

Look over the rooftops for Stone's distant views

Stone based rambler and photographer, Paul L.G. Morris, shares some nearby valley views

We often overlook what is close to us. Stone is in the fortunate position of being in what might be called the 'lower foothills' of the Peak District and is also bisected by the River Trent. Both of these give us a shallow valley with gentle rolling hills to the sides.

You can stand on one of the valley sides and look across the town to some beautiful rural views; a combination of fields, hedges, lone trees and woodlands. OK, you have to look over the roofs of houses and ignore the telephone cables and aerials but the eye is good at doing this.

Taking photographs of such views is a little more tricky as what you can easily ignore when looking, shows up as ugly artefacts in photographs. In this selection of photographs I hope to encourage you to look over the roofs and through the cables to the landscape behind.



Let's start with a walk from the west side of town in the Pirehill Lane/Tilling Drive area where we see Ashtonlodge Farm:



This view, if I have my bearings correct, shows the Uttoxeter Road winding its way through the hills



As we move our gaze towards the north we get this stunning view of trees on the hillside – I hadn't realised there was so much woodland around until I started looking in detail at the views. It is hard to believe there is a town below the bottom of the photo



Moving to the north of the town to Stone Common Plot we have a view, roughly westwards, across the common to the distant hills. The trees help put this view into context



Now we have a panoramic view looking across the Trent flood plain which forms Stone Meadows Nature Reserve. It is hard to believe that there are housing estates behind the trees:



Just a few miles north of the town is the National Trust property of Downs Bank. If you can manage the climb through the woods and up the hillside you get rewarded with views like this:



Finally, I would like to show you a view from the Dorothy Clive Garden, which is about 10 miles north-west of Stone on the A51: What attracted me to this view was the undulating nature of the farmland – waves in the ground. Isn't this a beautiful country?