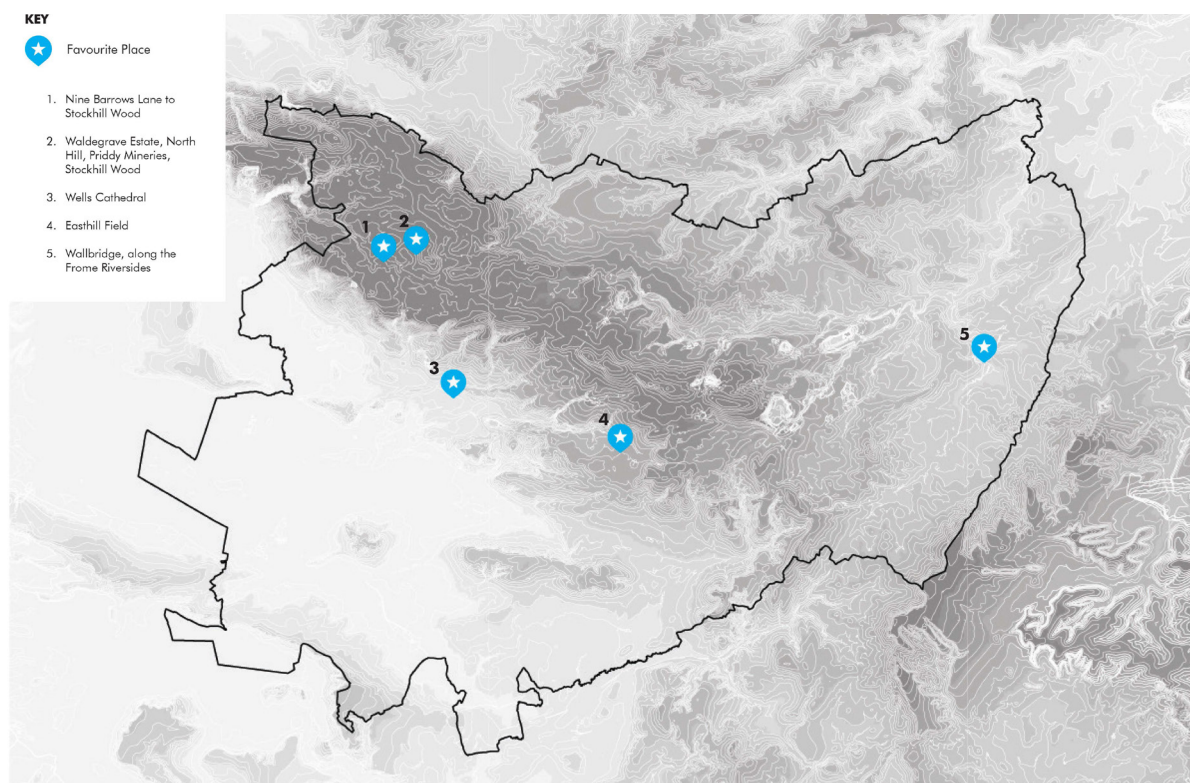
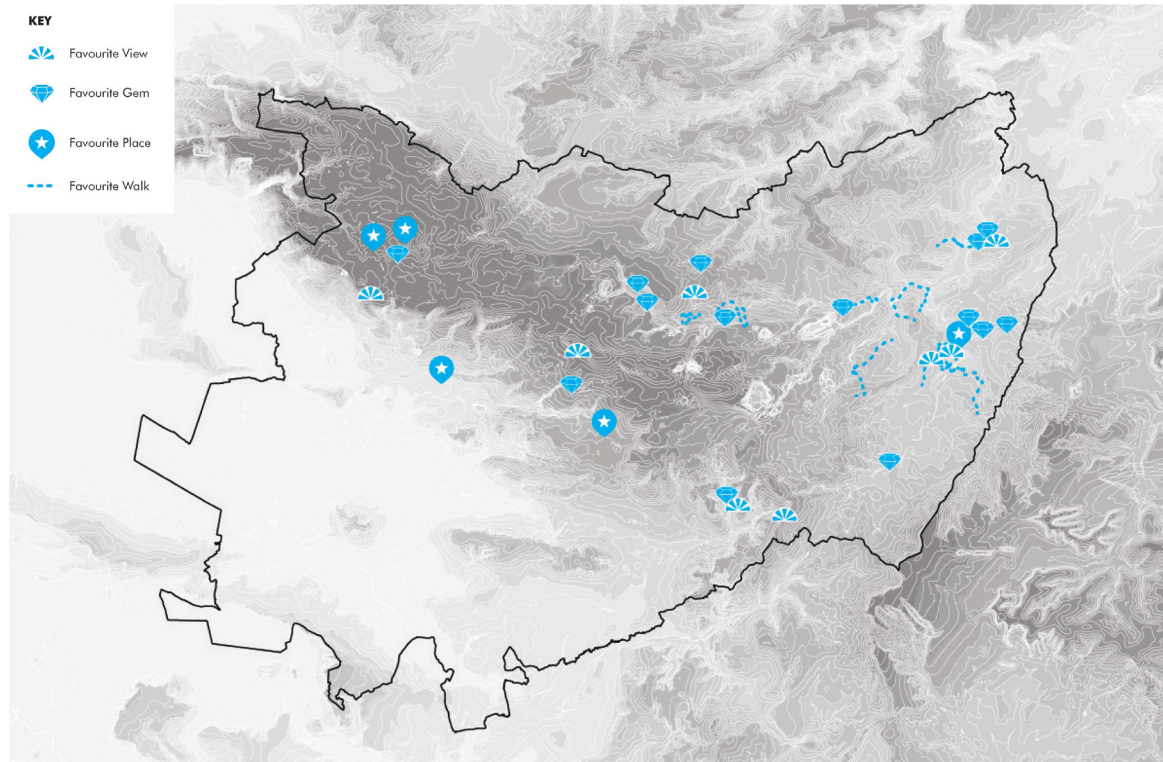


13.0 FAVOURITE WALKS, VIEWS AND HIDDEN GEMS

13.1 While only a modest number of responses were received to this part of the consultation people had taken time to provide descriptions of both the places and their reactions to them. In all some 35 responses were received detailing 9 walks, 5 places, 8 views and 13 gems. In reviewing the website the mechanism for logging walks did not work very well and this may have discouraged more responses.

13.2 The website allowed people to upload photographs of their nominated places and some very high quality photographs were provided. The images and a selection of the commentaries are set out below.



13.0 FAVOURITE WALKS, VIEWS AND HIDDEN GEMS....

EASTHILL FIELD, FROME : SITUATED BEHIND THE CEMETERY, FROME

A treasured remnant of Easthill Parkland, a designated Ancient Parkland, and open green space of Local Interest, an untouched ancient piece of beautiful land, with veteran trees, grassland and thickets. Home to a multitude of species of creatures, including rare bats, lizards and mammals, which are currently left undisturbed in their habitats. Its biodiversity, peaceful beauty. The veteran trees are stunning and insects, birds and mammals can be seen daily using the site. It is a unique piece of land with a historical background around nowhere else in Frome. Its location close to Rodden Nature Reserve acts as a corridor for foraging and roaming wildlife which is important for all species.



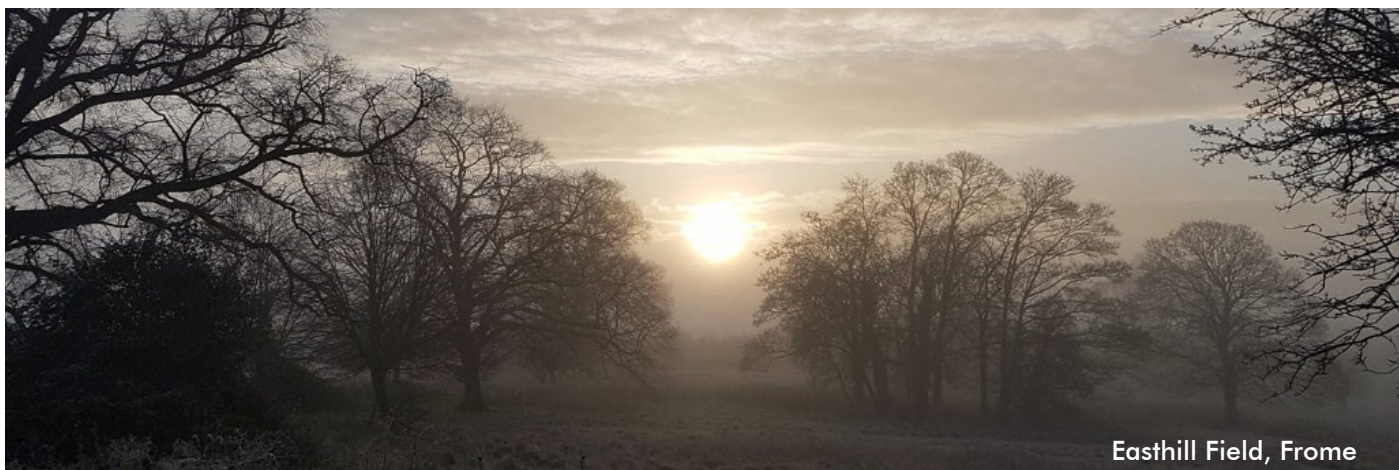
LAND SURROUNDING EASTHILL CEMETERY, Frome For providing specialised and varied habitats providing an increasingly disappearing home for a wide range of species, many of which occur only in these habitats, particularly insects, lichens and fungi which depend on dead and decaying wood. As such Easthill is recognised as Wood-Pasture and Parkland Priority Habitat (UKBAP)

For its potential to inspire and educate about the rare and complex biodiverse wildlife habitat for future generations.



EASTHILL ANCIENT WOOD PASTURE

I have a very busy life as a teacher and carer for my parents. I find peace and pleasure in wild places and their flora and fauna, Easthill lifts my spirits and fills me with the joys of life. I am also really concerned about the loss of biodiversity I have seen in my own lifetime and want to celebrate this hidden gem that provides a home for so much biodiversity so close to Frome.



Easthill Field, Frome

13.0 FAVOURITE WALKS, VIEWS AND HIDDEN GEMS ...

CRITCHILL MANOR ESTATE (OLD GOLF COURSE)

Beautiful countryside, river walk and industrial heritage

RIVER PATH FROM THE RETREAT TO THE FIELDS SOUTH OF FROME

Right up close to nature without leaving town. Wild swimming in walking distance from home.

MELLS RIVER

Special place attractive river woodlands interesting history, wild flowers and fungi.



STARTS AT UNDERHILL BY COLEFORD BRIDGE

Really good wildflower meadows both on the route out and route back. Going close to some very attractive stretches of the river and passing the tufa waterfall. Plenty of wildlife to see, maybe Roe Deer, Grey Squirrels, Woodpeckers and if you are very lucky a Dipper at Ham Bridge. The Hucky Duck (canal aqueduct) and an interesting streetscape in Lower Coleford.



WALK IS UP THROUGH LEIGH WOODS FROM COLEFORD AND BACK DOWN TO THE RIVER.

Favourite walk because of the accessibility from home without needing transport except feet and the flora which is varied. The woods are used by local people mainly and are quiet. The bordering fields are also full varied flora, butterfly orchids, early purple and ragged robin, ladies smock. There are badgers, fox and deer



THE TUFA WATERFALL NEAR WHITEHOLE HILL.

A "constructive" waterfall, where calcium carbonate rich water from a spring near Whitehole Farm cascades down steps of tufa towards the Mells Stream. There are quite a few interesting tufa features* in East Mendip, but this is the most impressive, closest to home and a great place to stop on a very pleasant walk.

*https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/08/Mendips-Bryophyte-Survey-Report_compress_-FINAL_JAN-2015_1RCO.pdf

13.0 FAVOURITE WALKS, VIEWS AND HIDDEN GEMS ...

BECKINGTON - LULLINGTON - ORCHARD LEIGH ESTATE AND RETURN

Sorry - too difficult to sketch! The scenery, wildlife (birds of prey), sheep, the River Frome, the lovely old village of Lullington, the beautiful Orchardleigh estate, the Church of St Mary's on the island. On the north side of the river take the footpath up to Stubbs Lane ("the Beckington Loop" and return to Beckington village centre via Castle Corner and the church.



THE DIPPY IN FROME, ACROSS THE SOUTHERN FIELDS TOWARDS LONGLEAT AND RODDENBURY HILL FORT. Views across the fields all the way to Cley hill with ever-changing skies, tranquility and peace and a 'green lung' for the town. The views, the fresh air, the sense of timelessness, the trees, the wild flowers, the sense of tracing the seasons and the years, knowing that others love this route.



BECKINGTON (CLIFFORD VIEW)

Beautiful unspoilt river valley and associated wildlife. Uninterrupted views over the Mendip Hills towards Faulkland. Ancient farmland.



HAM WOODS QUARRY

An old disused limestone quarry in ancient woodland. It is close to the line of the Somerset and Dorset Railway near the Ham Woods Viaduct.

We found this quarry when walking the East Mendip Way. We are interested in disused East Mendip Quarries in general, but this one is special. It has a remote and mysterious feeling to it (no road, just the railway). In addition there is an amazing mix of woodland and limestone grassland species and including one usually found in dune slacks.

<http://www.somersetrareplantsgroup.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pyrola-rotundifolia-subsp.-maritima-2020-03-26.pdf>



EGFORD, FROME

Amazing views over the valley, and the fields are planted so we get to see changes every time we go as things grow. Good walk for extending into the woods, and I've seen the most incredible sunsets from here.

13.0 FAVOURITE WALKS, VIEWS AND HIDDEN GEMS ...



AN OLD OAK TREE CHILCOMPTON PARISH A10.1

An oak tree growing on sloping pasture land. One of the main branches grows across to the ground uphill of the trunk and it has an exceptionally broad canopy.

It's a really striking tree, close to one of our favourite footpaths, though sometimes we do the walk to see the tree.

HOLCOMBE OLD CHURCH chosen because of all the memories it holds - picnics with children, blackberry picking, dog walking, warm spring sun. The history it holds in its walls.

UPPER NETTLEBRIDGE VALLEY

It is impossible to choose one "gem" as this whole valley is special. It includes the hamlets of Ashwick, Neighbourne, Benter, Upper Benter and T'other Side the Hill. It is bounded to the east by the A367, to the north by the B3356 / Sweetleaze Lane, to the west and south by Gurney Slade Bottom / higher ground in the A5 LCA. I'm mapping it at a crossroads where all roads lead you somewhere special. The whole area has a very remote and tranquil feel to it. There are many really quiet, winding lanes and footpaths to explore, each one with views across the valley - an intricate landscape with trees and pastures, hamlets and signs of early coal pits and mines. There is abundant wildlife, with a "hot spot" in Cockles Fields, an SWT nature reserve and part of a Scheduled Monument for medieval coal mining remains. A place to get lost in, literally as well as metaphorically.



NINE BARROWS LANE, PRIDDY

Horse ride over Waldegrave estate

Have ridden here most of my life, over 50 years. Fantastic unchanging landscape rich in history and heritage.