

Business and Employment in Stratton

Flour Mills

1086 Domesday Book shows a mill worth 2s, in 1261 Adam de Stratton bought property at Kingsdown which include a Windmill. The last windmill, owned by Samuel Jones, stood where Arkell's brewery is today. There was also a Watermill on the River Cole, with large millpond, shown on some older maps, at Greenbridge before the canal was built, this closed, and the Steam mill was built alongside the canal.

Breweries

See separate section [Brewing in Stratton](#)

Brickworks

Kingsdown - owned by Archers next to Kingsdown Farm, now part of A419 Stratton by-pass.

Stratton Crossroads - owned by Day's was first to use steam powered brick making machinery was located west of Ermin Street between Railway line and today's Oxford Road.

Grange Drive - western end next to railway bridge

Stratton Green - owned by Iles, pit was originally three times the size with kilns at southern end, In 1880 Thomas Page was advertising for 2 brickmakers, - now Claridges Lake and park.

Stratton Brickworks - owned by Hills, became Cement works now Strata Housing Estate

Ermin Street - owned by Iles - opposite Stratton brickworks

West End Road - owned by Days, pond used for winter ice-skating for many years.

In the papers –

Charges under the Factories Act – Mr. Thomas Turner, a brick and tile maker of Stratton St. Margaret, near Swindon, was last week summoned before the Swindon bench of magistrates, charged with having refused and neglected to produce to the sub-inspector, when requested to do so, a register of persons in his employ. It appeared that in May last, Mr. Earnshaw (the sub-inspector) made an inspection of Mr. Turner's mill or factory and explained to him everything required by the Act. Amongst other things he requested him to obtain and keep a register of the people employed by him; and on finding on a second visit that he had not done this, he cautioned him. Mr. Turner, however, still neglected to do as Mr. Earnshaw had requested, and on learning from him on the 29th of Dec. that "he had not got one, and further that he would not get one until he was forced," he summoned him. The Bench, after hearing the evidence, fined Mr. Turner £5 and costs. – There were no less that five other charges against Mr. Turner, but on an appeal from the Chairman of the Bench, Mr. Earnshaw consented to withdraw these, upon Mr. Turner pleading guilty to them, paying the costs, and withdrawing an insulting letter which he had sent to the sub-inspector. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 24-01-1867.*

Other Victorian Businesses

1851 – Richard CLACK, Grocers, Ermin Street, Sold In 1901 *Swindon Advertiser 08-11-1901*.
 1860 – Henry Fisher was a Blacksmith
 1860 – Henry FISHER was a Blacksmith
 1864 – James MOORE a Miller.
 1866 – W DAVIES, draper
 1869 – Edwin STONE, butcher
 1871 – KING Brothers, coach builders.
 1873 - Arthur J SEDDON, architect & surveyor
 1874 - James BUNCE, fishmonger in 1874
 1874-78 – John STONE a butcher
 1875 – Albert FORD, coal merchant
 1875 – John MARTIN, a baker in Lower Stratton
 1875 – J. JEEVES, butcher
 1876 – J. WOOLFORD, wheelwright
 1877 – L. MORSE, grocer 'North Wilts Emporium', sold on to Alfred JACKSON **Swindon Advertiser 23-10-1903**.
 1877 - John DANCE, Baker in Lower Stratton
 1877 - Richard BARNES a Smith in Lower Stratton
 1877 – H. PEARCE, grocer & baker.
 1878-80 – Thomas HARRIS, baker in Lower Stratton
 1879-80 – Enos TARRANT, shoemaker
 1879 – Edward HODDINOTT ran a dairy
 1879-80 – John Sly LEWIS, Smith
 1880 – George LEVY, smith in Upper Stratton
 1880-82 – James PACKER, smith in Upper Stratton
 1882 – John CARTER, greengrocer
 1888 – Charles TURNER, shopkeeper.
 1890 – Mrs. FORD, baker & General dealer, Kingsdown.
 1891 – Thomas POPE, draper.
 1892 – Charles APLIN, butcher.
 1893-94 – Henry J FORD, baker & grocer.
 1898 – RUDLER, George w., dairyman and coal merchant.
 1900 – W. J. COX, dairyman

Coopers - Established in 1871 at Marshgate Cooper's had a slaughterhouse, being granted a licence in 1894. At a sale held in Queens Arms, Swindon on 21st July 1902 Mr Cooper, then of Belle Vue, formally bought the 'Marsh Land' for £450. At the time, the business consisted of just over 4 acres. The site also producing potash fertilizer, famous locally for the stink when a batch was run, it finally closed in 1970's.

Cooper's went on to start up as Scrap Metal merchants (now E.M.R) in Gypsy Lane, seeing the opportunity when Pressed Steel plant opened in 1955.

Thomas Colborne – Wheelwright, builder and timber merchant who by 1873 was established at the Crossroads, Stratton St. Margaret.

His son Arthur Joseph was born in Midsomer Norton in 1870. Between 1876-1940 the Colborne family built a staggering number of properties in Swindon. The father and son firm-built houses in a street off County Road close to their business premises which was later named after them, although the spelling has since been changed to Colborne. In 1894 Thomas Colborne was fined and ordered to pay the costs on four summonses issued against him by The Inspector of Factories for various offences under the Factories and Workshops Act. (*Citizen 8/6/1894*.) Despite being on the verge of bankruptcy in 1911-13 A.J. Colborne continued in business until the late 1930s. The business continued and was responsible for a lot of housebuilding in 1950's and 60's. It later became 'The Building & Public Works Company', who had their depot in Headlands Grove.

WANTED, WHEELWRIGHTS or CARPENTERS.—Apply to Mr. T. Colborne, Stratton Cross-roads, Swindon.

Steam Flour Mill – At Greenbridge, just over 1 acre., large wharf, yard, sheds, pastureland, Mill is stone built and slated 90 feet by 23 feet nine inches, has a 20 horse-power engine and frontage onto canal of 202 feet. Samuel Jones was the Miller and Coal Merchant at Stratton Mill according to census records, Directories and Poll books from 1831 to 1890, it was put up for sale by auction in 1885, (*Western Gazette 31-7-1885*), he was still in residence in 1881 when there was a fire in the stables, (*Swindon Advertiser 24-07-1886*),

and from 1891 to 1895 it is owned by Frogley & Deacon. James LAWRENCE, manager of Stratton Mill, was also charged with allowing a horse to be used whilst lame and fined £1 6s 6d. *Citizen 8-3-1895*. It becomes - **St. Margaret's Wiltshire Bacon Co Ltd** who began production in 1895 at The Green, Stratton St Margaret (now Oxford Road, Swindon). Owned by A & E Haynes from 1898 to 1915. A substantial proportion of its output was sold locally. Mrs Emma GATFORD, widow, obtained £150 compensation from Frogley & Deacon for the loss of her husband, who drowned in the canal while in their employ. *Swindon Advertiser 22-03-1901*. In 1901 they were advertising for a Miller. *The Western Daily Press 8-10-1901*.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle
24 July 1886

STRATTON ST. MARGARET.
FIRE.—Early yesterday morning an alarming fire broke out at the residence of Mr. S. Jones, Stratton St. Margaret Steam Flour Mills. Mr. Jones was awakened by a strong glare of light at the bedroom window shortly after one o'clock, and on looking out found the stores and stables at the back to be in flames. The whole communicated with the house. The fire was discovered at the same time by neighbours, and plenty of willing assistance was at once rendered, the fire brigade at Swindon being sent for. There was no chance from the first of saving the premises attacked, the roof soon falling in, but by removing a portion of the roof of the kitchens the dwelling-house was fortunately saved. The horses had fortunately been turned out in the fields, but a couple of cats and some fowls are known to have lost their lives. A large quantity of harness and implements have also been burnt, and a number of bags of flour were destroyed.

WANTED.—FAT PIGS! FAT PIGS!!
FAT PIGS!!!—A. and E. Haynes,
Stratton St. Margaret, are always Buyers of
prime quality Pigs. Our present prices—7 to
9 scores, 9s 9d; 9 to 10 ditto, 9s 3d (delivered
in). Prices on application. 7830

The Western Times 1-2-1902

This advert ran from Jan 1901 to June 1902.

Later in 1902 they were advertising for a clerk *The Western Daily Press 5-6-1902*, and early in 1903 also a Junior Clerk, so business must have been good. *The Western Daily Press 1-1-1903*, later in the year they were looking for butchers, *The Western Daily Press 23-9-1903*. In 1907 he was charged with obstruction. *Swindon Advertiser 08-11-1907*.

In 908 a William ILES of South Marston was charged with stealing a side of bacon from the factory, value £2 1s 3d. *Swindon Advertiser 13-11-1908*.

In 1911 William TEGG, of Stratton, died in Victoria Hospital, after being found unconscious and badly injured next to the broken belting of the steam engine. TEGG leaves a widow and grown up family. *Citizen 04-08-1911*. Then on August 23rd there was another death as the 20-year-old son of Mr and Mrs W. J. HAMBRIDGE died of a complicated hernia. *Citizen 15-02-1912*. Advert for Clerk *the Western Daily Press 09-01-1915*.

1928 a Mr Douglas Charles James is listed here in *Swindon Directory* and again in 1930 in Kelly's directory.

In 1947, Brown & Knight Ltd. of Lambeth, London, bacon-curers and food-distributors, acquired it and extended. In 1956 about 50 people were employed in the factory. December 1975 and an appeal was sent to Employment Secretary, Michael Foot, after 200 employees were sacked. The site was redeveloped in 1980's originally as **Texas** which became **Homebase** and was rebuilt as a **Matalan** store by Madford Developments in 2003.

The Stratton Sanitary Steam Laundry became **North Wilts Sanitary Steam Laundry** – Hoddinott & Sons trading from 4th May 1891. There were several reported accidents and mistreatment to animals in local press. In 1894 a Miss Holliday was brought in from London and made manager.

Arthur James Cook, baker of Upper Stratton in 1907. *Swindon Advertiser 08-11-1907.*

J KILMINSTER – builder & decorator at Crossroads, Upper Stratton in 1908.

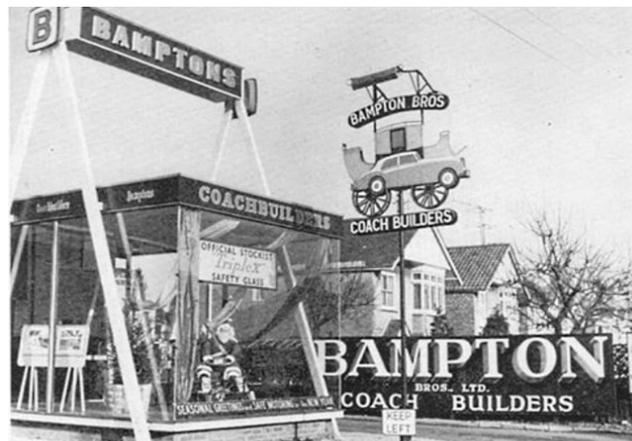
W E Franklin – Baker, Kingsdown/Beechcroft Road, from 1928.

Pratt's Garage, Crossways - was one of the first Garages, selling 'Perfection Spirit' they also had a Lorry, whilst advertising the 'North Pole Expedition', manage to go off track and crash into a house in Highworth Road.

Powder Works built for 1914-1918 war, Blanche McGovern was an early Supervisor and secretary, she would later marry Rev. Maddocks of St. Barnabus. The young women who worked here were paid 30/- a week for a 12-hour, 7-day shift. There was an overhead ropeway to transport the nitrate powder to the Wills Cigarette factory that had been converted to make ammunition. The site was partly demolished and sold off in 1931. The rest of site was first used by the Pioneer Corps during WWII, then as a POW camp housing first Cypriots then Germans. Taken over by Plessey's after the war some of the buildings remain, making up Kembry Park Trading Estate. [Stratton Factory Sale 1931](#)

Whittaker's Mineral Water & Ginger Beer – from shed at back of Lower Stratton Post Office during 1920s and 30s.

From 1929 **The Industrial Co-operative Society** had a shop opposite the Crown, it was first mused at a meeting in 1902 at Upper Stratton Girls school. *Swindon Advertiser 28-03-1902.* it was formerly opened 03.01.31 by Mr W. Dale, J.P. (Management Committee), with tea for 100 in the Infants School and Evening Concert by Co-operative Choir, they became the New Swindon then the Oxford & Swindon Co-operative. These premises were sold in 1985, after the road was widened and some land was lost, to a Security firm and a new store now Midcounties Co-operative opened ¼ mile up Ermin Street towards Kingsdown. The building is now used as a music studio owned by Swindon Pegasus Brass Band. In 1938 they also opened a new shop on Clive Parade, and 1960's one at Beechcroft these are still open.



Bampton Bros., Stratton Road. Formed by Reg & Ted in 1920's they were famous for their ingenious folding variety which they produced until late 1940's, they continued with vehicle repairs and bodywork up until 2003. The buildings have now been demolished and site waiting development into housing. 'Stratton Villas.'



Blues Ivory Coaches, 11 Dores Road, Stratton St. Margaret was housed in old Baptist Church building bought by Eagle Line of Lechade in 1970's.



W.H. Hill & Sons –124 Swindon Road - Cart & Wagon builders with forge.

By 1928 they were advertising, Cart & Wagon building, shoeing and general smith's work, Saw mill, painting and signwriting, as well as poultry houses and firewood.

J Compton Sons & Webb, Swindon Clothing manufacturers had a factory in Stratton which was used to produce uniforms during the wars. The main site was in Station Road, Swindon

Hinders, Diamond Farm, Ermin Street. The story began in 1925 when Percy Hinder became dissatisfied with the quality of the canary seed mixtures available and decided to start making his own recipes. His pet canaries thrived on his mixes and soon became champions, prompting a great interest from other bird fanciers in the area. His schoolboy son, Les, was designated to deliver the goods around the Swindon area on his bicycle, so the family business was born. The first rep was appointed just before WW2 and after 1946 Les took over from his father rapidly increasing the size of the business. By this time Diamond Farm in Ermin Street housed the main part of the business with the landmark retail shop going from strength to strength in Commercial Road Swindon - at that time a busy retail road - a huge amount of 'Swindonians' seem to fondly remember the shop from their childhood - the puppies, kittens, tortoise, chicks, fish and birds, and with the huge mural on the end wall, often pictured in books of local interest. During the next 50 years' bird seed production increased dramatically, together with specialist mixes for rabbits, hamsters, parrots etc. with a customer base covering most of the South West, Wales and the Channel Islands. The shop in Commercial Road was sold in the late 60's and a new store opened in Havelock Street. Meanwhile a small retail shop was growing back in Ermin Street. The Havelock Street shop closed in 1979 and a

much larger pet shop was built at Stratton. During the late 80's the business started a move towards its present form - a fishing superstore. The angling connection was already in place with many of the seeds in the bird foods 'crossing over' to be incorporated into carp baits - a booming market at this time. The introduction of fishing bait and tackle into the retail shop at Stratton caused quite a stir in the angling world at the time as no other shop had the vast array of seeds etc that Hinders could offer. The pet shop was gradually being taken over by the fishing side of the business and a decision was made in the late 90's to open a Fishing Superstore on a new site at Manor Garden Centre. The bird seed production was sold to another producer and eventually in October 1999 the whole site was sold for development and the business said goodbye to Stratton St Margaret, it's home for over 50 years. 14 years on we are still here at Manor Garden Centre, now a 4th generation family business, possibly one of the few original Swindon family businesses, looking forward to reaching their 100th birthday!

Nigel E Cole supplied delivery lorries for Hinders.

In 1936 **George Brickell** establish a garage on Highworth Road. St. Margarets Garage was originally a wooden structure with petrol pumps on the pavement. The current building was completed after the WWII in 1946 and continued to sell petrol until 2009.

In Swindon Road in front of the lake was **Claridge's** shop & off license demolished in 1973 and next to it The Green Garage owned by the Loveridge family, it is believed Hugh Gaitskell the politician and David Niven the film star filled up here, this became an Esso garage which closed in late 1990's finally being developed as Owen Court in 2008.

West End Road although looking like a little local housing estate has an Industrial Estate at its end with small garage businesses, this was originally a builder's yard behind a small bungalow owned by Powdrell family, in addition for many years G & K Bodies also had a car repair garage half way up on left hand side.



Vickers Supermarine – (The site was half in South Marston, half in Stratton)

With the likelihood of war, the Air Ministry agreed to the building of an Aircraft manufacturing site in 1938 to be run by Short Brothers Ltd was to shadow the Phillips and Powis Aircraft Ltd factory at Woodley, near Reading. Phillips & Powis had their factory on the Highworth Road and manufactured aircraft, originally wooden framed, a 1000 Milos 'Master' trainer were built for Spitfire pilots then from 1941-44, during WWII they built 121 Mark 21 Spitfires, with a further 50 Seafires some Stirling bombers and Mini subs, Vickers Supermarine bought the site at the end of WWII. By the 1950's the Attacker is in production followed by the Vickers Supermarine Swift, a jet fighter and holder of the world air speed record 1953/4 at 737 mph entered RAF service en-mass 1955. The last aircraft built on the site was the Scimitar in 1961. Over the years, Vickers also had Hydraulics, Medical, Nuclear, Mixing & Compound, Radiation, Design & Procurement and general Engineering Divisions on the site. The latter besides making automobile parts for many British car Manufacturers did produce entire light cars at one stage. Called the Frisky, it was the first car with a fiberglass body and there were three and four wheeled varieties produced. Although they advertised themselves as being at South Marston, they were always within the Stratton boundary. The airfield site is now Honda UK factory; the original works site is now a trading estate used by a lot of major companies including Marks & Spencers. In 1968: Vickers revealed that equipment manufactured at its South Marston works were used in the first heart transplant, which was carried out on December 3, 1967.

R & K Wise's bakery, Green Road. Using the former NAAFI bakery built in 1942 Wises's was founded after the war, expanding to Groundwell Estate They made cakes for a lot of major outlets including Marks & Spencer, the same cakes, but not in posh boxes, were also sold under their own label. The business finally closed in March 2001 after being bought by Northern Foods with a loss of 540 jobs, the buildings were demolished in 2001 for housing and is now Wise Close. (note – Roger & his brother were Speedway Riders)

Corona – next to Wise's, door to door soft drink deliveries.

The Main Post office was next to the Crown

1855-1867 Richard FISHER

1875 Richard SNOOKER

1889 James HERBERT

1895-1911 Alfred Edward HOLDMAN

1915-28 it was run by H WHITAKER who also sold Stratton postcards.

1930's-70's Mr & Mrs Arthur HEATH (also ran Exchange in back room)

1970s -86 Cyril HEATH

Upper Stratton Post Office was in St Philips Road

1889-1928 Frank ASHE

1930 Charles MARTIN

1948 C T MASLIN

Other Local Businesses: -

Pam COOK ran the Cycle store and petrol pumps in Beechcroft Road on corner of Dore's Road.

F then W J BENDELL – 37 Dore's Road in 1950's, newsagent

Richardson & Rabbetts at Beechcroft was the well-known local Newsagents, and tobacconist's store, then occupied by a Hardware store

GORE & Son, 187 Kingsdown Road was the local butcher, Son Basil had taken over by time street had been renamed to Beechcroft Road, later replaced by Beasant's, and there was a Fish & Chip shop next door,

1924-1939 Mr Alfred MORSE, 3 Green Road, milkman, kept his horse 'Topper' in field next to Wheatsheaf in Dore's Road

P R ANNS – 17 Wildern Square – Coal & Coke Merchant

K E BIFFIN – 32 Bradley Road – Agricultural Engineer had stand at 1969 Swindon Exhibition.

C DAY, coal merchant, 1 West End Road.

C DUNN & Sons, builders, Highworth Road.

J GIBBS, 20 Highworth Road, tailor.

G R GRUBB, 70 Kingsdown Road, baker.

1928 Business Directory

- F SKINNER, baker, 22 St. Phillip's Road
- Mrs MATTHEWS, shopkeeper, 60 St. Phillip's Road.
- J PEARCE, haulier, 60 ST. Phillip's Road.
- J W OAKLEY, grocer, 13 Dore's Road.
- J WARD, grocer & newsagent, 27 Dore's Road,
- E J PAGE, newspaper agent, 6 Shrivenham Road.
- G TURNER, blacksmith, 7 Shrivenham Road
- F STOCKWELL, motor engineer, 9 Shrivenham Road,
- F B SMITH, draper, 30 Cricklade Road
- C P J PETTIFORD, boot repairer, 35 Cricklade Road
- H. W. Pope, builder, 44 Cricklade Road,
- H G WESTMACOTT, motor engineer, 3 Highworth Road,
- A E PONTING, milk retailer, 1 Churchway,
- W TOWNSEND, wheelwright, 10 Hyde Road,
- W H J SPENCER, cooper, 51 Hyde Road.

1930's

- Shaun Trowbridge, undertaker.

Stratton Park Crossroads

1914 – Edward James COLE, baker

1917 - JACKSON, grocer

Ewart W HILL – 2 Oxford Road, Garden sheds & fencing.

William Henry Hill, portable house builder, 4 Oxford Road. 1930

Bramhill Sawmill was just up Oxford Road on the site of the old brickworks, Burden & Evergreen Close's now cover this area.

HILL's Cycles, a cycle shop and petrol pumps, near to where Weymss Lodge is today.

1948 E Cook

Mark FOREST, wheelwright, in 1899

Alf PAGE, Newsagents, Post Office

Stratton Fuels – Wanborough Road

Oxford Road

F M & H O HOLLAND, Post Office.

Douglas George BRUCKINGTON, motor engineer 1930

Miss Gwen ALDWORTH, tea rooms 1930

Hyde Road

8 Mabel & Lilian LOOKER, Grocery shop. In 1905, 1928 J F LOOKER resident.

18 - C T HAZEL General store

46 - Hazel GODWIN, bakery, then run by Brown's a relative, closed in 1990's, now a private house.

Blackwells Fuchsia Nursery – Set up by John Blackwell in the 1960's this Nursery was situated behind the houses in Kingsdown Road. Their plants received several Gold Awards. In the 1980's it moved to the far end of Hyde Road and has now become the Swindon Garden Centre and is no longer strictly in the parish, the boundary being moved south some 100 metres several years ago. As Blackwells it was well known in the Fuchsia Trade and at its height had a collection of about 300 to 350 varieties.

Ermin Street/Station Road

Charles William FREETH, printer, 7/8 Station Road

C W GILL, shopkeeper, 9 Station Road 1928/30.

F HARRIS, fish fryer, 11 Station Road

W M DUCK, painter & decorator, 21 Station Road

Fred TOWNSEND, shopkeeper 1930

15 Robert RICHARDS, barber

25 William George MILLER, dairyman 1928/30

26 H HILL, 1928 is a Motors proprietor.

28 Frederick JONES – Grocer

32 William Bramwell HILL, shopkeeper, 1930.

55 John C PEAPPELL – baker in 1939.

58a Arthur STANSBURY, shopkeeper in 1928. No. 64 in 1930.

61 Annie BARNES, shopkeeper 1930.

74-75 J & H OTTON, draper & outfitter.

81-85 H C & E M CORNABY, store, next to school. Bought in 1949 from Albert Iles's, who had it from at least 1939, who used to supply oil to most of local villages. The shop finally closed in 1997 and was converted to housing.

89 W E JONES – Builder & Decorator

92 Wilfred CLEMENTS General Stores in 1939, Mr Dix chippy, then Bookmakers (William Hills, Terry Downes, Bernie Halls also Lou Macari), now Pearce's Funeral Parlour.

94 (was no,14-15 in 1939) Albert W J Sparks, then Ducks, was K P Wayne Grocer 1970's now Allen

& Harris Estate agent.

96 R H & M J Thompson were butchers later became 'Ethels' General Stores.

97 Doctors

98 Barclay's Bank.

99 Mrs LEVIOURS 1950's, Stratton Drapery 1970's, then Allen Welding Supplies 1980's, now Jazzie Paws dog grooming.

100 St Margaret's Hair Fashions – Tony MOULDING, Edward CHESHIRE 1970's, Ron's, Glen's, Scarrot's, now Dom's Barbers.

101 Bon Marchè Mr & Mrs CULLIMORE, 1967 Lloyds Chemist Donald R SLATER, now Fazes Hair Salon.

126 (was no.30 in 1939) Keene's grocers, wine & spirits, bought in 1901 from Clack until 30's In 1906 was part of Horniman's Tea advert *Swindon Advertiser 26-01-1906*. then Harold Field, later run by Major Thomas J Brown In 1970's.

138 (no.37 on 1939) Miss Mary Barnes, sweetshop, closed in 1949.

161 Eden's, Hunts Sweet shop.

168 Leslie P Hinders – Bird seed 1970's.

169(was 157 in 1939) Hilda Forest, butchers, now private house.

172 Smiths then E Ross Bakers, Charles Sinclair 1970's.

194 E R Oram, Florist.

214 Rogers the greengrocers became Cooksey's, Charlie W Reynolds, was a SPAR in 1990's.

215 Ermin Street - 1954 saw the conversion of the front room to a shop.

221 John & Betty REYNOLDS, Butchers, demolished, now Denton Close.

225? Empty shop 1970.

262 Beatrice HALL – grocer 1970's.

268 The Regent Filling Station, National Petrol (Fred Gray) in the 50s 60s, then Wooster's.

270 Frederick gray – Furniture Remover 1970's.

280 Dairy, Miller then Hill.

Swindon Road –

Thomas VOLLER, baker at The Green in 1866

Joseph SELWOOD, shopkeeper at The Green 1872-1876

Nelson LOVERAGE, marine dealer in 1928, Iron Manufacturer in 1930.

1 - Lloyds Bank became Tolls Estate Agent, then Haart Estate Agent
B.O.C.

11 - Frank COOK, builder (built several houses at the bottom of Swindon Road, opposite West End Road. He also built some houses in Wanborough Road and Oxford Road near to the White Hart became H C LOOKER's Builder & Undertaker (now no. 8), later SGB Scaffolding yard.

15 – F G OCKWELL, carpenter, in 1928.

35 – Mrs ROBERTS, grocer in 1928.

75 - A J TURNER – St Margaret's Forge, Metalworking – Now site of UNITE Union office.

104a - Better Motor Services – local coach company.

108 – Robert COOKSEY – Grocer & Provisions

109 – Edward CARPENTER – Butcher

118 – LOVERAGE's Garage (c.1939), taken over by Roy Baldwin, became **ESSO Garage**, Closed 24/09/2004. Was demolished and site is now Owen Court.

119 – Harry & Celia CLARIDGE, general store. In 1950's they charged 4d to fish lake behind shop.

120 – Arnold PARKER – Garage

127 – The Glynn, Taxi Service

144 – HAYWARD Bros. Builders & Decorators.

154 – Rising Sun pub became Grocery store owned by W O'CONNELLI, then Berta and Len REYNOLDS, now SLEEMAN's Store, Pool maintenance & Camping Gas suppliers.

167 – A & C SHRIVE 167 Swindon Road all had small stores.

There was also a small Boot & Shoe repair shop owned by Cooke's.

Grange Drive Shops

134– F S Davies Ironmongers 1970's then Hairdressers now PLP Property Consultants and SOLO Hairdressing.

136 – H STEVENS Greengrocer & Nurseryman 1970's, now private house.

144 - General Store – A H WILKENS in 1970's now Premier Store.

150 - S & N M BAILEY - Newsagents, Tobacconists & Sweets 1970's now Richard James Estate Agent.

152 - Fish & Chip Shop – originally a Dry Cleaners outlet, Fish & chips were started by Eddie & Rosie JONES in 1964 (Grange Drive Fish Bar), became NOFF's in 1984, then The Fish Company in 2015.

Stratton Timber in Pidgeon House Lane.

Garage - 67 Bridge End Road, originally C W Smith Motors in 1960s, now BP franchise.

Clive Parade, Cricklade Road – built 1938 then extension by Braziers c1958.

Bretts , Wheelers butchers, Bizley the greengrocer, Prior King, chemist, boot menders, cycle shop , then the Co-op, 23 Branch the Manager was a Mr Warner in the late 1950s

Lucknow Garage – Stratton Road, since at least 1960's



Pressed Steel bought Parsonage Farm in 1954 and the first sod was cut in February 1955, as an extension of the Oxford plant to allow the production of car bodies. *Builders - H.W. Weedon & Partners*

A full history can be found [here](#)

Autoprime Ltd, Europa Park, Parsonage Road - A motor car panel supplier to Rover and Unipart. (1963 – 2008)

Howard Tenen's was first established in 1953, the Company moved to Stratton St Margaret in 1958. It became a PLC in 1966, and in June that year saw a strike as 200 of their workers walked out over bonus payments. They were taken over in 1982 by Espley-Tyas, to become part of their European wide group of companies. In 2014 the company moved a lot of business back to the site.



Deloro-Stellite Factory was built in 1959 on the old Parsonage farm site by Hills. Stellite was a special non-rust material used in the production of early prosthetic limbs. Feb 17, 1970 all 300 staff went on strike for 2s 6d pay rise. The company used to commission an artist every year to paint a local scene. Demolished in 1999. The site is now 'Equity Trading Centre'.



Linton & Hirst who produced nickel laminations from 1961 (moved from Harrow & Wealdstone) was located on Parsonage Industrial Estate with 100-200 employees, in 1993 it was sold to Schroder Ventures who again sold it in 1997 to T. T. Electronics it finally closed in 2002 after being bought by Magnetic Metals Corporation, headquartered in Camden, New Jersey, USA.

J W Q Transport – based on Linton & Hirst Site, 1960's to 1980's.

G & K Motors, 21 West End Road – Well-known local body shop with second garage at Shrivenham. Bob Grand was the G. Also, sold cars at 'Stratton Motor Company'. Started in 1970's it was sold for housing in 1998 now 'The Fields'.

ARC Ltd Southern had Cement Works in Ermin Street, latterly a concrete batching works (Hanson Quarry Products) now demolished to build "Strata" housing estate in 2012. This was originally owned by W H Iles & Sons.

Greenbridge (84 acres) -

British Road Services transferred from Groundwell Road and had their site at Greenbridge during the 1960's to 1990's then moving to Radway Road, in 2000 it merged with Ocean Group plc to form [Excel plc](#), closing when they lost the BMW contract. Their original Depot was used as a Sunday market for a while and is now the Greenbridge Retail site.



W H Smith & Sons built their UK Distribution centre at Greenbridge in 1965/6 (*built by H. F. Bailey (consultant architects Johns, Slater & Haward)*), with their major staff move being in 1975. The 380,000 sq. warehouse set on 17 acres was opened by Alderman H G Lewis on July 15th, 1967. It was announced in Feb 2017 that they were redeveloping part of the site to a housing development. The Warehouse is to remain.

Video of opening ceremony - [here](#)



Brown Brothers, Greenbridge 1967-2000. Offices built for £210,000, wholesale distributors of motor cycle, tractor, automotive and electrical components. Now demolished and developed into blocks of flats. (Twickenham Close)

Dutton- Forshaw – Dorcan Way, Austin Rover dealers became Swindon Motor Park, later extended to include Jaguar Dealership. 2017 old buildings demolished for re-development and a new Jaguar/Land Rover showroom/workshop completed in 2018



Crosby Doors, (Crosby & Co of Faversham) 7 acres. Greenbridge 1967. (became Vicaima in 1996). Became main operating centre for company in 2015.

Torin Sifan, a producer of Energy-efficient air movement products, based at Drake's Way, Greenbridge, Swindon SN3 3JB circa. 1964.



Les Smith Haulage started in 1975 was originally in Dores Road now located on Greenbridge Industrial Estate.

Other Greenbridge businesses of 1960/70's,

Allied Vintners Ltd

G U S Transport Ltd

Logica

A P Jefferys – Art Printers

Kix Industrial Services – Industrial Laundry

Oppenheimer – Food casings

Reliance Controls (Electrical switchgear) – opened in 1966 later became Spectral Reliance (*designed by Sir Norman Foster & Lord Richard Rogers as Team Four*). Demolished in 1990.

Salamandre – Industrial trunking

Shap Perrin – Clothing distributors

Swindon Cold Storage

Thorn E.M.I. made Video discs then CD's.

Torrington

Midland Bank Ltd

Greenbridge Retail Park – Original planning consent granted 1st July 1994, site opened in 1995/6. Park in three areas,

Retail Units -

Next,

Olympus Sports (closed), JJB Sports(closed), unit split and became Costa & Homesense in 2015,

Brantano(closed), Wilko (2017),

Childrens World (closed), Mothercare, (closed Mar 2020)

Argos,

Rosebry's(closed), Carpetright (2014, closed Jan 2020),

Boots,

Paul Simon(closed), Tapi (2017),

Texas(rebranded), Homebase, (closed Dec 2019)

Currys, Currys/PC World (2017 merged 2018)

P C World (merged with Currys 2018)

Maplins (closed 2018)

Laura Ashley,

Staples(closed), Office World (2017-2019)

Focus DIY became Matalan.

Leisure/Food –

Nov 2006 Warner Bros, later replaced by Empire Cinemas,

Gala Bingo,

Nuffield Health & Fitness,

Frankie & Benny's,

Chiquito,

KFC,

Pizza Hut,

McDonalds rebuilt and 2nd storey added 2019.

Other businesses –

Mercedes Benz

Big Yellow Storage



Honda plant (HUM)

For history go [here](#)

Sainsbury's – Bridgemoor – opened in November 1987, after previous planning application to open store at Greenbridge in 1982 were turned down, store was refurbished in 2001 and again in 2013. After boundary changes 2014 now in South Marston Parish.

Crest Motel

1980's style hotel, it later became the Madison Hotel, which closed in June 2014. A fire all but destroyed the building, it has since been demolished. After boundary changes 2014 now in South Marston Parish.

St. Margaret's Retail Park

Owned by Complete Retail, the scheme extends 76,660 sq. ft, businesses -

Pets at Home

Dunelm Mills, textile and fabric store in 2003

Hobby Craft

Poundstretcher.

After boundary changes 2014 now in South Marston Parish.

Marshgate

Various small businesses on site of Coopers abattoir.

Eddolls International Transport Ltd, circa.1998

Wace, Radway Road, a printing firm of 90 employees, bought by Ringmark in 2004.

Bathwick Tyres - took Unit T2, Equity Trading Park in 2001, comprising 3,345 sq ft, it was an expansion of the company which had been started by owners Wayne and Sarah Clifford in 1988 and now has almost 30 depots across the region. They were first company on this estate as Evening Advertiser 24th May 2001 reported – 'Tyre Company is on the right track at trade center' Swindon's newest trade centre development has secured its first tenant within three weeks of being completed. The development is based at Hobley Drive, Bathwick Tyres provides MoTs, servicing, brakes, exhausts and tyres. They said the prominent site of the development, just off the A419, was a big factor in choosing to open the new Swindon outlet. Wayne, the managing director, said: "We are extremely pleased to be able to announce the opening of the new Swindon depot and we look forward to building long term relationships with all of those involved with the trade centre and our new customers." Paul Whitmarsh, a partner in Whitmarsh Preece Lockhart, which oversaw the development, said: "The trade centre is proving to be a great success. With our first letting completed, there are two further units now in solicitors' hands and serious interest in another."

Bathstore.com – Unit T4, equity Trading Estate in August 2001.

Indipac Logistics Ltd - Unit 6 Isis Trading Estate Stratton Road. Set up in 2003, to provide pre-packaging function for Honda Logistics Centre for the after-market dealer network.



C 3 Marketing Ltd, Equity Estate – Started in 2004 from a garage this company supplies Signage, and marketing literature for all sizes of business. One of their items was presented to the Queen at the 50th Air Tattoo.

MHA Group - 2005 opened Stratton Lodge & Fitzwarren House, Kingsdown. Private dementia and care homes.

Parsonage Farm 50 acres –

Hobley Drive site originally opened using outbuildings from Delro-Stellite site as Gym & Restaurant, both have now closed

Costcutter

Stratton Kebab house, previously a chippy then Bit Bites.

Subway

S P Computers

Drove Vets

La Beauté

Unit 6 – T H Burrows – Family Butcher and Farm shop, now run by third generation originally opened in Rodbourne around 1940. 6th March 2019 hosted a butchery demonstration for students of Swindon College catering class.

Water Babies – Baby swimming lessons

RPM

A.T.S. Euromaster – tyres etc

I.M.O. Car Wash

Home Bargains on original ALDI site.

Handy Garden Machinery

ALDI 2018 new store on site of Beds Direct.

EUROPA INDUSTRIAL PARK

Tenens Ltd (Original Co to date)

Gronex (2015-2018)

SKU/TRC (2015-2018)

New Horizons (2015-2018)

UK Shuttle/APC 2015-2018)

Bleckman (2018 on)

DHL/ARGOS (2018 on)

Nippon Express (2015 on)

Panacea (2015 on)

KBR (2015 on)

E.C.M. Ltd (2018 on)

Smiths News (2015 on)
Eddie Stobart Ltd (2018 on)
Swindon Trailers (2015 on)
SEWS-E (2018 on)
Imperial (2018 on)
Yusen Ltd (2015-2019)
Omni Channel Fulfillment (2018 on)
MPS(2015-2019)
Wasdell (2018 on)
Consumables Ltd (2018 on)



B & Q – When this site opened in 2011 this was the biggest warehouse in England, opposite the old Vickers site it covers 74,000 sq. meters (135,000 sq. ft) and employs around 500. A second unit nearly as big was added alongside in 2018.

Coleview Parade

C M Mumford – Fish & Chips
D W Cowley – Butcher 1970's
Stratton Hardware
2018
Original Stratton Tandoori
Lee Tim Fish Bar
Oriental Supermarket
Leo's (Hairdressers)
Coleview Express (General store)