

Our Outstanding Visitor Guide

Map and Information

Welcome

You are visiting a region that is uniquely special. This **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** is special because of the variety and diversity of the landscape, together with its ancient history. Natural beauty and ancient history combine to create one of the most attractive areas in England.

An Ancient Landscape

The area is covered with ancient Iron Age hill forts, burial mounds, boundary dykes and field systems all indicating evidence of past times. Ackling Dyke, one of the most spectacular Roman roads in Britain crosses the region. What's more the use of Cranborne Chase as an ancient hunting ground for royalty and nobility until 1829 means that the positions of many historic estates have had a substantial effect on the landscape we see around us. It is also here in the heart of the area that the science of archaeology was born, with the excavations by General Pitt Rivers at the end of the 19th century.

Today substantial areas of woodland still require traditional management, such as coppicing, in order to sustain their diverse wildlife and productivity.

- A Melbury Hill
- B Old Waldour Castle

www.historiclandscape.co.uk

A Human Landscape

People have lived in and shaped the region for over 6,000 years. The scenery reflects how people have worked the land, shaping it to their needs over time.

As we put ever more pressure on the landscape today through traffic, tourism, housing, business development, together with changes in farming practices, everything we do has an impact on the landscape. The AONB Partnership seeks to balance these demands in ways that do not compromise the landscape qualities for those generations that come after us. Responsibility for looking after the area as a whole lies with everyone including landowners, farmers, people living and working here, visitors, local authorities and many many more.

- C Gold Hill Fair, Shaftesbury

Did you know?

- The AONB is 983 square kilometres or 380 square miles large
- We have over 1,500 km (927 miles) of public Rights of Way, equivalent to the distance from Southampton to Edinburgh and back again
- Farming is by far the biggest land use with more than 89% of the CCWWD AONB classed as farmland
- There are at least 550 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and more than 50 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the AONB
- The long distance footpaths of the Wessex Ridgeway, Jubilee Trail and the Monarch's Way all criss-cross the region
- Almost 14% of the UK's important chalk grassland is found here
- The AONB abounds with many ancient woodlands
- There are over 350kms (220 miles) of chalk rivers
- We have over 33,000 residents within the AONB, which is one of the lowest population densities in the South West.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equal in landscape status to National Parks

www.woodfair.org.uk

What is an AONB?

An **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** is a national landscape designation.

Along with National Parks, AONBs are the most special landscapes in the country belonging to an international family of Protected Areas. There are 41 AONBs in England and Wales and the Cranborne Chase West Wiltshire Downs AONB is the 6th largest.

The AONB was designated in 1981. An AONB Partnership works to conserve and enhance this unique landscape, made up of the 9 Local Authorities involved and other relevant organisations. The AONB team is responsible for implementing the Management Plan and monitoring progress over time so that these fine landscapes remain here for our children's children to enjoy.

To get in touch please contact:

Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB
4 Castle Street, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PZ

T: 01725 517417

E: info@cranbornechase.org.uk

www.cwwdaonb.org.uk

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Landscapes for life

CRANBORNE CHASE AND WEST WILTSHIRE DOWNS
One of the AONB Family



Working with you to keep this living landscape special

1. Longleat

Longleat, the star of BBC's hugely popular Animal Park series invites you to discover some of the world's most magnificent animals in the UK's first Safari Park...and much much more!

Warminster BA12 7NW
T: 01985 844400
W: www.longleat.co.uk

2. Stourhead

Discover the unforgettable magic of this world-famous 18th century landscape garden, Palladian mansion, parkland, woods and chalk downs.

Stourton Warminster BA12 6QD
T: 01747 841152
W: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stourhead

3. Bush Farm Bison Centre

Visit that rare thing – a Bison and Elk farm. Complete the trail visiting other creatures, a playground, gallery and shop for delicious Bison and Elk meats.

Bush Farm, West Knoyle, Warminster BA12 6AE
T: 01747 830263
W: www.bisonfarm.co.uk

4. Farmer Giles Farmstead

Visit this family farm attraction with play areas, restaurant and gift shop. Open throughout the year for birthday parties and school parties. Holiday chalets and camping available.

Teffont Salisbury SP3 5QY
T: 01722 716338
W: www.farmergiles.co.uk

5. Howard's House Country Hotel

Howard's House nestles in the Nadder Valley in the tranquil village of Teffont Evias. Comfortable rooms and fine dining at its best.

Teffont Evias Salisbury SP3 5RJ
T: 01722 716392
W: www.howardshousehotel.co.uk

6. Old Wardour Castle – English Heritage

The castle is a stunning residence, in a lakeside setting, besieged in the Civil War. Discover its secret, climb to the battlements or just stop for a picnic. Open throughout the year.

Located off A30 2 miles SW of Tisbury SP3 6RR
T: 01747 870487
W: www.english-heritage.org.uk/oldwardour

7. Manor Farm Holiday Cottages

4 star holiday cottages on a working organic farm with stunning views of the AONB downs. Wonderful walking, home produced organic beef, lamb and game.

Manor Farm Sutton Mandeville Salisbury Wiltshire SP3 5NL
T: 01722 714226
W: www.holidaycottagewiltshire.co.uk

8. Springhead Centre for Arts, Environment and Personal Development

Picturesque residential/day centre popular for school/youth trips, adult workshops/retreats; weddings; garden open days and public events.

Fontmell Magna Shaftesbury SP7 ONU
T: 01747 811853
W: www.springheadtrust.org.uk

9. Larmer Tree

Eleven-acre Victorian pleasure gardens with unique buildings and majestic trees. An enchanting and tranquil setting for a relaxing visit.

T: 01725 511228/516971
W: www.larmer-tree.co.uk

10. Rushmore Golf Club

A superb 18 Hole Championship golf course set in stunning landscapes. Open to members and visitors seven days a week.

T: 01725 516391
W: www.rushmoregolfclub.co.uk

11. Larmer Tree Festival

A five day festival held in lush Victorian gardens on the beautiful Cranborne Chase. Running annually every July, see our website for forthcoming dates and headline acts.

Larmer Tree Tollard Royal Dorset
Tel: 01725 552300
W: www.larmer-tree-festival.co.uk



12. Breamore House and Countryside Museum

Set in its own beautiful parkland the grandeur and magnificence of the house has changed little over the past 400 years. Seasonal opening hours, guided tours, please check before travel.

Breamore Nr. Fordingbridge SP6 2DF
T: 01725 512468
W: www.breamorehouse.com

13. Rockbourne Roman Villa

A wealth of historic interest spanning the period from Iron Age to the 5th Century AD. See website for details.

T: 01725 518541
W: www.hants.gov.uk/rockbourne-roman-villa

14. Royal Signals Museum

Discover the fascinating history of the Royal Signals through interactive technology displays and fun-trails. Women at War Exhibition.

Blandford Camp Dorset DT1 1 8RH
T: 01258 482248
W: www.royalsignalsmuseum.com

15. The Langton Arms

AA Rosette, Civil Ceremony Licence and wedding reception function/skittle alley seating up to 80 people. Self catering thatched cottage.

Tarrant Monkton Blandford DT1 1 8RX
T: 01258 830225
W: www.thelangtonarms.co.uk

16. La Fosse at Cranborne

Fine food and comfortable accommodation. Offering the best of local, seasonally sourced produce in a traditional British style, served and cooked by a husband and wife team. Offering B&B, evening meals as well as Sunday lunches and dinners to the public.

La Fosse London House Cranborne Dorset BH21 5PR
T: 01725 517604
W: www.la-fosse.com

17. Honeybrook Farm

Adventure playground, farm animals, tractor trailer rides, all-weather activities, outdoor pursuits, butchers selling home-reared Honeybrook meats & free range eggs, also farm shop & café.

Open all year Tues – Sun (& Bank Holidays) 9.30am – 5.00pm
Honeybrook Stanbridge Nr Wimborne BH21 4JD
Tel: 01202 881120
W: www.honeybrook.org

18. Kingston Lacy Estate

The National Trusts largest lowland estate. Over eight thousand acres with 72 miles of footpaths and bridleways, including the historic house, gardens and parkland. Open throughout the year.

Kingston Lacy Wimborne Minster BH21 4EA
T: 01202 883402
W: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Tourist Information Offices

Blandford Forum
Riverside House, West Street
Open All Year
T: 01258 454770

Fordingbridge
Kings Yard
Open April-Sept
T: 01425 654560

Mere
The Square
Open All Year
T: 01747 861211

Salisbury
Fish Row
Open All Year
T: 01722 334956

Shaftesbury & Gillingham
Bell Street
Open All Year
T: 01747 853514
www.shaftesburydorset.com

Warminster
The Central Car Park
Open All Year
T: 01985 218548

Wimborne Minster
The High Street
Open All Year
T: 01202 886116
www.ruraldorset.com



Remember the Countryside Code -
Be Safe, Consider Others, Protect and Leave Things as you find them

