

Stonesfield

HOX 10770

After so much searching, I believe
I could settle here, moth-light on an old land,
a stone's throw from Akeman Street
Amongst the bones of villas, tumuli and fish-ponds,
equidistant (as the crow flies)
from Blenheim Park and Wychwood Forest.

An unassuming place whose roots lie
not in dreaming spires or Cotswolds prettiness,
but in the slates that roof the colleges
and cottages of Oxfordshire,
whose quarries rest, healed scars
beneath a mantle blotted with crop-marks,
as if great tears had fallen
and dried there in the wind.

Romola Parish, Poet in Residence, Oxfordshire HLC Project