

# An introduction to Stonesfield

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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 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

From slates to chips: A history of Stonesfield  
Stonefield  
Stonesfield Slate  
The Oxfordshire Lad  
Just getting on with it. Frank's story  
The salt of the earth  
From boy to butcher. A working life

### **Author**

Various  
G. H. Powell  
M. A. Ashton  
Thomas Austin  
Rosemary Cleaver  
Dorothy Calcutt  
Ron Hickman

Plus a range of publications by Robert Lawrence including:

Memories of the History of Stonesfield  
A Tour of Stonesfield  
People of Stonesfield  
Stonesfield at Work