



6

LANDSCAPE TYPES & CHARACTER AREAS

Milton Lane Wookey Hole

6.1 CENTRAL MENDIP P.115

LCA –	A1	Black Down Hill
LCA –	A2	The Mendip Plateau
LCA –	A3	The Harptree Chewton Edge
LCA –	A4	The Mendip South Western Facing Slopes
	A4.1	The Draycott - Westbury Slopes
	A4.2	The Strawberry Belt
	A4.3	Ebbor Gorge and The Upper Axe
	A4.4	The Wells Bowl

6.2 EAST MENDIP (BINEGAR TO FROME) P.137

LCA –	A5	The Maesbury - Cranmore Ridge and Slopes
LCA –	A6	Sheppey Valley - Shepton Mallet, Croscombe & Dinder
LCA –	A7	The Leigh, Stoke & Oakhill Northern Flank
LCA –	A8	The Northern & Eastern Mendip Farmlands
LCA –	A9	The Radstock and Norton Valleys
LCA –	A10	East Mendip Valleys
LCA –	A11	Mendip South Eastern Farmlands

6.3 FROME VALLEY P.177

LCA –	B1	The Upper Frome Valley
	B1.1	The South West Upper Valley
	B1.2	The Garre Hill Greensand Ridge
	B1.3	The Selwood, Berkley & Rudge Ridges
LCA –	B2	Frome Fringes
	B2.1	Marston Gate - Egford Hill and the Leys
	B2.2	The Watcombe Valley and Cuckoo Lane
	B2.3	Gipsy Lane, Berkley Lane to Whitechapple Farm
	B2.4	Frome Bypass and Infrastructure Corridor
	B2.5	Little Keyford and Blatchbridge
LCA –	B3	Lower Frome Valley Spring Gardens, Beckington to Farleigh Hungerford

6.4 COTSWOLD EDGE P.198

LCA –	C1	Foxcote Slopes
LCA –	C2	Buckland / Norton St Philip / Orchardleigh Ridges
LCA –	C3	Wheel Brook/Buckland Valleys

6.5 BATCOMBE DOWNS AND VALLEYS P.208

LCA –	D1	The Downs, Slopes and Valley Heads
LCA –	D2	The Alham Valley

6.6 LIAS LOWLANDS AND RIDGES P.215

LCA –	E1	Whitelake Valley
	E1.1	The Whitelake Valley
	E1.2	The Pilton - Worminster Ridge
LCA –	E2	Brue Valley
	E2.1	Brue Lowlands
	E2.2	Baltonsborough Farmlands and Orchards
LCA –	E3	Polden Ridge
LCA –	E4	Isle of Avalon
LCA –	E5	Pennard Ridge

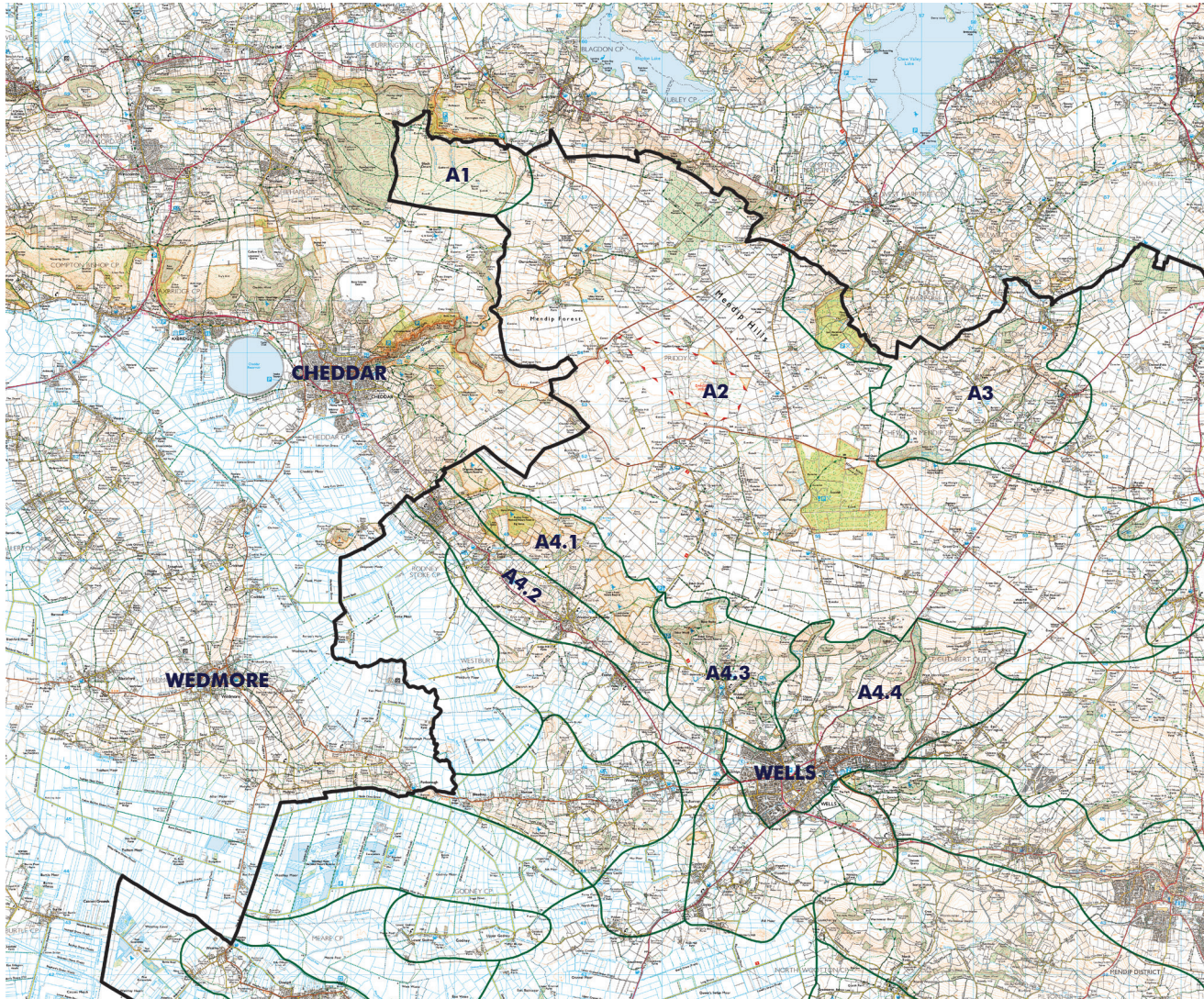
6.7 THE MOORS P.234

LCA –	F1	Stoke Westbury / Knowle Moor
LCA –	F2	Godney / Meare Island
	F2.1	Meare Heath
	F2.2	Queens Sedgemoor
	F2.3	Westhay Meare Island
	F2.4	Godney Island
	F2.5	Meare Pool
	F2.6	Westhay - Meare Moors
LCA –	F3	South Moor and Kennard Moor
LCA –	F4	Butleigh Moor

6.8 WOOKEY ISLANDS P.255

LCA –	G1	Lower Sheppey Valley
LCA –	G2	Bleadney - Wookey Ridge
LCA –	G3	Polsham - Lodge Hill Hillocks

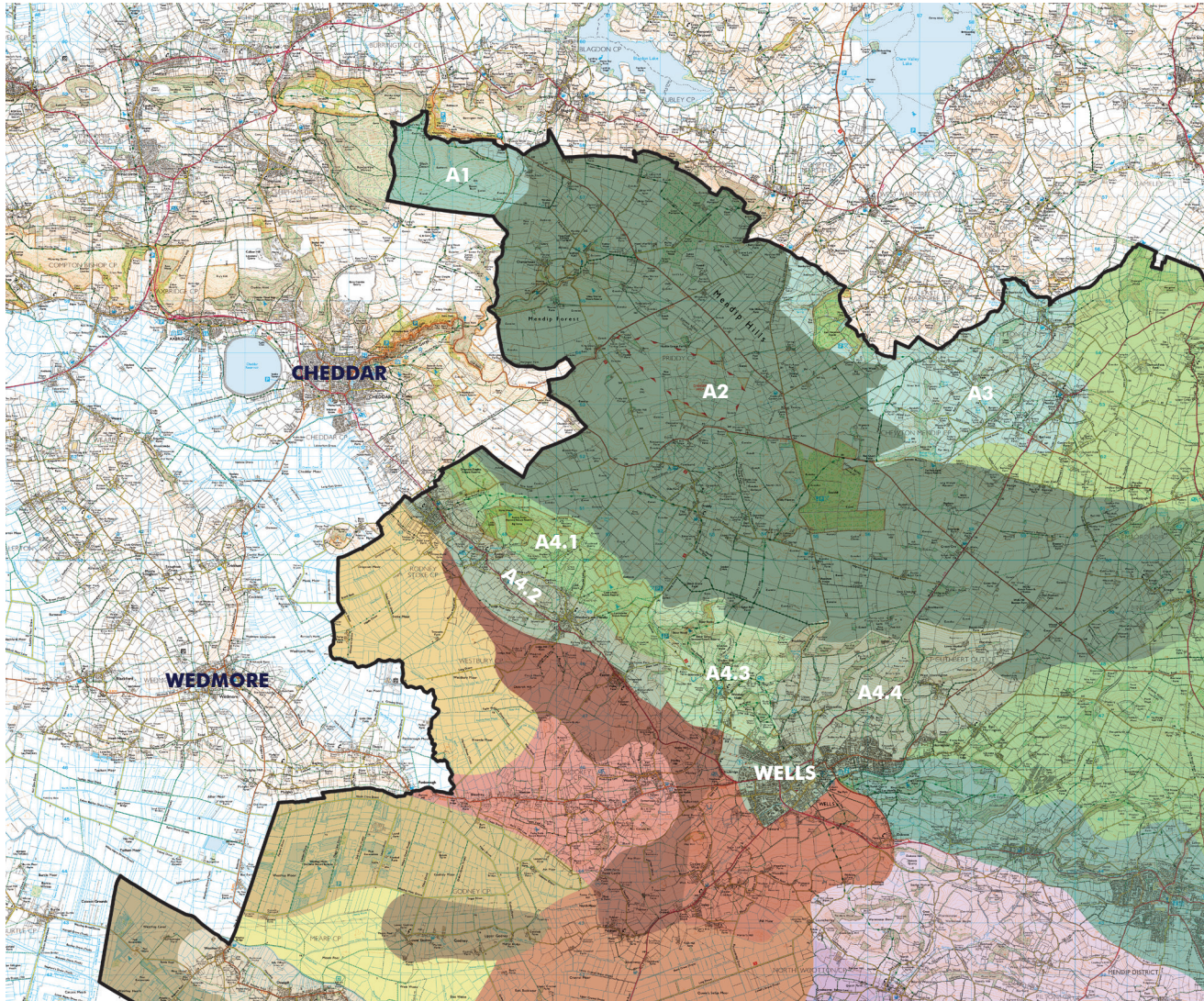
6.1 CENTRAL MENDIP



MENDIP CHARACTER AREAS

- A1** Black Down Hill
- A2** The Mendip Plateau
- A3** The Harptree Chewton Edge
- A4** The Mendip South Western Slopes
 - A4.1** The Draycott Westbury Slopes
 - A4.2** The Strawberry Belt
 - A4.3** Ebbor Gorge and the Upper Axe
 - A4.4** The Wells Bowl

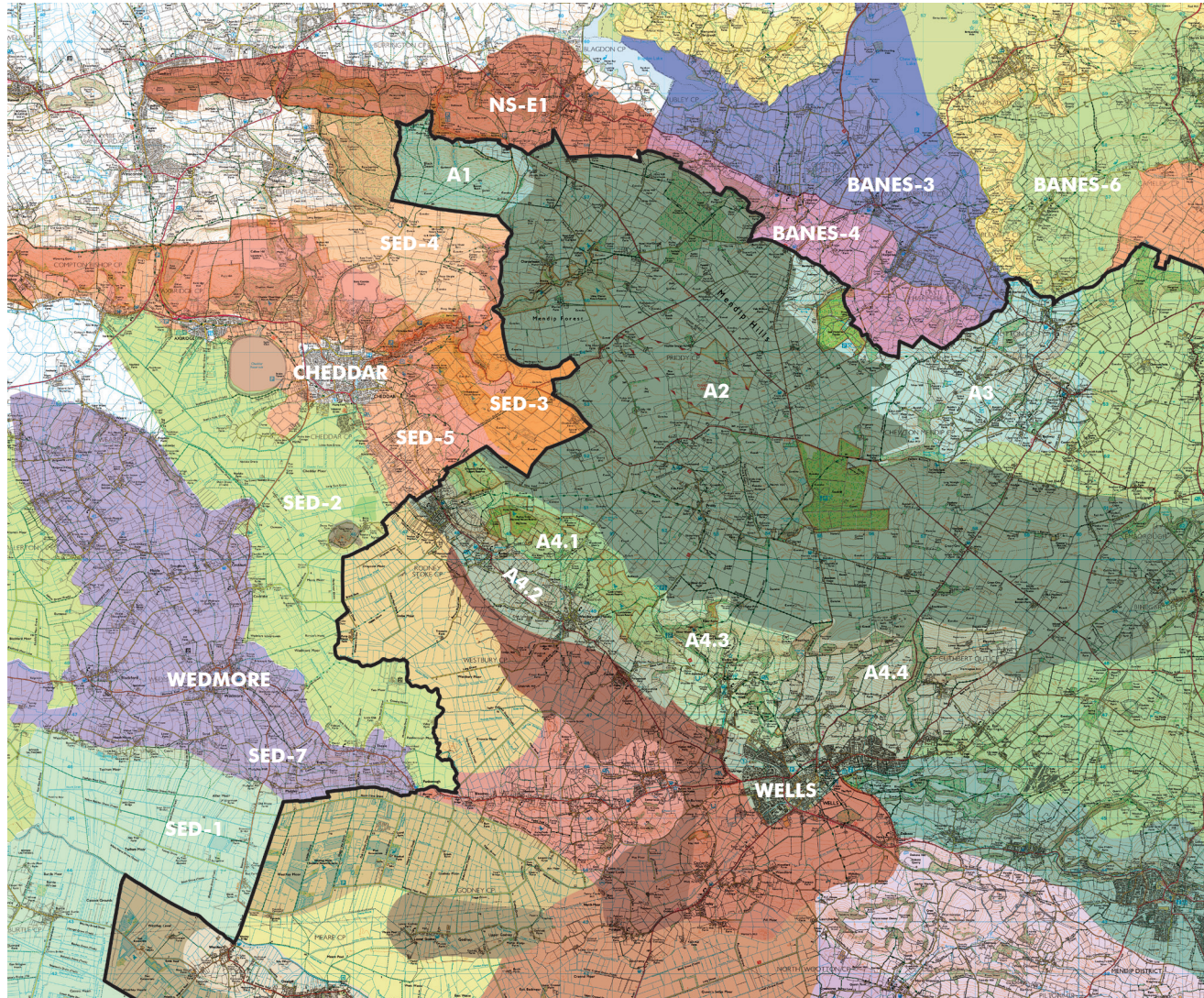
6.1 CENTRAL MENDIP



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6.1 CENTRAL MENDIP



MENDIP CHARACTER AREAS

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ADJACENT CHARACTER AREAS

Bath & North East Somerset

BANES-3	Upper Chew and Yeo Valley
BANES-4	Mendip Slopes
BANES-6	Hinton Blewett and Newton St Low Plateaux Lands

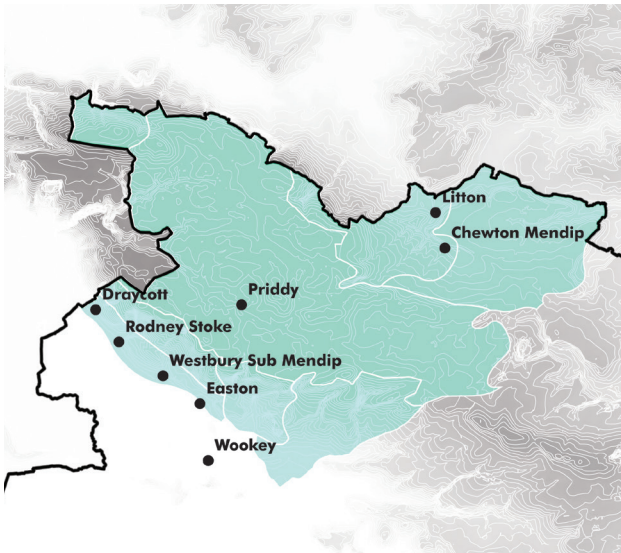
North Somerset

NS-E1	Limestone Ridges and Combes
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Sedgemoor

SED-1	Levels and Moors: Peat Moors
SED-2	Levels and Moors: Clay Moors
SED-3	Mendips: Strawberry Belt and Footslope Villages
SED-4	Mendips: Scarp Slope, West Mendip Summits & Cheddar Gorge
SED-5	Mendips: Mendip Plateau
SED-7	Lowland Hills: Isle of Wedmore

SETTLEMENTS IN CENTRAL MENDIP



Priddy



Chewton Mendip



Litton



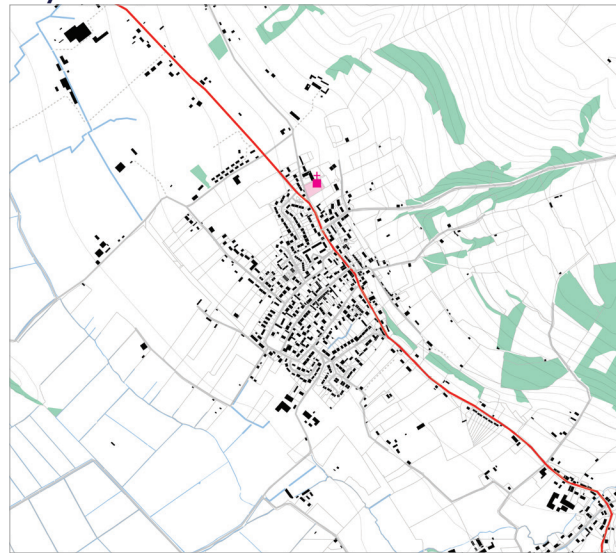
SETTLEMENTS IN CENTRAL MENDIP

Strawberry Line Villages

KEY PLAN



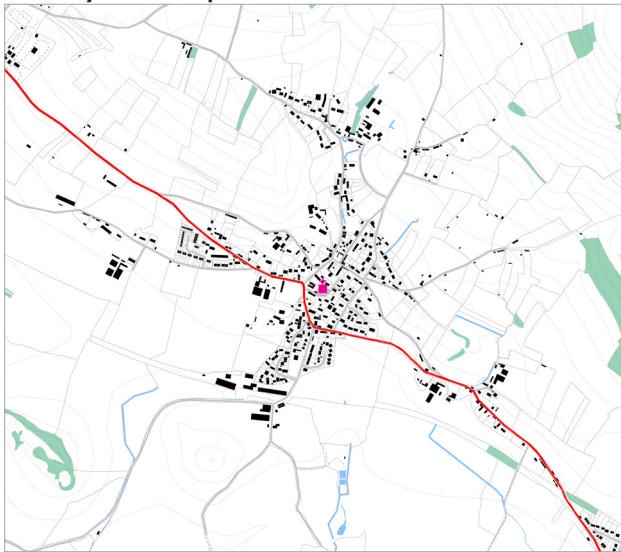
Draycott



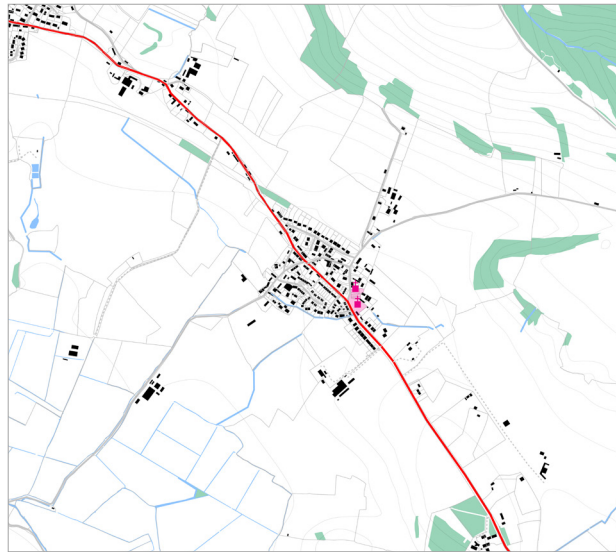
Rodney Stoke



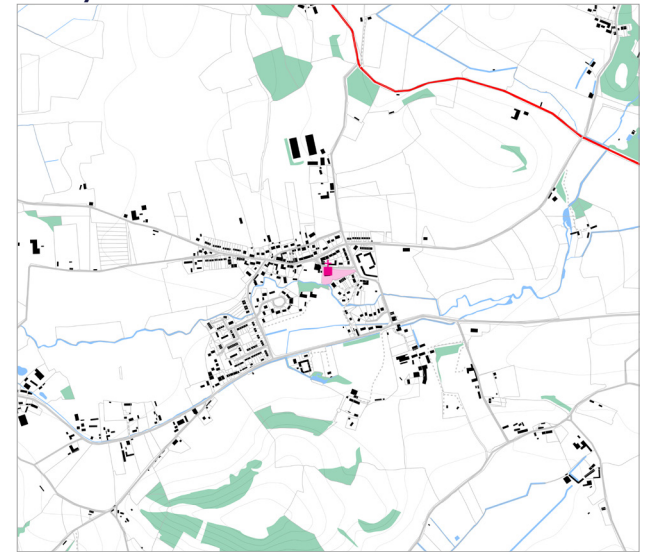
Westbury Sub Mendip



Easton



Wookey



6.0 LANDSCAPE TYPES & CHARACTER AREAS

6.1 CENTRAL MENDIP

LCA - A1 - BLACK DOWN HILL

- 6.1.1 This small area encompasses the highest part of the Mendip ridge and an area of distinct landscape contained on three sides by the district boundary. The identification of this as a character area in its own right reflects the presence of the open wild heath that covers the hilltop and provides an extensive area of open access land.
- 6.1.2 The landscape contains features that book-end human history from Neolithic to World War II (even the cold war). A large part of the area is designated as a scheduled ancient monument while another section forms part of an SSSI.
- 6.1.3 The hilltop rises to a trig point at 325 m AOD (the highest point on Mendip and within the MDC area). To the north the land slopes away down into the woodlands that enclose Burrington Combe. The higher hill is comprised of Devonian Sandstones which carry surface streams down to the interface with the surrounding Carboniferous Limestone [see section 5.1]. Within the MDC area some small swallet caves (Read's Cavern, Rod's Pot, Bath Swallet) are located in the North West Corner of the LCA. Other small streams flowing off the hill drop into very small side valleys off the larger gorge and include other small caves located just outside of the MDC boundary (these include Goatchurch Cavern one of the most popular novice caves in the region).

- 6.1.4 With the more acidic Devonian deposits that outcrop here the natural habitat type of the hilltop is acid heath. With adjoining areas overlaying the limestones there are also calcareous grasslands in close proximity, the combination of these two distinctly different habitats is an unusual aspect of the Mendip biodiversity interest. The area is predominantly an open expanse lightly grazed by sheep with extensive heather growth. On the lower north eastern slope of the hill a series of small walled fields provide the only area of more obviously farmed landscape.

- 6.1.5 The Mendip acid heath habitat is noted as important for Long Eared Owl, Nightjar, Dartford Warbler, Brown Hare and Adder.



Beacon Batch



Beacon Batch

- 6.1.6 Close to the caves and on top of the hill there are a number of Bronze Age burial mounds. These sit on the hilltop amongst a series of smaller mounds that were created as decoys during WWII. The feature was laid out as streets of lights to draw air attacks away from Bristol. The complex site layout included facilities to create the impression of large fires in areas in response to bombing and cairns to prevent aircraft landings. The site is a scheduled ancient monument with both the ancient and wartime features protected.
- 6.1.7 The open expanse of wild heath is identified as open access land and includes a section of the Limestone Link long distance path. As an area of some 300 ha of wild character landscape, with spectacular views, it is one of the more extensive areas providing a remote experience; consequently it is quite popular with walkers and mountain bikers. The area has a generally unspoilt setting and outlook and low levels of background noise.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA – A1 BLACK DOWN HILL	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
• Open expanse of acid heath • Limestone grasslands • Small scale grazing fields on edge of LCA • Drystone Walls	• Uninhabited hilltop location views down to scattered farmsteads and distant settlement
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
• Low input sheep grazing • Open Access Land with significant visitor numbers	• Wild strongly semi natural character. Visual and audible intrusions limited. Relatively busy recreational area.
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
• Minor swallet caves • Bronze Age Burial Mounds • WW11 Decoy complex • Proximity of contrasting habitats	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
• Spectacular 360° panoramic views	

6.1.8 As noted the views from the hilltop provide spectacular 360° panorama with long views to the north towards Bristol and Bath and along the plateau. The plateau landform to the south limits views beyond the edge of the hills to more distant horizons.

6.1.9 Some visual intrusion of nearby telecom masts is noted on the eastern outlook along with views to the Pen Hill mast.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / REFERENCES

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1020995>

MDC Local Biodiversity Action Plan - Mendip Heathland Habitat Action Plan

LCA – A2 - THE MENDIP PLATEAU

6.1.10 The Mendip Plateau forms one of the largest identified character areas in the study area. Although extensive this is also one of the most sparsely populated sections of the district. Extending from Charterhouse in the west to Binegar in the east the area includes the dispersed settlement of Priddy. The bulk of the area is within the AONB boundary; which in this area is defined by the A39 main Wells to Bristol road.

6.1.11 This area is the core of the widest part of the Limestone Ridge. Described as a plateau it is more of a gently rolling landscape with some areas that read as mini plateaus which separate the occasional localised steeper hills and dry valleys. High points start with the 311 m (AOD) hill above Charterhouse (occupied by the Wireless station and reservoir). North Hill stands to the north east of Priddy at 307 m AOD and other slightly lower points around 280 - 300 m AOD are found within the Stockhill Plantation and close to East Harptree Woods. Pen Hill overlooks the area at 305 m AOD (within adjoining LCA – A4.4). The A37 route crests over a high point close to Chewton Mendip at around 250 m AOD.

6.1.12 With the underlying Krast geomorphology there are very few surface water courses and at the same time there are areas of enclosed bowl landforms drained only by the numerous swallets. Within this area the caves and cave systems are too numerous to identify individually for this study but are extensively mapped and described elsewhere [ref Mendip Underground & the Mendip Cave Registry]. Some of the most significant systems are located near Priddy which as a result is designated a geological SSSI (76 ha in extent).

6.1.13 Alongside the special geological setting the area contains a rich archaeological record of very early human occupation. As high ground the area clearly attracted interest as a place of spiritual and strategic interest as reflected in the numerous Bronze Age burial mounds and hut circles.

6.1.14 The land cover is predominantly livestock grazing with some areas of arable production on the more open level mini plateau areas. Large parts of the plateau are occupied by a regular field pattern of mainly dry stone walls. In places such as around Priddy, Charterhouse, the Castle of Comfort, Green Ore and Binegar a much smaller field pattern remains. Some localised 20 Century field enlargement has occurred but for the most part the field sizes remain as they were mapped pre-war.

6.1.15 Two substantial areas of post war conifer forest exist in the form of Stockhill Plantation and Green Plantation.

6.1.16 Mineral extraction, mainly in the form of lead mining and slag processing, has created unique places at Charterhouse and at the Priddy Mineries. The Blackmoor/Velvet Bottom Valley at Charterhouse contain all the eras of mining activity from pre Roman shallow mines and rakes to the Victorian settling dams. Alongside these mining remains is a Roman Fort or mining town and even an amphitheatre with the historic settlement linked to the outside world by two Roman Roads. The St Cuthbert's Lead works was an extensive Victorian complex now reduced to an extensive tract of spoil heaps and ponds, a leat and occasional built remains such as the small brick tunnel flues from which the lead residues were collected. Both areas provide a wealth of archaeological and industrial heritage interest. In other areas the legacy of mining activity has been



Nine Barrows, North Hill, Priddy



Priddy Mineries

lost with farm improvement or land reclamation levelling former workings; perhaps increasing the value of those areas that remain.

6.1.17 In turn the lead extraction has also left some unique soil conditions on which rare plant communities have become established. Such 'calaminarian grasslands' occur where the toxicity of the soils arising from toxic metal ions limit the growth to a few tolerant species. The Stockhill forestry plantation was also established over the rough (Gruffy) ground left from the mining operations.

6.1.18 Despite higher than average rainfall the free draining Krast means there are few locations providing ready reliable access to water. The lead mining operations depended on ponds such as the Mineries pond and at the top of the Blackmoor Valley. In other areas clay lined dew ponds were provided for cattle.

6.1.19 The sparse settlement pattern arises from the relative elevation of the plateau and the lack of surface water features. What had been a sizeable settlement at Charterhouse remains as a small collection of buildings around a small chapel and former school; now an outward bound centre popular with many Somerset schools.

6.1.20 The village of Priddy is the highest settlement in the district. While the village has the clearly defined green at its centre; the village itself is a very dispersed settlement pattern. The village green provides a sheltered expanse of grass within the bowl of landform with a few farm and residential buildings fronting on. The green has been the setting for the Priddy Sheep Fair since 1348, (although suspended in recent years). When on the event makes use of the stock pens kept in a thatched stack in the centre of the green

6.1.21 The upper part of Binegar sits on the eastern edge of the LCA area with the lower part of the village and the adjoining Gurney Slade is within a separate LCA (A10.2). This part of the village was adjacent to a quarry and the Bath to Dorset Railway line. The houses are set down off the highest part of the plateau on a south facing slope. The parish church and school form a local focal point. The village had its own railway station prior to the 1960's. Several roads pass the remaining bridge structures highlighting the former route.

6.1.22 Given the lack of settlement the distribution of significant infrastructure within this character area is consequently limited. The Pen Hill Mast being the clear exception to this. Standing on the high point (305 m AOD) and reaching to a height of 281.6 m the mast stands out as a colossal landmark over the plateau. Clearly as an element of modern infrastructure (built in 1967) the mast has intrusive qualities; it is visible from many vantage points on the plateau and is lit at night to warn aircraft.

6.1.23 At the time of its construction the installation was no doubt controversial and at that time there were perhaps few other similar scale intrusions. In the fifty years since it may have won over some local acceptance as a familiar landmark. The sheer scale of the mast is impressive when viewed at close quarters, but it is located away from some of the more popular locations and contained on its southern side by woodland. As the mast is so tall it has become a reference point for the Mendips and in many other views across the district. The simplicity of the structure and its setting on its own small hill with a lack of other clutter may help with the perception that it has an established place on the hills.

6.1.24 More recent infrastructure additions in the form of wind turbines and a solar farm are found at the eastern end of the LCA outside of the AONB boundary close to Green Ore (these are positioned on a small ridge at Shooters Bottom/East End Lane and a single turbine at Haydon Drove). These sit within a block of farmland away from the main roads and with limited footpath access. The wind turbines are seen in long views from adjacent lanes and more glimpsed from the main roads. Close up the noise and presence of the solar farm impact on the remoteness and tranquillity of the block of landscape in which they are sat

6.1.25 The nature of the main roads over the plateau includes some unusually very long straight sections of road (combinations of both the Roman and Georgian sense of order). Consequences of this are a number of junctions that have had to be offset and heavily signed to avoid collisions and a level of background road noise. These both have some impact on the sense of tranquillity. It should be noted the Shooters Bottom solar farm and turbines are close to two such



St Cuthbert's Slag Heaps, Priddy Mineries

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA – A2 - THE MENDIP PLATEAU	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- Gentle rolling plateau topography, including some areas of closed valley features - Karst geomorphology – numerous caves including major cave systems, swallets and closed depressions. - Medium scale rectilinear field pattern over general areas and smaller scale pattern closer to centres of habitation. - Dry stone walls - Mining gruffy ground and mineries / lead processing slag and settlement levels - Conifer forests over rough ground with areas of heath - Smaller beech copses/tree groups	- Prehistoric landscapes - Roman settlement - Industrial heritage settings - Long straight roads – including sections of Roman Roads (also sections of Roman Road remaining away from modern roadways).
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
- Sparse settlement pattern - Isolated farmsteads	Open, remote, upland, generally unspoilt and tranquil landscape
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- Numerous Scheduled Ancient Monuments – generally Bronze Age – in particular Priddy Circles, and Nine Barrows - Priddy Caves SSSI & many other swallets - most notable Swildons, St Cuthbert's and Eastwater - Blackmoor & Velvet Bottom Lead workings - St Cuthberts & Priddy Mineries Lead Workings - Priddy Green (site of historic sheep fair) - Priddy Church - Nature reserves	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
- The Pen Hill Mast - Priddy Church - North Hill - Binegar Church - Rains Batch Viewpoint	

straight main roads where the degree of tranquillity is already impacted.

6.1.26 As a large part of the AONB the extent to which this area offers a remote unspoilt or good quality landscape experience is very important. The sense of the area having an upland character and remoteness is particularly relevant to this. The sense of an elevated location varies; although most of the plateau is over 200 m AOD there are not many views out from within this LCA to the surrounding lowlands. The long and big scale views along the plateau, the presence of dry stone walls and the more wild landscapes of mineries and forest are important elements contributing to the upland sense. The micro climate of the hills can also present a harsh environment and the regular occurrence of low cloud gives rise to the typical days of the hills shrouded in the Mendip fog.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Reference changed from A3 to A2 to allow more logical sequence. Area of Tor Bottom omitted and added to LCA A3

BIBLIOGRAPHY / REFERENCES

St Cuthbert's SAM Citation

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1421084>

Mendip Underground & the Mendip Cave Registry

<http://www.mcra.org.uk/registry/registry>

LCA – A3 – THE HARPTREE CHEWTON EDGE

6.1.27 This area located on the northern edge of the MDC district encompasses part of the northern side of the west Mendip ridge. It is distinct from the wider plateau to the south by virtue of the topography and character of the smaller scale more enclosed landscape of woodlands and hedgerows. The area falls almost entirely within the AONB boundary and adjoins two character areas identified within the neighbouring Bath and North East Somerset district area.

6.1.28 To the north west of the character area the edge of the Mendip plateau and the district boundary are defined by a north facing steep scarp slope overlooking the villages of Ubley and Compton Martin (outside of the MCD area). At the western end of the character area the aspect and steepness of the scarp slope give way to a small re-entrant stream valley (Garrow Bottom) cutting back into the plateau. A hillfort settlement is located on the point where the contours swing around providing a local vantage point over the East Harptree Valley. The small valley provides an intimate setting and this enclosed environment which is continued with the extent of the East Harptree woods on its eastern flank.

6.1.29 The small scale sheltered landscape continues to the east with a complex landform of small valleys and intervening ridges. The landscape includes many small woodland blocks which further enclose and divide the area down. A longer deeper valley Tor Hole Bottom cuts back into the plateau extending to the edge of the character area by the main road B3155 at Red Quarr Farm. Tor Hole itself being a swallet, that takes the stream underground in the area of some former mine washing ponds (Bishops Pond).

6.1.30 The area includes many small mine shafts and workings from the lead and zinc mining activity. Most notably the restored Smitham Chimney is the last remaining lead-smelting chimney on Mendip. The tower sits as an isolated feature set within the forest next to a small pond. Another feature resulting from the mining activity is Lamb Leer Cavern initially discovered by miners in around 1675 and initially explored then before being closed in the early 1800's before being re-opened in 1880 [<http://www.mcra.org.uk/registry/>]. This is noted as an ancient cave system that includes one of the largest chambers discovered on Mendip. The cave is designated as a geological SSSI with some 14 ha of land above designated to ensure the cave's protection. The cave is mentioned in Balch's caves of Mendip as the site where the author nearly ended his cave exploration at an early age (before the 1900s) and for another Victorian cave rescue a few years later the chaplain of Wells Theological College and his 'plucky' sister, who thought it would be a fine experience to explore the cave alone. The chaplain became entangled in the knotted rope on the 100 foot pitch. He was 'got out, wiser than he went in' [Balch Caves of Mendip].

6.1.31 The landscape is dominated by a mix of small dairy pasture fields and small woodlands. Some flatter arable fields are located to the northwest of the Tor Hole Stream valley. The smaller woodlands are deciduous with some pockets of ancient and semi natural woodland. Part of the Eaker Hill woodlands around Tor Hole are identified as local wildlife site (this includes the Bishops Pond). The larger area of East Harptree Wood and the upper end of Tor Hole Valley include more conifer plantation forest.

6.1.32 The two small villages of Chewton Mendip and Litton nestle in the shelter of this part of the Mendip side slopes. Chewton Mendip sits on the busy A39 (linking Wells to Bristol). The main road drops into a deep wooded cutting on the approach down Chewton Mendip village adding to the contrast with the open plateau landscapes to the south (LCA A2). On the eastern side of the village minor back roads border/look out into the adjoining landscape character area

(A7) providing a more open and quiet outlook. Both villages include many mainly local limestone cottages with historic character these being predominantly smaller dwellings. A reasonable proportion of the properties and the churches in both villages and on the lane between are listed. The churches are set low in the landscape but are viewed from nearby footpaths.

- 6.1.33 One other larger building being Chewton House; part of the local Waldegrave Estate. This sits on the east of the A39 but is linked to the estate buildings to west by a private footbridge over the main road. The estate includes the woodlands on either side of the road and a listed gate house on the roadside.
- 6.1.34 In addition to the villages there is a dispersed pattern of properties dotted around within the sheltered side valleys to the west of the A39. These are served by a network of winding minor lanes that criss-cross the area.
- 6.1.35 Two clusters of more ancient features to the west of Chewton Mendip are noted as burial chambers and designated as scheduled ancient monuments (SAM). Lynchets medieval field features are identified on White Hill close to Litton.
- 6.1.36 The area is generally unspoilt countryside with few visual distractions. The main road is heavily trafficked and impacts on the tranquillity around the route and the quality of the main village high street. The side road link to Litton is also quite busy as it provides a link to West Harptree.

- 6.1.37 One other element of local infrastructure is found within the Harptree valleys and combs in the form of a spring water collection system that starts in the Chewton parish and supplies drinking water from the springs around the head of the Chew Valley to Bristol. The project to supply clean spring water to Bristol was commissioned in the 1840's and extends for many miles via aqueduct structures and tunnels (mainly outside of the MDC area). Completed in 1849 this not only stands as testament to Victorian engineering but also as an example of the many Ecosystem service benefits provided by the Mendip landscape.

<https://www.somersetheritage.org.uk/downloads/publications/MendipHillsAONB.pdf>

Two forms of this land use surviving as earthworks may be distinguished. The first is represented by the wholesale cultivation of fields on the hill slopes as at Westbury (S24835), at Carscliff Farm (S10348) and to the north above Blagdon (A6777). Here there are cross-slope and down-slope field banks and cultivated ridges forming an interleaving irregular mosaic. The second seems confined to cross-slope lynchets often on very steep slopes. These are particularly noticeable on the north slopes at White Hill, Litton and West Harptree (A6736, A6833, A6871, and S23747). The first type seems to represent open field layouts remarkable only because they are placed on hill slopes. On the south slopes this location would have had distinct advantages in the lengthening of the growing season. The second type represents the use of marginal land presumably over a relatively short period of population pressure. While the former appear to indicate no more than the proximity of the village settlements, it is possible to see the latter as indicating the non-availability of the plateau resources for cultivation even at a time of exceptional need.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM '97 ASSESSMENT

Reference changed from A2 to A3 to allow more logical sequence. Area of Tor Bottom included along with slight adjustment to boundary brought south to Broad Street (lane) and alignment on eastern side of village to follow topography more closely.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / REFERENCES

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1129583>

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA – A3 - THE HARPTREE CHEWTON EDGE	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
• Irregular topography – re-entrant valleys & shallow slopes • Spring line, wet ground and ponds • Mixed small scale deciduous woodland and areas of managed conifer forest • Small scale irregular hedged field pattern with predominance of pasture, occasional small scale arable. • Occasional drystone walls • Winding hedged lanes • Post medieval to Victorian mining and smelting activity – gruffy ground, rakes and ponds • Karst features – many small swallets	• Clustered villages built up along main and side roads • Focal point churches • Scattered individual properties on winding lanes • Parkland and estate buildings
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
	• Generally quiet low background noise other than close to busy A39 main road.
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
• Lamb Leer Geological SSSI – 14 ha designated above significant cave system • Adjoining and overlapping county wildlife site • Gruffy Ground and Mining Rakes • Tor Hole and Bishops Pond • Smitham Chimney • Hill top settlement, burial mounds, listed buildings • Lynchets – (see box on next page)	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
• Church of St Mary Magdalene in Chewton Mendip & St Mary's Church Litton	

LCA – A4 - THE MENDIP SOUTH WESTERN FACING SLOPES

6.1.38 On the southern side of the West Mendip Ridge the edge of the plateau (LCA A2) is often defined as a sharp line where the topography changes to a steeper scarp slope. Along this area the landscape opens up to panoramic views out across the Somerset Levels and beyond. Between the district boundary in the west by Draycott and the Old Frome Road at East Horrington (LCA A5) the landscape can be subdivided down into three areas of varied upper slopes. Wells and Wookey Hole are contained within the landform. The string of villages between Draycott and Easton sit on more open and continuous lower slopes and are identified as forming a separate subdivision of the LCA A4 area.

6.1.39 The four subdivisions are:-

- A4.1 The Draycott-Westbury Slopes
- A4.2 The Strawberry Belt
- A4.3 Ebbor Gorge and the Upper Axe
- A4.4 The Wells Bowl

A4.1 THE DRAYCOTT-WESTBURY SLOPES

6.1.40 This area forms the MDC section of escarpment edge to the Mendip ridge (the scarp slope continues beyond the boundary to the west towards and beyond Cheddar). This area sits above the Strawberry Belt villages (LCA A4.2). This area is one of the most open and visible sections of the southern flank of the Mendip ridge and forms the backdrop to the extensive landscape to the south both within and outside the Mendip authority area.

6.1.41 The hillside areas rise from around 75 m AOD behind the villages to a highpoint of Westbury Beacon as the areas highest point at 275m AOD. Parts of the slope are exceptionally steep with gradients between 1 in 2 and 1 in 4. While this section of the Mendip side slopes is has a more consistent south west facing aspect there are some small localised variations in the aspect giving some subtle ridges and shallow re-entrant valley slopes.

6.1.42 With the underlying karst geomorphology there are no significant surface water features but there are exposed rock features along the ridge especially at Draycott Sleights. Areas of woodland cover parts of the slope. The most extensive area being the ancient woodland of Rodney Stoke National Nature Reserve and Stoke Woods.

6.1.43 Farmland is predominately grassland/pasture with hedgerows on the lower slopes transitioning to predominantly post and wire with some stone wall to the ridge. The field pattern is quite dense and irregular at the foot of the escarpment opening to medium scale enclosures at the ridge

6.1.44 The area contains extensive areas of publicly accessible nature reserves. Draycott Sleights to the west, Rodney Stokes National Nature Reserve in the centre with Cooks field and Lynchcombe to the east. Additional land on the upper slopes at Westbury Beacon and Stoke Camp are managed as butterfly reserves. The combined areas of managed nature reserves provides an extensive area of more informal unimproved grassland as an aspect of the landscape character.

6.1.45 As with the other parts of the elevated Mendip landscape the slopes retain significant historic interest.

This includes the very early deposits of Westbury Quarry and Bronze Age barrows. These and the Westbury Camp Hillfort are located on the edge of the ridge where the views out help explain the location of the features.

6.1.46 Later ancient field systems and the Medieval village and farmstead SAM areas are identified on the upper slopes. While the high ground elevation perhaps explains the survival of these features the more remote and lightly managed landscape and expansive setting provide the historic landscapes with an evocative dramatic setting.

6.1.47 The area contains no significant settlement or built development intrusions. There are scattered farmsteads that sit generally at the base of the escarpment. The area is served by only two minor lanes that climb steeply up the escarpment (parts of these sit in subtle re-entrant valley contours where a slightly more gentle route is possible). There are also a few farm tracks that travel from the base of the escarpment to fields halfway up the escarpment slope.

6.1.48 Broadmead quarry sits on the ridgeline north of Westbury-sub-Mendip. The quarry is relatively small and the surrounding landscape hide the works from most external views.

6.1.49 With the lack of settlement, the subtle folding nature of the escarpment the area feels peaceful with many tranquil spots to appreciate. The nature reserves/farmland landscape is lightly managed but features such as the stone walls are in a good state of repair. Overall the landscape is extensively unspoilt. The woodlands and nature reserves also provide large areas of more semi natural character landscape.



View from Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve

6.1.50 The area has a network of footpaths and bridleways in addition to the local lanes. The West Mendip Way runs parallel to New Road north of Draycott and appears well used. In addition, the areas of the various nature reserves are also open access land providing an overall very good level of public access. The PROW and open areas provide many good views and the interest of the reserves and scheduled ancient monuments along with small areas of parking. One location Deers Leap provides parking spaces combined with the spectacular views and picnic tables. While the landscape provides access to areas of very tranquil and unspoilt character, the areas feel more busy with walkers and thus less remote than other locations.



Beech trees Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve

SPECIAL REFERENCES INFORMATION

- Westbury Camp Hillfort scheduled ancient monument : “The monument includes a slight univallate hillfort with earthworks enclosing an area of high ground on the edge of a plateau. The area enclosed is about 2.3ha, and of irregular shape.”
- Ancient field systems are apparent on the slopes above Draycott as well as an the SAM of deserted medieval hamlet East of Draycott. “This monument includes a medieval farmstead and part of its associated field system situated on the relatively steeply sloping south facing edge of a wide plateau to the east of the settlement of Draycott. The farmstead survives as a rectangular main dwelling house with several associated rectangular outbuildings, a small square enclosure and part of a more extensive field system of small rectangular fields all defined by low stony banks and walls.”
- There is also a Deserted medieval farmstead and field system north west of Ebbor Wood. “This monument includes two medieval and one post medieval farmsteads, a post medieval cottage, a clearance cairn, mining remains and field system situated on a steep south west facing slope of a prominent ridge above the settlement of Westbury-sub-Mendip.... The farmsteads are known locally as ‘Ramspits’.”

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FROM ‘97 ASSESSMENT

Reference changed from A2 to A3 to allow more logical sequence.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA – A4.1 - THE DRAYCOTT - WESTBURY SLOPES	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
• Steep folding escarpment with woodland, grassland and pasture	• Westbury Camp Hillfort • Mendip Gliding Club
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
• Countryside Stewardship (Higher Tier) & (Middle Tier) sites • Broadmead quarry	• Good levels of tranquillity with limited background noise and visible infrastructure • Moderate levels of recreational activity reduce degree of remoteness
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
• Rodney Stoke National Nature Reserve • Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve • Cooks field Nature Reserve • Lynchcombe Nature Reserve • Westbury Camp Hillfort	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
• Pelting Drove car park picnic viewpoint with vast views south • Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve views to cheddar reservoir • Numerous points along ridgeline on prow	

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A4.2 THE STRAWBERRY BELT

- 6.1.51 This area includes the settled lower slopes of the South West facing Mendip flank. As the fertile and more habitable lower landscape sandwiched between the moors and uplands the area provided sheltered locations for the villages. The attraction no doubt increased with a combination of sunny south facing aspect and spring line at the base of the hills. The connecting road out from Wells through the villages to Cheddar sat between the wetlands of the moors and higher slopes. This has developed into a busy main road (now the A371 providing links to the A38 and M5). The road route is also tracked by the former Strawberry Line Railway which linked Wells, Cheddar and Axbridge.
- 6.1.52 AONB boundary cuts through the area east west with the majority of the village areas excluded.
- 6.1.53 The lower LCA boundary close to Draycott directly adjoins the Moors (Stoke, Westhay and Knowle Moor Areas LCA F1) at around 10m AOD. Further east the slopes merge with the more undulating landscape of the Wookey Islands (LCA G3). The settled lower slopes extend within the LCA up to around 75 – 100m AOD (well below the higher slopes of LCA A4.1). Occasional re-entrant valleys extend into the scarp on the lower slopes; providing additional shelter for a few dwellings in Rodney Stoke and parts of Westbury-sub-Mendip.
- 6.1.54 The area includes the junction between mudstones, and sandstones and interbedded sandstones and conglomerate. With the harder less permeable rock at the base of the hillsides there are occasional springs and small streams emerging along these sections of the slopes. Within the villages the local

conglomerate is seen as a building stone is some of the older buildings the stone was quarried around Draycott and Westbury-sub-Mendip and known as Draycott Marble.

- 6.1.55 The area is not heavily wooded. Between settlements small to medium rectilinear fields fill the landscape. The majority of the fields hedged with a good coverage of hedgerow trees. Although predominantly pasture there are a few arable fields and some polytunnel farming. With the southerly aspect and fertile soils the area became a major strawberry production area (this once extended beyond the district boundary towards Cheddar). Farm offers 'pick your own' fruit with lay-bys off the road and roadside stall.
- 6.1.56 There are field systems above Draycott are categorized as 'ancient form'. As an indication of the historical nature of the development pattern Draycott, Rodney Stoke, Westbury-sub-Mendip are all settlements mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. Of these Westbury has the greater proportion of historic development and more of the older village streets lie off the main through road route. The villages do include blocks of more dominant modern housing which is visible from the adjoining landscape.
- 6.1.57 Although not a wide road the A371 forms a dominant feature through the LCA. Outside of the villages the road is contained by hedges with only few sections with pavement or grass verge. Within the villages there are many sections of the road with properties or garden walls fronting directly onto the carriageway again often with no footway or verge. With heavy traffic for the scale of carriageway the route feels very uncomfortable especially for pedestrian or cycle users.

- 6.1.58 The other main element of local infrastructure is the disused Strawberry Line Railway. The line is visible as an intermittent track bed and the route is marked by occasional stone bridges with the line in cutting below the lanes. None of the bridges are listed. But the railway cuttings are noted as as geological RIGs.

- 6.1.59 With the A371 traffic and hostile conditions for non vehicular users the main areas of the LCA do not feel tranquil. The severance of the villages by the road, the frequency and mix of commercial farm and roadside developments impact on the character of the roadscape.

- 6.1.60 Away from main road several of the winding lanes and tracks help provide some distance from the intrusive road noise creating a more tranquil setting. The farmland is a more heavily managed and set within a settled landscape compared to the moors below and scarp areas above. The soft fruit farms provide a particular local interest and opportunity for visitors to connect with farm production; at the same time they include some visual intrusions with the large poly tunnels.



View over Easton - near Kesteven Farm

6.1.61 Although the heavy traffic has an adverse impact on the villages; as a busy route the road offers a large number of road-users extensive views. These are experienced as a sequence out over the low lying landscape to the south and glimpsed views up and along the scarp; along with the various villages on route.

6.1.62 The area has a modest number of public footpaths and bridleways and a few side lanes off the A371. Although not an extensive network some routes offer an alternative to the main road and links up to the scarp landscape. The West Mendip Way includes a connection down into Draycott.

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'Ancient Form' see Somerset and Exmoor, 1999–2002, Somerset Historic Environment Record

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View to Mendip Scarp over Easton near Kesteven Farm

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA – A4.2 - THE STRAWBERRY BELT	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- Break of slope on lower section of Mendip scarp. Change from steep slopes above the villages to more gentle gradients down to moors - Mix of simple slopes and re-entrant valleys - Larger more regular fields on simple slopes - Small scale field pattern in enfolded valleys - Fields hedged with hedgerow trees	- Villages following spring line and linked by busy A371 - Local conglomerate stone buildings - Settlements expanded with areas of post war housing visible on sections of hillsides - Strawberry Line Disused Railway
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
- Predominantly managed grassland - Strawberry fields under poly tunnels	- Main road dominates as through route with hostile conditions for pedestrians - Quieter back lanes - Limited visual or audible tranquillity - Village expansions also impact on unspoilt condition - Areas of intense agriculture and roadside commercial diminish sense of unspoilt countryside
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- There are several Open Areas of Local Significance within the settlements of the A4.2. - These spaces generally are relatively modest pockets of land ranging from church yards to gardens to verges. Although some of the spaces are quite small they do still provide notable open space within specific villages in the area.	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
Extensive views out from this area across the low lying Moors. Area important in views back towards Mendip Ridge.	

A4.3 EBBOR GORGE AND THE UPPER AXE

6.1.63 At Deer Leap the open hillside slopes above Easton give way to the deep re-entrant valley of Ebbor Gorge. The gorge funnels down to a small stream valley that extends down into the sheltered village of Wookey Hole. A second shorter re-entrant valley contains the cave from which the village gets its name. This section of the south west slopes are then separated from the area to the east and Wells by rising ground around Milton Hill.

6.1.64 With the deep gorges cutting back into the hills the topography is very varied with some open hillside slopes and even cliff faces. As set out within sections 5.1-5.2 the complex Karst geomorphology is particularly notable in this area; including the interest of the Wookey Hole cave. While the cave is well known as a major tourist attraction the extent of passage open to the public is only part of the overall explored system. The cave is known to be the downstream extent of the caves around Priddy on the plateau above (LCA A2). The River Axe flows from the cave as the largest resurgence in the Mendip Hills. The caverns are formed with water under pressure below the water table which gives rise to particular type of cave passages; as such Wookey Hole is noted as the finest example in Britain of a cave formed by deep phreatic activity. In addition the sequence of fossil and active caves provides evidence of a long and complex geological history. Wookey Hole and several other nearby caves and rock shelters are also noted as the depository of interglacial material, animal and human remains.

6.1.65 The area has complex geology with layers of strata thrust up over each other. Mineral deposits and a small outcrop of coal add to the geological and historic mining interest.

6.1.66 The areas of Ebbor Gorge and around the Wookey Hole cave are noted as a mixed Geological and Biological SSSI and National Nature Reserves (63.5 ha and 39.4 ha respectively). These designations overlap with the Mendip Woodlands SAC. The designations of geological and biological interest are interrelated as the floristic interest is often directly connected to the unusual conditions of the thin soils over limestone and other complex soil and geology. The deep gorge landform has also prevented extensive farm or even much woodland management so the areas of ancient woodland have provided a very stable long-term habitat

6.1.67 The woodland SAC reflects the interest of the mainly calcareous ash woodlands growing undisturbed over the varied and complex geology. The area is managed with rotational coppicing and selective felling. The shaded damp woodland conditions of the deep gorge are noted as of particular importance for fungi and ferns along with a wide range of lichens.

6.1.68 Outside of the gorge the farmed landscape is made up of an irregular field pattern. With small scale enclosure on the lower slopes and larger more rectangular fields higher on ridge. The majority of fields are grazing pasture with some hay cropping. On the lower slopes the fields are defined by hedgerows and on the higher slopes by drystone walls. Parts of this area fall within the Wookey Hole SSSI area and are recognised as important unimproved calcareous grassland.

6.1.69 The areas of Ebbor Gorge and Wookey Hole have evidence of continuous human settlement from the Neolithic era. The area above the cave entrance also includes evidence of Roman buildings. The River Axe resurgence provides a reliable clean water supply

and the valley immediately below the cave includes areas of more level ground. A mill was recorded at Wookey Hole in the Domesday Book and by 1601 it was noted as a paper mill. The larger mill buildings remaining in the village now date from 1860 and remain as a museum.

6.1.70 The village is contained by the valley landform and adjoining woodland blocks. The character of the small-scale historic village streets are well preserved although the centre of the village is dominated by the visitor car parking area. The Victorian Mill buildings fill the narrow cross section of the upper part of the valley. The visitor facilities are mostly contained away out of view from the public street frontage. At peak times the attraction draws in substantial numbers of visitors and associated traffic.

6.1.71 With the focus of the show cave and mill the village feels busy. Ebbor Gorge is owned by the National Trust and includes small public parking areas and marked trails. The Deerleap Lane also provides access to the viewpoint mentioned in LCA A4.2. Consequently, the lane, parking area and gorge



Ebbor Gorge Woods

are also relatively popular visitor destinations and can feel busy.

6.1.72 The area is well served by a wider network of public footpaths which include several routes up to above the gorge and valley. On these it is possible to find good degrees of tranquillity and more remote unspoilt landscape climbing up on to the Mendip ridge.

6.1.73 Key routes include the West Mendip Way and the Monarchs Way footpaths and the Sustrans route 3 runs along Deerleap to Titlands Lane. Parking at Deerleap and pelting drove provide easy access to the network at the top of the ridge. Rockfaces within the area are used for climbing and bouldering. The range of recreational attractions also include a small riding centre and a campsite close to the village.

SPECIAL REFERENCES INFORMATION

Ebbor Gorge National Nature Reserve (Mendip Woodlands SAC)“Ebbor Gorge NNR is a largely wooded site occupying a prominent position on the southern escarpment of the Mendip Hills. Ebbor Gorge sits within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is part of the Mendip Woodlands Special Area of Conservation.

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KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA – A3 - EBBOR GORGE AND THE UPPER AXE	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- SW escarpment with varied complex slopes - Enfolded landform of complex re-entrant valleys including Ebbor Gorge - Several Karst geomorphologies features - Thin soils below unimproved grasslands and ancient woodlands - The Axe emerges from resurgence as river	- Wookey Hole village with industrial heritage, show cave, resort and associated attractions and parking within village centre. - Surrounding village small scale streets and historic cottages
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
- Low input farming and woodland management. Irregular small scale field pattern - Paper making historic industrial buildings - Small scale historic mining	Low tranquility within the village and Ebbor Gorge and Woods. More tranquil unspoilt landscape on higher Ridgeline
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- Ebbor Gorge National Nature Reserve Ancient woodlands & Karst and Archaeological Interests - Wookey Hole - West Mendip and Monarchs Way - Sustrans Route 3 - Spaces & Open Areas of Visual Significance	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
Long distance views over levels and moors from upper slopes. Area in views looking back towards the Mendip ridge.	

A4.4 THE WELLS BOWL

6.1.74 East of Milton Hill the landform continues as a series of small valleys cut back into the high Mendip Ridge. This area forms a backdrop to the City of Wells but is also a varied complex area in its own right.

6.1.75 Three main deep valleys extend roughly north south from the outskirts of Wells. Historically these provided routes for roads connecting up to the Mendip Plateau. The Old Bristol Road and Bristol Hill both take advantage of the contours in the small combs. The topography also includes several small rounded hilltops. The area extend up to the edge of the Mendip plateau (LCA A2) and includes the high point of Pen Hill.

6.1.76 The area includes a good coverage of woodland including some areas of Ancient Woodland also with some extensive plantations in the valleys and on various hilltops. Areas of the tree cover appear as estate or parkland origin with the areas of Stoberry and Milton Park contributing to this. Elsewhere occasional conifers within plantations also hint at more managed and designed planting. Milton Park is a registered historic parkland and gardens. (These historic parklands also relate to the character of landscape to the south of Wells with the parkland of the Bishops Palace).

6.1.77 The intervening farmland is predominantly grazing with areas of unimproved low input grassland. The field pattern on the lower areas is of smaller irregular enclosures with larger more regular fields on the higher slopes. Field boundaries are generally hedges on the lower slopes and drystone walls on the higher ground.

6.1.78 Despite the proximity to Wells the landscape outside the urban area is not heavily settled. Small farmsteads are located in the combs. The small villages of West, South and East Horrington lie on the gentler slopes; with West Horrington tucked in below the high ground at around 175 m AOD. West and East Horrington are predominantly historic villages with occasional groups of post war houses. South Horrington is comprised of the redeveloped former Mendip Hospital and larger areas of more recent residential development. South Horrington is close but just separated from the outskirts of Wells by open landscape at the junction of Bath and Frome Roads. The northern edge of the town is a continuation of similar housing developments, all contained by the rising ground of the landscape to the north.

6.1.79 A good proportion of the edge of the built-up area is defined by the designated historic parklands and other areas of open fields. This enclosure extends around to the north west side of the town where Milton Hill stands out as a wooded highpoint as part of the towns backdrop. A group of fields and the small Underwood Quarry lie between the edge of the built-up area and the wooded hill these provide an area of open landscape in the backdrop. The fields form part of a Special Landscape Feature Area designation and the woodland areas are identified as a local wildlife site. A corner of open land is also noted as open access land adjacent to Milton Lane.

6.1.80 To the west of the town the landscape is comprised of more gently sloping and larger field landscape and the large industrial more modern St Cuthbert's paper mill development. The overall area includes relatively tranquil and unspoilt landscape to the north of the built-up area. The area includes the two main roads heading north to Bristol and Bath.

With the routes dividing within the town the traffic is shared between the two and both maintain a road rural character.

6.1.81 With the dramatic rolling landform and extensive tree cover the immediate close quarter views down into Wells from the land to the north are limited. Further up the hills the views are obviously more extensive with views to the Cathedral and St Cuthbert's Church Spire and the extensive areas of countryside to the south. From the north the views are generally more fragmented looking out from this LCA. In views from the south of the City the historic settlement is seen with the extensive landscape backdrop provided by this LCA.

6.1.82 Views from the higher slopes range out across the Levels and along the Mendip escarpment. Although some path routes include points close to the top of the hills, due to the landform and woodlands the Pen Hill Mast is often more glimpsed than in full view.



Footpath view - Lynchcombe Nature Reserve near Westbury-sub-Mendip

6.1.83 The majority of the landscape character area falls within the AONB reflecting both the quality and importance of the area for its own sake and its role as the setting to the historic townscape.

6.1.84 The area is crossed by a well connected network of rights of way. With some of these extending up into the combes and to the high sections of the ridge the landscape offers good opportunities for tranquillity and remoteness.



View from the Mendip Scarp at Rookham above Wookey Hole

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF :- LCA – A4.4 - THE WELLS BOWL	
PHYSICAL/NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
- Complex topography of enfolded re-entrant combe valleys and small rounded hills / ridges - Springs - Ancient woodlands woodland and small-scale irregular field pattern - Unimproved grassland grazing - Hedges and occasional drystone walls on upper slopes - Parkland trees	- Area extends up to edge of Wells built up area - Mix of historic settlement edge with irregular pattern of properties served by small back roads - Areas of post war housing with more stark abutment of urban edge to countryside often contained by rising ground and parkland
LAND USE/MANAGEMENT/HUMAN INFLUENCES	PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS
- Mix of small pastoral agriculture and semi- formal Parkland and plantation woodlands - Small concealed quarry	- Generally unspoilt tranquil character area particularly within combes - Sensitivity around urban edge where development adjoins high quality landscape & impacts on sense of tranquil unspoilt character on edge of historic settlement - Sense of unspoilt & more tranquil condition becomes apparent short distance from built up area - Main Bath road background noise source - Semi natural character sits along side more controlled parklands / gardens
SPECIAL FEATURES – NOTE NOT ALL FEATURES DESIGNATED	
- Registered / Historic Parkland Landscape & Gardens Inc Milton Lodge and The Combe & Stoberry Park - Underwood Special Landscape Area open space & access land adjoining quarry - Pen Hill Mast	
LANDMARKS, VIEWS AND VIEWPOINTS	
- Views out over Wells to extensive panorama over levels. - Cathedral and St Cuthbert's Church spire. - Occasional views up to Pen Hill Mast over brow of ridge slope and woodland – landmark to wider district	