

There was a Roman military presence in Britain between 43 and 410 A.D., which had great influence on all aspects of life. The 'Romans' in the area at the time were probably a mixture of local people who adopted Roman fashions and ways of living, and others who came in to serve Roman administration and industry. There may even have been some retired soldiers, who came from many parts of the world. Both natives and incomers developed farming estates.

There is a local tradition that the name 'Stanhus', in the Domesday Book of 1086, reflects the idea that people speaking early English observed a stone building here. Most buildings in Anglo-Saxon times were made of wood, so it is presumed that the 'Stanhus' was a Roman survival.

It is quite likely that Stonehouse Court and St Cyr's Church represent a Roman site of some kind. Industrial remains, ditches etc indicating Roman or Romano-British activity have been found in the field opposite Avenue Terrace, and around the canal at Bridgend on the site of Boakes Drive, and as Stonehouse Court site has its own springs it is a prime candidate. Roman houses do not have to be grand villas, although the name suggests something more than a timber-framed building.

There are circumstantial stories of Roman stones or small items being found when graves are cut, and old stones being built into the church. More may be discovered about this. There have also been Roman discoveries in Ebley, and sites are known at Whitminster and Frocester.

Local lanes would have been in use, linking the Roman A38 with Woodchester and Cirencester, with consequent Roman-period activity all along the Frome valley. It is likely that there were dwellings at or near Stonehouse, but it is not proven.

For information on local sites, search the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record [HeritageGateway - Historic Environment Record Details](#). Search terms can be set to a radius around Stonehouse, Glos, and different periods selected.

Roman Coinage

In 2017 a metal detectorist found two Roman coins at Doverow Wood.

Heavily corroded – unreadable emperor
AD c300-400

Heavily corroded House of Constantine
wolf and twins type AD 330-340

This is a photo of one in good condition.

