⁶ OS Map 1:2500, SOM. LXX.12 (1890 edn, surv. 1887); DD/SAS S1122/1/43, 54—5.

⁴⁷⁷ TNA, HO 107/1923; RG 10/2375; RG 11/2369; RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14241.

⁴⁷⁸ Aerial photos 1933, 1953: britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW041182, EAW051942; SHC. D/B/ta 24/1/182/10789, 24/1/72/1452.

⁴⁷⁹ SHC, T/PH/win 1208—9, 1232—3, 1298—9.

⁴⁸⁰ SHC, DD/SP 4.

⁴⁸¹ SHC, DD/SP 18/13.

magistrates suppressed a licensed alehouse within the castle precinct in 1654, because it was distant from the view of the parish officers, was disorderly and there were plenty of alehouses in Taunton.⁴⁸² There was a small alehouse apparently called Tangier in 1676 with a well-equipped kitchen and brewhouse in 1693.⁴⁸³

The Fountain on Castle Green was established by 1696 and was the principal inn in the area. The licensing sessions for the parish were held there in the mid 18th century.⁴⁸⁴ In 1734 the tenant was allowed to enclose the area west of the house provided he made an archway in the Castle Bow across the land to provide access to the school.⁴⁸⁵ The innkeeper complained in 1767 when he was subject to billeting 21 men besides ten officers but had only 10 beds of the better sort and many of the men had the itch.⁴⁸⁶ The inn had closed in 1776 when it was surrendered with cellars, pumps and cisterns to become the Old Bank.⁴⁸⁷

By 1767 the Horse and Jockey, Four Alls, Compass, Bush and White Horse were licensed. The Bush was short-lived as were the Lamb and the Tower in Tower Lane in the 1780s.⁴⁸⁸ The Horse and Jockey, probably on the site of the castle stables at the West Gate, had its own brewhouse in 1782 when the premises needed repair including the tiled roof and two chimneys.⁴⁸⁹ The building was refronted in a castellated style and renamed the Winchester Arms in 1817.⁴⁹⁰ It later incorporated adjoining cottages and had a large market room and a skittle alley in 1910.⁴⁹¹ The White Horse closed c. 1809 and for most of the 19th century, excluding the Castle Hotel, there were four inns; The Winchester Arms, the Four

⁴⁸² SHC, Q/SR 90/48.

⁴⁸³ SHC, Q/RLa 19/1; DD/SP 452.

⁴⁸⁴ SHC, Q/RLa 19/1, 7.

⁴⁸⁵ SHC, D/B/ta 31/5/12.

⁴⁸⁶ SHC, DD/TB 18/9.

⁴⁸⁷ SHC, D/B/ta 31/5/12; above, this section.

⁴⁸⁸ SHC, Q/RLa 19/7, 9—10; DD/SAS C909/58.

⁴⁸⁹ SHC, DD/X/BUSH 11.

⁴⁹⁰ SHC, Q/RLa 19/12.

⁴⁹¹ SHC, DD/KIT 19/9; TNA, IR 58/82126.

Alls, the Compass and the Sugar Loaf.⁴⁹² Of those only the Winchester Arms remains in business but new public houses were created in the later 20th century out of the Technical Institute on Corporation Street and the former Castle Hotel stableyard. The latter had had two licensed premises in 1888 but in the 20th century one was a licensed taproom and the other a coffee house and in the late 20th century they were combined and incorporated the former yard between them.⁴⁹³

The Four Alls was on the corner of Hunt's Court, now Bath Place. It was acquired by the Oram brewing family in 1814 and was originally a small two-storey building with two adjoining cottages one of which it had absorbed by 1888.⁴⁹⁴ It was rebuilt in the 1900s for brewers S. Arnold and Sons⁴⁹⁵ and was converted into a restaurant in the early 21st century. The Sugar Loaf at the north end of Cann Street was a large cob and thatch house. it was said to have been built to replace the original Sugar Loaf in Taunton demolished c. 1768 to build the Market House. It had a tea garden. It was partly rebuilt and slated in 1866 and demolished in 1870 to build the St Saviour's boys home.⁴⁹⁶ The Compass or Compasses at the south end of Cann Street was acquired by Hanbury and Cotchin⁴⁹⁷ but demolished for road widening after 1964.⁴⁹⁸

In the rural parish the creation of the turnpike road to Exeter through the village led to the licensing of public houses there and at Rumwell. The Old Inn in Bishops Hull village was first named in 1767 and appears to have been the principal public house there. In 1772 the parish thought it sufficient and did not want a second public house called the Shears

⁴⁹² SHC, Q/RLa 19/11—13, 15; Pigot Dir. (1830); A/EFE 1—13; TNA, RG 10/2375; RG 11/2369; RG 12/1878; RG 13/2277; RG 14/14241.

⁴⁹³ OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12. 16 (1888); SHC, D/B/ta 24/1/1229/14785.

⁴⁹⁴ SHC, DD/DP 74/4; 215; Harry Frier, Somerset's Unknown Painter, 59; OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12. 16 (1888).

⁴⁹⁵ SHC, DD/IR/T 5/1.

⁴⁹⁶ SHC, A/DIF 9; D/B/ta 24/1/6/171; T/PH/rea 3/100.

⁴⁹⁷ SHC, DD/IR/T 5/1.

⁴⁹⁸ SHC, DD/FIV 1/18.

licensed.⁴⁹⁹ A maltster was convicted of selling alcohol without licence in 1794 and maltster Isaac Bryant had an interest in several beerhouses in the early 19th century including the New Inn and the Travellers Rest.⁵⁰⁰ In 1831 there were seven male publicans in the parish but that included the town area.⁵⁰¹ The Old Inn and the Crown at Rumwell appear to have been the only licensed premises in the rural parish until c. 1839 when they were joined by the New Inn, opposite the church, and the Boot beerhouse on Shutewater Hill.⁵⁰²

By 1819 the Old Inn had already expanded along the street as well as having large range of outbuildings to the rear including a malthouse and brewhouse and a bakery that was sublet.⁵⁰³ In 1887 the innkeeper was also a coach builder.⁵⁰⁴ In 1977 the inn absorbed a former grocer's shop and house adjoining.⁵⁰⁵ It has been largely rebuilt but remains open for business. The New Inn was opened before 1843 by maltster Isaac Bryant in a house near his malthouse adjoined.⁵⁰⁶ In 1900 it was sold with four cottages in its backyard and by 1921 it belonged to Hanbury and Cotching of Taunton, brewers.⁵⁰⁷ One cottage was demolished and the house was virtually rebuilt in 1939 by then owners Starkey, Knight and Co and in the 1960s it had two of their sculpted flying horses on the outside walls.⁵⁰⁸ It was renamed the Cavalier in 1977, after Ralph Hopton, but closed in the early 21st century and is now a private house called Cavalier House.⁵⁰⁹ The Boot was a three storey split-level building but its accommodation was described as bad and its business was only worth c. £100 a year in

⁴⁹⁹ SHC, D/P/b.hl 9/1/1.

⁵⁰⁰ SHC, Q/SR 363/1/40.

⁵⁰¹ SHC, D/P/b.hl 23/3.

⁵⁰² Robson's Dir. Som. (1839); SHC, Q/REI 35/3; Q/RLa 19/7, 9—10; TNA, HO 107/959.

⁵⁰³ SHC, DD/SP 215; tithe award.

⁵⁰⁴ Goodman's Dir. Taunton (1887).

⁵⁰⁵ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 2/16.

⁵⁰⁶ SHC, tithe award; Q/C 9/1; D/P/b.hl 4/1/3.

⁵⁰⁷ SHC, DD/CH 77/5; DD/KIT 19/9.

⁵⁰⁸ SHC, D/R/ta 24/2/112; A/DQO 40/6, 25.

⁵⁰⁹ SHC, D/PC/b.hl 1/2/5.

1907 when renewal of its licence was refused.⁵¹⁰ It is now a private house called Shute Cottage.

At Rumwell the Crown on the Wellington Road was first recorded in 1786 as the Rose and Crown, just the Crown by 1797, and for over a century it was held by several generation of the Gandell family until 1892.⁵¹¹ Like the Boot and New Inn, it had been acquired by Hanbury and Cotching of Taunton, brewers by 1910. The 18th-century two-bay, cross passage building was extended one bay to the west and at the rear probably before 1921.⁵¹² In 1950 outbuildings were demolished to provide parking.⁵¹³ Subsequent additions have been made and it remained in business in 2017.

East of Rumwell on the same road was the Red Lion, formerly the Travellers Rest, on a detached fragment of Wilton parish.⁵¹⁴ Like the Crown it had been acquired by Hanbury and Cotching by the early 20th century. Its trade declined from 54 barrels of beer and 77 gallons of spirits in 1915 to 17 barrels and 15 gallons by 1921 when renewal of its licence was refused.⁵¹⁵ In 1928 it became a tea room known as the Hutcombe⁵¹⁶ and familiarly as the Hutcombe Bunny from the advertisement sign. It obtained a table licence in 1960 and in 1963 was converted into a licensed roadhouse although the planned motel was never built. By it had a large bar and had been renamed The Stonegallows.⁵¹⁷ It has since undergone many changes of name but remains in business as a public house and restaurant known in 2017 as The Stonegallows.

The building of New Road, now Wellington New Road, and the growth of the brickyards there led to the building and opening of two beerhouses by 1851, the White Lion

⁵¹⁰ SHC, QS/LIC 1/5.

⁵¹¹ SHC, DD/HC 18/4/10; D/P/b.hl 12/3/2; A/BUG 1/24/4; Q/RLa 19/9—10; Q/REI 35/3; TNA, HO 107/959, 1923; *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1861—89).

⁵¹² TNA, IR 58/82128; SHC, DD/KIT 19/9.

⁵¹³ SHC, D/R/ta 24/1/522.

⁵¹⁴ SHC, tithe award; TNA, HO 107/959; Wilton, econ. hist.

⁵¹⁵ SHC, A/DQO 40/7; QS/LIC 1/5.

⁵¹⁶ SHC, D/RA/ta 24/1/146.

⁵¹⁷ SHC, QS/LIC 1/3; D/R/ta 24/1146, 827, 1053.

at the brickyard and the Montpellier⁵¹⁸ but thereafter there was only one, the Royal Crown, possibly the former Montpellier.⁵¹⁹ It remained in business until c. 2010. It has been converted into flats called Royal Crown Court.

The present Castle Hotel is an amalgamation of the Castle Hotel, Taunton and the Castle Hotel, Bishop's Hull, the latter usually known by the name of its proprietors; Sweet's, Fackrell's, Giles' and Clarke's. The two were back to back with the former's stable yard and coach office between them and with the parish boundary running through the middle. The Castle, Taunton was kept by the Sweet family but in 1833 Mary Sweet had the three houses to the west in Bishops Hull parish, formerly one,⁵²⁰ converted into a hotel. A new parlour with dining room below and double-height kitchen were added to the north, the staircase in the middle house was rebuilt as the main staircase for the hotel, the kitchen of the third house⁵²¹ was converted into a bar and extended to provide a bar parlour, and passages were driven through the back rooms of the three houses. The hotel had water closets, 19 bedrooms and several parlours and dining rooms.⁵²² There was also a brewhouse north of the hotel, extensive stabling, coachhouses and a billiard room with tap and living accommodation. The hotel opened in December 1833. There were usually an average of six resident servants in the hotel, besides those at the tap, compared with two at most of the other inns. In 1886 the hotel was one of the first buildings in the Taunton area to be lit with electric light.⁵²³ After passing through many hands with consequent changes of name, in the 20th century the two Castle Hotels were combined and the central stableyard was built over and two further floors were

⁵¹⁸ TNA, HO 107/1923.

⁵¹⁹ TNA, RG 9/1619; RG 14/14246; *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1861—1029).

⁵²⁰ SHC, DD/SAS S1122/1/14; DD/CN 15/15; SANHS drawing 3504 (1733): C. Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 248. It was probably the late medieval Porter's House rebuilt as three houses but still known by that name in 1821: SHC, DD/CN 29/7.

⁵²¹ Shown a complete ruin in a drawing of 1814: SANHS 12527 in Webster, *Taunton Castle*, 246 but was occupied as the house over the archway in 1832: SHC, Q/REI 35/3. Other early 19th-century drawings and a map of 1809 show a large house most of which projected west of the Bow and was clearly demolished; SHC, A/DIF/44; T/PH/rea 3/1.

⁵²² SHC, DD/CN 29/7; DD/MT 29/4/1; DD/X/SOM 25.

⁵²³ D. Gledhill and P. Lamb, *Electricity in Taunton 1809—1948* (SIAS, 1986), 8.

added increasing the number of bedrooms to 44.⁵²⁴ The hotel remained in business in 2017.

Tourism elsewhere in the parish was only a small factor in the economy and has declined. In Bishops Hull village the Meryan House hotel remained open but other hotels and guesthouses like Rumwell Hall and the Old Mill had closed to overnight visitors. However, several large houses on Wellington Road still offer bed and breakfast.⁵²⁵

⁵²⁴ 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.

⁵²⁵ Above, intro.