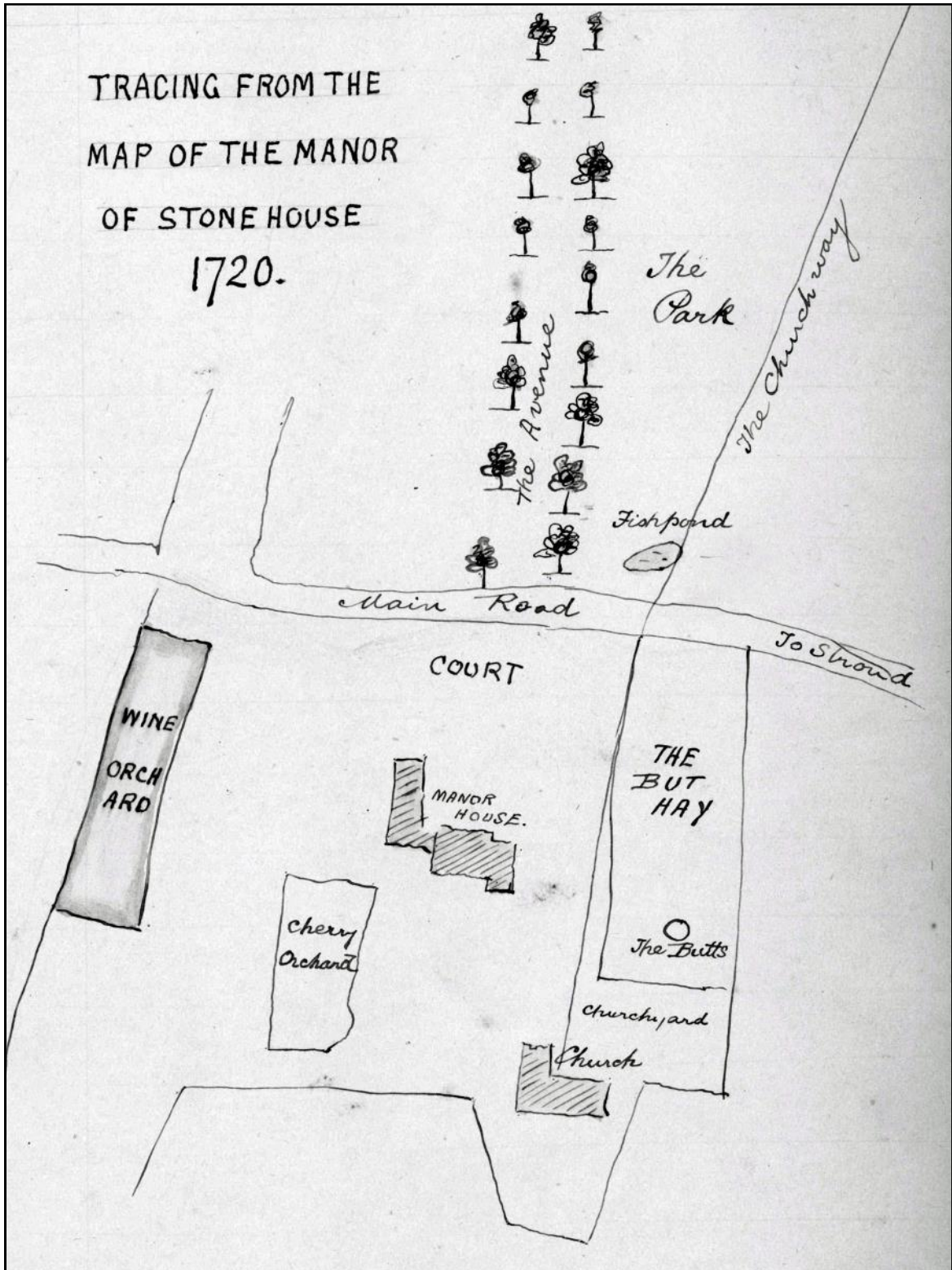


Stonehouse newt pond

The pond by Bristol Road opposite Stonehouse Court is home to a protected species - the Great Crested Newt.

The pond was originally a fish pond in the park belonging to Stonehouse Court.

It is shown on this sketch based on the old map of 1730 which can be seen at Stonehouse Court Hotel.



The pond remained in the field for many years after the Manor park was sold.

Children played in and around it.

The old Nailsworth railway line which ran past it was finally closed in 1966. The line was abandoned and soon filled with water creating another watery habitat for creatures such as newts.

With the opening of the motorway in 1971 the Bristol Road was widened and became busier.

The nearby industrial estate grew larger.

Court View was built around 2002 and there was concern that the newt pond and the old railway line would be built over.

The newt pond was preserved and is enclosed to protect it as a nature area.

The pond in the 1990s before Court View



Restoration work to start on Stonehouse Newt ponds Spring 2013

Environmental charity Stroud Valley Project has won funding from Biffaward to restore and manage the Stonehouse newt ponds. This nature reserve is found opposite Stonehouse Court Hotel and is home to the rare great crested newt.

The project to look after this lost wildlife oasis, will run for two years, with the main focus on restoring the three ponds to create a better habitat for the newts and other aquatic species.

Starting in March the project, a partnership between SVP and Stonehouse Town Council hopes to engage other local groups to manage the site in the long term.

SVP project officer Richard Lewis said: "After years of neglect it is great that SVP has some funding to kick start work at the ponds. We know from our pond dipping surveys at the site, that over the last 10 years the newt population has declined substantially so it is vital we work on improving the area to give this protected species the best chance of survival."

