



## Minding Mendip

The Mendip Hills are a rich and varied natural resource. For centuries the hills have been a centre for farming and industry, including mining and quarrying. Now they are under greater pressure than ever before - from quarrying, certain types of farming, development, and increasingly, tourism.

Stretching from the island of Steep Holm and the mainland of Brean Down in the west, to Frome in the east, Mendip is a living, working, and increasingly recreational environment.

Some 200 sq kms, from Bleadon to Chewton Mendip is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This was a major achievement of the Society in 1972.

The Mendip Society works to achieve a balance of interests while conserving and protecting Mendip for future generations.

For membership enquiries email:

[membership@mendipsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@mendipsociety.org.uk)

## Who Are We

The Mendip Society is a group of like-minded people who have a love of Mendip and are concerned about its future.

There are individual members of all ages and with widely varying interests, plus groups, organisations and local companies.

The Society liaises with local authorities and other voluntary organisations to achieve its aims.

The Society also runs a small grant scheme to encourage local initiatives.

## Join Us

If you love the Mendip Hills and want to conserve and enjoy the area, why not join us?

Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Society or sign-up online at

[www.mendipsociety.org.uk](http://www.mendipsociety.org.uk)

Application forms can also be obtained by email, contacting us by telephone, or downloaded from our website.

**The Mendip Society, PO BOX 1222,  
CHEDDAR, BS27 3WW**

**[enquiries@mendipsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@mendipsociety.org.uk)  
0845 4092951**



*Caring for the Mendip Hills*

Charity Registration - 262867.



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Membership Guide





photos by Caroline Shipsey. Web site: <http://www.carolineshipsey.co.uk>

## Recreation & Education

The Mendip Society increases the wider appreciation of the area with a programme of walks, talks and visits.

In cooperation with other groups helps to keep rights of way open and encourages quiet use of the countryside.

Represents the interests of recreational organisations on the AONB Partnership.

Publishes a regular full colour Newsletter 'Mendip', plus occasional books and pamphlets.

Through the Heritage Fund helps to improve knowledge of the history of Mendip by supporting archaeological investigations into important sites such as Priddy Circles and Velvet Bottom.

Contributes to the maintenance and expansion of major leisure routes through our representatives on such organisations as the Strawberry Line committee

## Conservation

The Society works to conserve and protect the landscape, archaeological, historical, and natural features of the area.

Helps protect wildlife habitats and researches and encourages the use of sources of green energy where compatible with the environment.

Undertakes projects such as the renovation of Smitham Chimney, the last lead smelting chimney on Mendip.

Acquires land in order to conserve and maintain it, whilst providing public access, such as Slader's Leigh Local Nature Reserve.

Examines environmental and other issues that affect the Mendip Hills, such as wind turbines, tidal barrages, heavy good traffic in small villages; and determines policies to address these concerns.

Campaigns for the extension of the AONB to cover all of Mendip.

## The Living & Working Environment

The Society monitors and comments on planning applications where these may conflict with the Society's policies and aims.

We also keep a special eye environmental issues such as quarrying, waste disposal and pollution.

Whilst working to safeguard the living and working environment we recognise the increased importance of recreation and tourism, making our efforts to safeguard the visual amenity of the landscape even more vital.

Mendip's industrial past, largely through mining and quarrying, has left a legacy that we endeavour to preserve, but it has also been damaging. Fortunately we now fully understand the importance of our natural heritage and the necessity to protect it.