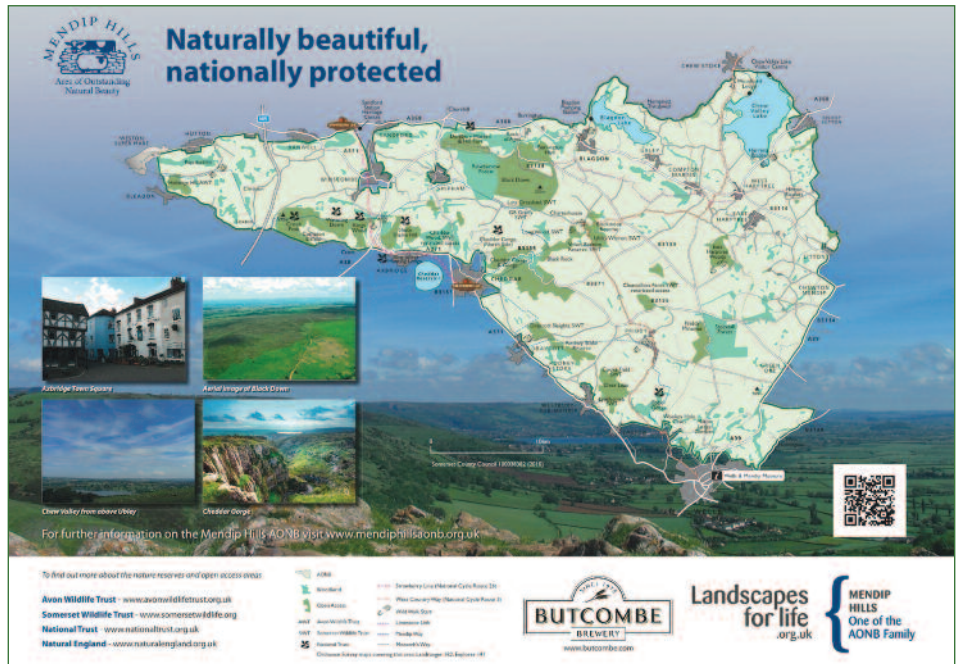


Out and about in the AONB

NEW AONB visitor gateway map boards will shortly be installed at Cheddar National Trust shop, Axbridge layby, Burrington Combe, Chew Valley Lake and Ubley layby. The new boards have a large map of the AONB with places to visit and web sites for further information. **Pull up banners** will also be provided to King John's Hunting Lodge, Axbridge, Wells and Mendip Museum and Weston Super Mare Museum.

Visitor Map Posters sponsored by local Butcombe Brewery will be distributed to local pubs and other places used by visitors eg farm shops, tourist information centres. If you would like to display one of the full colour A2 posters please contact the AONB Office.

The existing 9 AONB **boundary markers** are being repainted, cleared of vegetation and repaired where necessary.



Young Rangers with the kestrel boxes they made



Chris Sperring takes the Young Rangers on a raptor survey

In January AONB Young Rangers assisted the Hawk and Owl Trust's Mendip Raptor Project. The group made 8 Kestrel boxes that will be installed at a site in the AONB next month. The Young Rangers also took part in a raptor survey led by Chris Sperring of the Hawk and Owl Trust observing 4 short-eared owls flying low as they hunted for food over rough grassland – a sign the area is supporting a good population of rodents as food supply for owls and other raptors.

A significant amount of **dry stone walling** has been undertaken along the A39 near the junction with Priddy Road funded by the landowner Simon Tudway Quilter. To assist the next stage of the walling, Somerset County Council has carried out highway tree works removing trees along the wall on Priddy Road. This work has made a significant contribution to enhancing the quality of the AONB landscape.

Priddy Circles – the southern most circle of this Neolithic monument of international importance was damaged last year. Now subject to a police investigation If you witnessed the damage between May 1st and June 22nd 2011 call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. The reported damage has made the top 5 of 'most popular' stories across the world on the Past Horizons online web site. www.pasthorizonspr.com

The Mendip Hills AONB Unit is the voice of the protected landscape, working with landowners and the local community to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk
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