

An introduction to Stonesfield

April 2018

Stonesfield lies some 12 miles north-west Oxford and 4 miles west of Woodstock.

The village, although small, occupies an elevated position on the edge of, and well above, the Oxford basin, with its clays and misty winters, and consequently has a better and healthier climate, although similar rainfall of 25 to 30 inches a year.

Geologically it informs quite literally the doorstep of the Cotswolds, for stands on the edge of the Jurassic limestone stone belt which sweeps north-east across England and gives rise to pass entries to the delightful colourful Cotswold domestic architecture. The valleys around the village are small and rounded, mere miniature of the increasingly greater ones to the west but yet at the same mould.

The village become well known, indeed internationally famous, for the two things. Firstly, there are unique roofing slates, which are thin and of high quality. These were mined under the village from the 17th century until 1911. Secondly, as a by-product of an industry which by its nature meant a constant close scrutiny of thin layers of rock, very large number of many important fossils of early plants and animals have come to light and added greatly to our knowledge of evolution.

Source: 'From slates to chips'

Further reading on Stonesfield and the surrounding area

Title	Author
From slate to chips	Various
Stonefield	G. H. Powell
Stonesfield Slate	M. A. Ashton
The Oxfordshire Lad	Thomas Austin
Just getting on with it. Frank's story	Rosemary Cleaver
The salt of the earth	Dorothy Calcutt
From boy to butcher. A working life	Ron Hickman
Memories of the History of Stonesfield	Robert Lawrence
A Tour of Stonesfield	Robert Lawrence
People of Stonesfield	Robert Lawrence
Who we are – A Census Report	Robert Lawrence
Stonesfield at Work	Robert Lawrence
Shopping in Stonesfield - Past and present	Robert Lawrence
Public Houses in Stonesfield - Past and present	Robert Lawrence
Stonesfield Community Trust and Housing in Stonesfield	Robert Lawrence
Stonesfield at Prayer	Robert Lawrence
Stonesfield at Play	Robert Lawrence
Education in Stonesfield	Robert Lawrence