A walkers' guide to the geology and landscape of eastern Mendip

Andy Farrant with contributions from Elaine Burt, Sharon Pilkington, Ian Thomas and Mark Woods

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The website to accompany this guidebook can be found at: https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mendips/

Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

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Useful information

How to get to Mendip

Car: The Mendips are about 25 km south-west of Bristol, approximately one hour's drive via the A37 to Shepton Mallet, the A39 to Wells, or 20 km from Bath via the A367 to Radstock or the A36 to Frome. The A371 connects Weston-super-Mare with Wells and Shepton Mallet, while the A361 links Shepton Mallet and Frome.

Rail: Frome, Bruton, Castle Cary and Bath are on the national rail network.

Bus: Wells is a hub for local bus services, including services to Weston-super-Mare, Bristol and Bath (via Gurney Slade). Local buses link Wells and Shepton Mallet and Frome, either via Stoke St Michael, Leigh-on-Mendip and Chantry, or Cranmore and Nunney. There are also buses from Frome to Bath via Mells and Radstock. National Express coach services operate from Wells to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, York, Birmingham, London, London Heathrow Airport and Weymouth. Radstock, Frome and Shepton Mallet are also served by National Express services.

Cycle: The National Cycle Route 24 runs from Frome to Radstock, via Mells. Part of the route is along the old railway line between Radstock and Frome.

Tourist information

The Mendips are a popular tourist destination and there are many facilities for visitors. A huge amount of information is available from the Tourist Information Centres located at:

Cheddar Gorge: The Cliffs, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3QE. E-mail: cheddar.tic@sedgemoor.gov.uk Tel: 01934 744071. Fax: 01934 744614.

Frome: The Round Tower, 2 Bridge Street, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1BB. Tel: 01373 467271. Fax: 01373 451733. E-mail: frome.tic@ukonline.co.uk. www.frometouristinfo.co.uk/

Shepton Mallet: 70 High Street, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5AS. Tel: 01749 345258. E-mail: sheptonmallet.tic@ukonline.co.uk. www.sheptonmallet-touristinfocentre.co.uk/

Wells: Town Hall, Market Place, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2RB. Tel: 01749 672552. E-mail: wells.tic@ukonline.co.uk.

Sedgemoor Services: M5 (southbound). (Closed Sat & Sun in the winter months). Tel: 01934 750833, Fax: 01934 750646. E-mail: somersetvisitorcentre@somerset.gov.uk

The Mendip Hills AONB office can provide information about activities within the Mendip Hills AONB. Their office is located in the heart of the Mendips at the Charterhouse Centre, near Blagdon, BS40 7XR, Tel. 01761 462338. Their website has much useful information on the Mendip Hills www.mendiphills.org.uk/

Accommodation

Most of the local towns have a variety of hotel, bed and breakfast, hostel and self-catering accommodation. There are also a large number of campsites and caravan sites within easy reach of the Mendip Hills. Some local caving clubs also have huts with bunkhouse accommodation.

Details can be obtained from the tourist information sites listed above.

Figures

(Front cover)

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(Figure 96) River Mells, Great Elm.

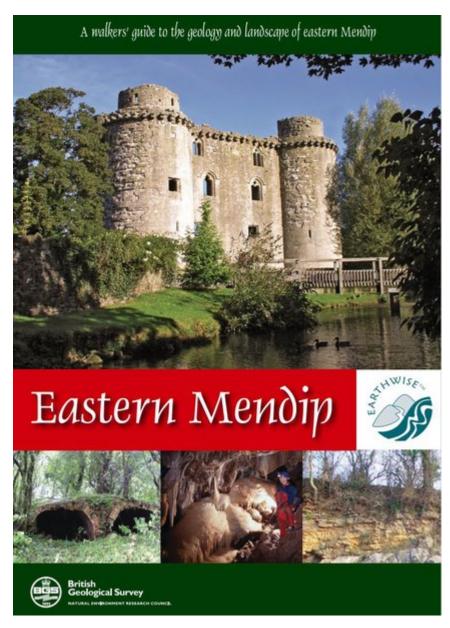
(Figure 97) Cranmore Woods.

(Figure 98) Moorewood Colliery incline, near Gurney Slade.

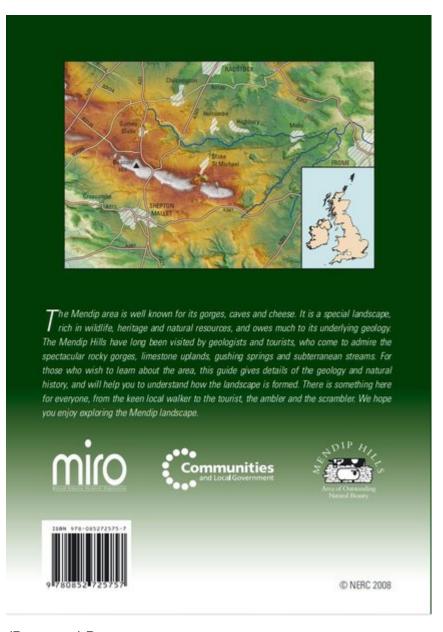
(Figure 104) The flat unconformity surface at Tedbury Camp Quarry. © Martin Whiteley, Barrisdale Ltd.

(Figure 105) Mossy drystone wall. © Sharon Pilkington.

(Figure 106) Old mill waterworks, Harridge Wood.



(Front cover) Front cover.



(Rear cover) Rear cover.



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