

Trentham Ward with Hanchurch

This is the northernmost ward of SPC and is largely agricultural with settlements at Hanchurch village and in and around the Trentham Estate. This ward historically formed part of the great estates of Trentham, the former seat of the Dukes of Sutherland, and Fitzherbert Estates, still owned by Lord Stafford of Swynnerton. Whilst Trentham is mentioned as a Royal Manor in the Domesday Book, Hanchurch village formed part of that early estate and since 1980 has been preserved as a Conservation Area. The whole of the present area of Trentham Estate has also received Conservation Area status with several sites of Special Scientific Interest further delineated within it.



View along Trentham Gardens lake



View over Ferndown Nature Reserve

The western part of the ward includes some of Swynnerton Old Park and Hanchurch Hills which are now managed by the Forestry Commission. The eastern boundary is formed by the A34 running parallel with the border of Trentham Estate; the southern boundary is with Tittensor and Swynnerton Wards. To the north the ward boundary predates the later housing developments of Clayton and meanders through the Ferndown housing estate following old field boundaries. On the edge of the Ferndown estate, an area of fallow land has been developed as a protected local nature reserve by Stafford Borough Council.

Much of the land area is under the control of three principal landowners – Lord Stafford, the Forestry Commission, and Blackstone who recently took over ownership from St. Modwen who purchased the Trentham estate in 1996 with the intention ‘to regenerate and restore the historic estate and gardens’ turning it ‘into a premier tourist and leisure destination of national significance’. Development, therefore, has been limited to small pockets of land where private developments have taken place with private roads and management companies, infill/ribbon housing along the principal roads or farm conversions, the only exception to this is the area to the north of Whitmore Road, which is a southward extension of suburban sprawl from Newcastle under Lyme into Swynnerton Parish Council territory.