



## History of Stonehouse

Stonehouse appears in William the Conqueror's Domesday Book of 1086 under its Old English name "Stanhus". The Manor lands included a vineyard and two mills. These were probably Upper and Lower Mills at Bridgend, which later became cloth mills, joined by several others including Bond's Mill. These mills continue today as commercial centres and can be seen on a walk near the canal.

The Manor house was completely rebuilt in 1601 and despite a fire in 1908, is a Grade II\* building, now occupied by Stonehouse Court Hotel. It is located next to St Cyr's Church, near the Stroudwater Canal and the River Frome. St Cyr's Church is one of the oldest buildings in Stonehouse, the tower dating from the 14th century. The churchyard contains an impressive array of 17th and 18th century monuments. It is about a mile from the centre of the town.

As the textile industry declined in the 19th century, Stonehouse remained a thriving place as smaller businesses of every type took over.

Stonehouse was in an ideal position for trade, having a river and a canal close by and three railway stations giving easy access to the Midlands, Bristol, London and local towns and villages. The GWR station at Burdett Road is still an important asset for the town. (B)

Stonehouse was one of the first villages to build a National School in 1832. The original buildings are still in use as Stonehouse Park Infant School and Children's Centre (J)

In 1882 Wycliffe College was founded in Stonehouse. It is now an independent school for boys and girls from 3 to 18. Wycliffe Chapel (C) can be seen at the entrance to the town on the Bath Road.

PTO

The Stonehouse Brick and Tile Company was established in 1891, on the side of Doverow Hill. The company closed in 1968 and the 202 foot high chimney was demolished. Many of the houses in the town were built from Stonehouse bricks. (B)

At the start of the Second World War Stonehouse was seen as a suitable location for the "shadow factories" for the aerospace industry. Sperry Gyroscope moved into Bond's Mill and a new factory for Hoffmann's Bearings Ltd was built in Oldends Lane. These two factories employed many people during the war and afterwards. The engineering industry grew and developed into a new modern industrial estate, based at the western edge of the town, now near the M5 motorway.

In 1901, there were about 11 pubs in the village. In 2020, there are two - The Woolpack Inn (D) and the Globe Inn (I) recorded as inns from the early 19th century. The Woolpack is one of the oldest buildings in Stonehouse developed from 16th century cottages and barns. It became a centre for carriers in the eighteenth century, and it may have been an early stop for the Bath coach. The Crown and Anchor in the middle of the town, now the High Street Medical Centre (H), probably developed as a coaching inn after 1780.

In 2020 Stonehouse in Bloom redesigned the Old Chapel Garden (G) to make a quiet place for relaxation. It can be found between High Street and Laburnum Recreation Field (F)

Despite the growth of industry, Stonehouse remains an attractive rural town close to beautiful countryside. Its wide High Street contains a number of historic buildings from old coaching inns to the Town Hall (E) built of local brick in 1933. It is but a few minutes' walk to experience the delights of rivers, woods and hills (A) surrounding the historic town.



# Find out more about the history of Stonehouse



High Street and the Millennium Stone

## Follow our information board trail



[www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk)