



4

MENDIP BY NUMBERS

Priors Hill near Wells

4.0 MENDIP BY NUMBERS

4.1 The Mendip District Area

- 4.1.1 The Authority area extends to some 738 sq km.
- 4.1.2 It has an estimated total population of around 114,000.
- 4.1.3 Within the district the urban areas of the City of Wells and the four main towns equate to 2.6% of the total MDC area.
- 4.1.4 An estimated 63.2% of the population live within the five built up areas. While some 36.8% of the population (40,000 people) live within the villages and rural landscapes of the district.
- 4.1.5 There are many villages identified in the local plan with an identified settlement boundary. Of these some 25 have a population more than 500. Only three (Coleford, Chilcompton and Evercreech) have populations over 2,000.
- 4.1.6 Villages over 500 population:

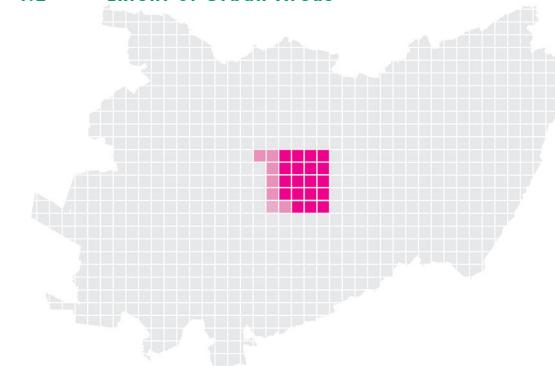
1. Baltonsborough	14. Kilmersdon
2. Beckington	15. Meare
3. Binegar & Gurney Slade	16. Mells
4. Butleigh	17. Norton St. Philip
5. Chewton Mendip	18. Nunney
6. Chilcompton	19. Oakhill
7. Coleford	20. Rode
8. Croscombe	21. Stoke St Michael
9. Ditcheat	22. Walton
10. Doulting	23. West Pennard
11. Draycott	24. Westbury-sub-Mendip
12. Evercreech	25. Wookey
13. Holcombe	

[4.1 Area Information]

[4.2 Population Data]

MDC SETTLEMENT SIZES		POPULATION	HECTARES
Frome	Largest	27,937	634
Shepton Mallet	4th	10,731	308
Wells	3rd	11,281	325
Street	2nd	12,862	381
Glastonbury	Smallest	9,225	298
	Total population of Wells and the four towns	72,036	19.46 km ²
	% wrt to MDC	63.2%	2.6%
Larger Villages	-	33,784	672
	% wrt to MDC	30.0%	1.0%
	Total (Wells, four towns & larger villages)	105,263	26 km ²

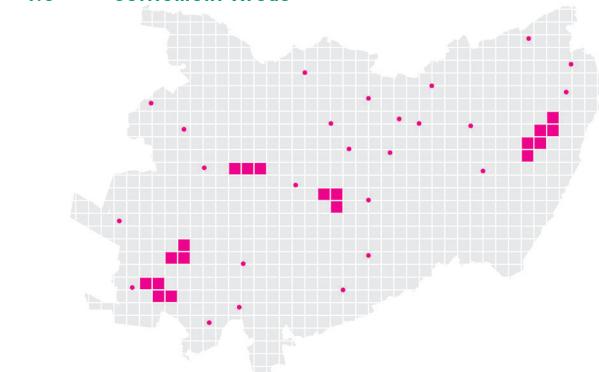
4.2 Extent of Urban Areas



- Area of identified built up areas
City of Wells and the Four Towns
- Area of identified built up areas
Larger Villages (Population >500)

19.46 km²
2.6%
6.72 km²
1.0%
TOTAL 26 km²
w.r.t. MDC (738 km²) 1.0%

4.3 Settlement Areas

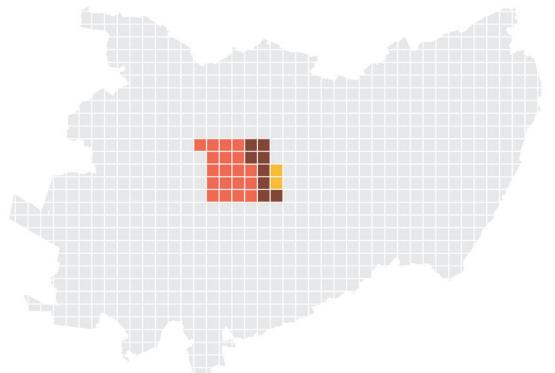


- Wells & the Four Towns
- Larger Villages (Population > 500)

4.1.7 The rural area includes many small areas of development outside of the settlements. The two main forms of non-urban development seen within the district are mineral workings and solar farms. The precise extent of current peat extraction is not identified but has substantially reduced since the previous study. The combined extent of the active hard rock quarries [4.3] and consented solar farms is around 1,230 ha [4.4] (around 1.7% of the district area).

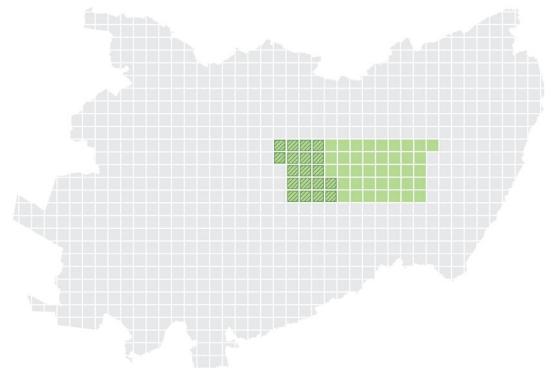
4.1.8 The District area includes some 56 Sq km of woodlands equating to around 7.6% coverage. The total for the UK as a whole is around 13%, the total for England is around 10%.

4.4 Developments: Extent of Urban Area, Active



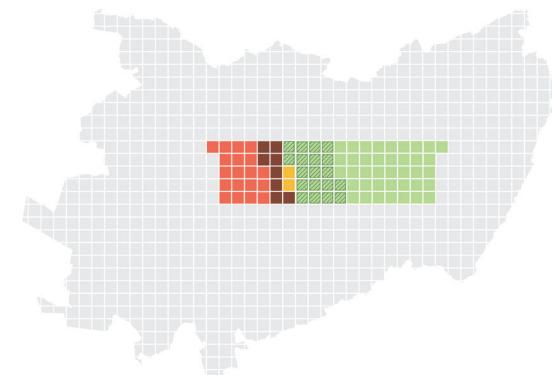
Area of identified built up areas	
■ Area of identified built up areas	19.46 km ²
City of Wells and the Four Towns	2.6%
■ Active Mineral Workings	7.93 km ²
Hard Rock Quarries & Active Peat Extraction	1.1%
■ Solar Farms (excluding smaller scale farm installations)	2.30 km ²
Overall area from Renewables Consented within MDC Area	0.3%
TOTAL	29.69 km²
w.r.t. MDC (738 km ²)	4.0%

4.5 Woodland Tree Cover



Ancient Woodland	
■ Ancient Woodland	21.2 km ²
■ Other Woodland Areas	34.8 km ²
Conifer, Broadleaved, Coppice	4.5%
TOTAL	56.0 km²
w.r.t. MDC (738 km ²)	7.6%

4.6 Extent of Developments vs. Woodlands



Developments: Extent of Urban Area, Active Minerals & Solar Farms

Area of identified built up areas	
■ Area of identified built up areas	19.46 km ²
City of Wells and the Four Towns	2.6%
■ Active Mineral Workings	7.93 km ²
Hard Rock Quarries & Active Peat Extraction	1.1%
■ Solar Farms (excluding smaller scale farm installations)	2.30 km ²
Overall area from Renewables Consented within MDC Area	0.3%

Woodland Tree Cover

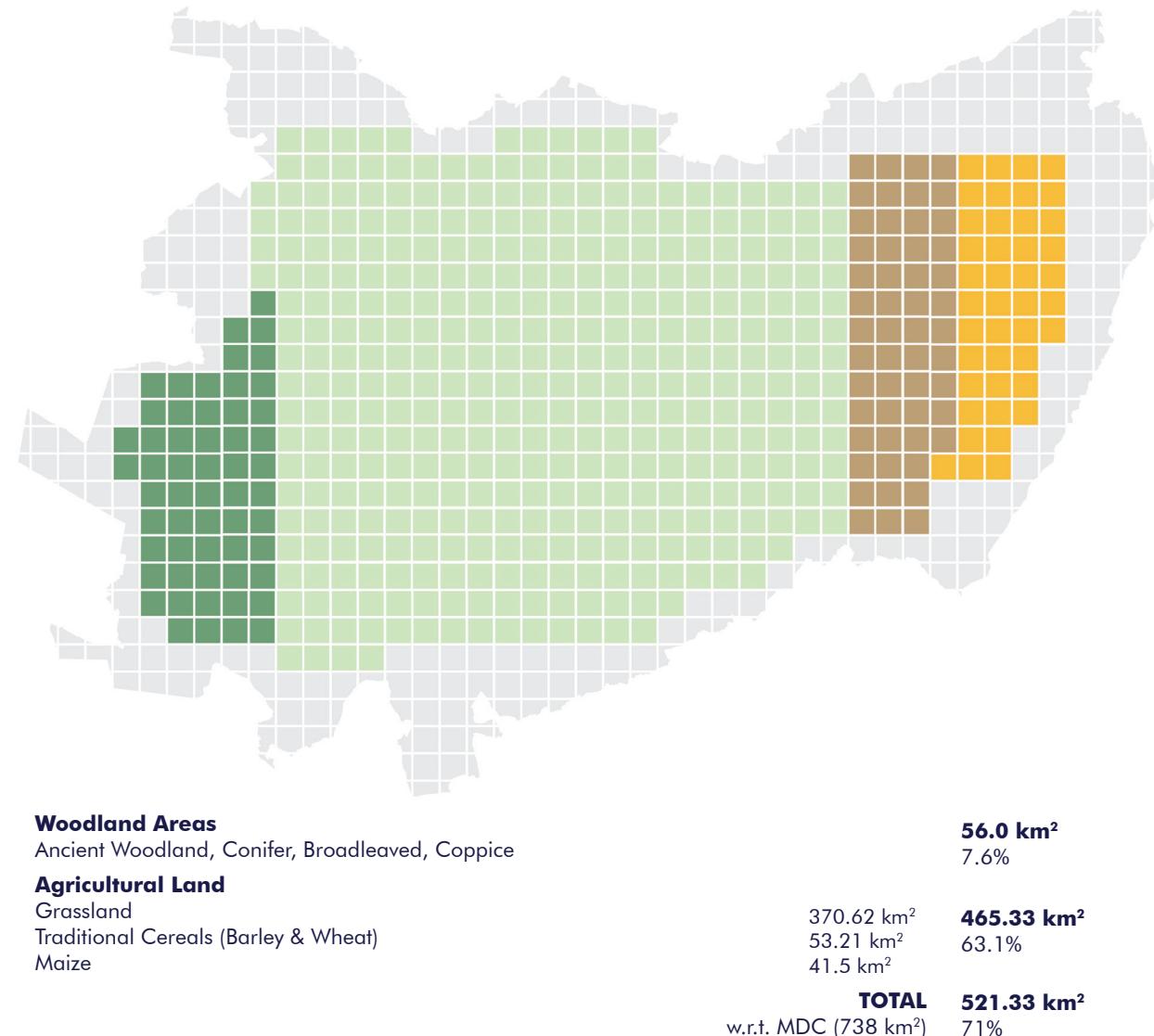
Ancient Woodland	
■ Ancient Woodland	21.2 km ²
■ Other Woodland Areas	34.8 km ²
Conifer, Broadleaved, Coppice	4.5%
TOTAL	85.69 km²
w.r.t. MDC (738 km ²)	11.6%

4.1.9 Of the MDC woodland area there are some 2,120 ha of Ancient Woodland. [4.5]

4.1.10 The area of ancient woodland within the district is greater than that of the total of built up area.

4.1.11 As a rural district the predominant land use of Agriculture occupies around 465 Sq Km – 63% of the district. The majority of this, around 37,000 ha, is managed as grassland. The remaining areas are mostly arable with around 5,300 ha of traditional cereals (wheat and barley) and 4,100 ha Km of Maize. [4.6]

4.7 Woodlands & Agricultural Land

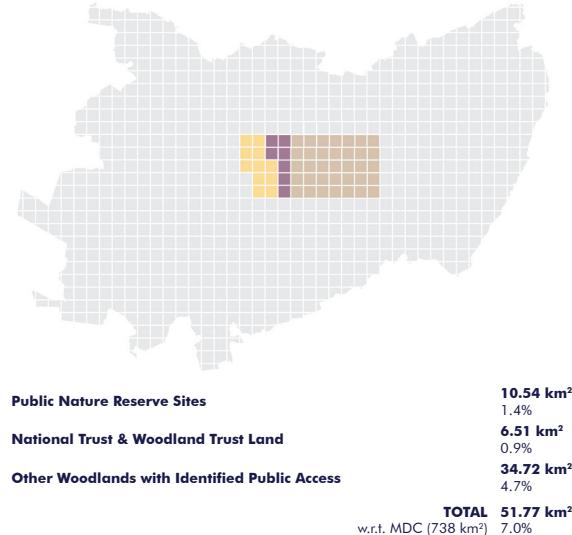


4.1.12 Around 22% of the district is covered by landscape related designations, Conservation Areas and Green Belt. The AONB areas account for around 13.8% of this.

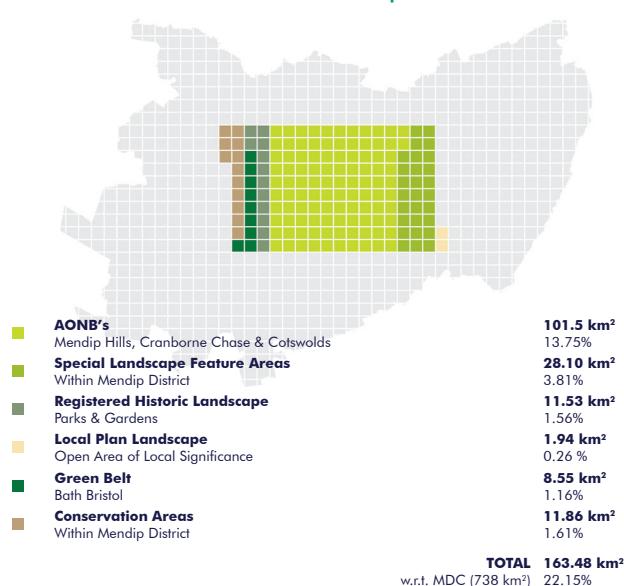
4.1.13 There are a range of Nature Conservation Designations across the district along with areas that are not formally designated but are actively managed as nature reserves. Many of these are open to free public access.

4.1.14 In addition, there are areas of farmland where Stewardship Scheme Funding supports environmentally friendly land management. [4.7]

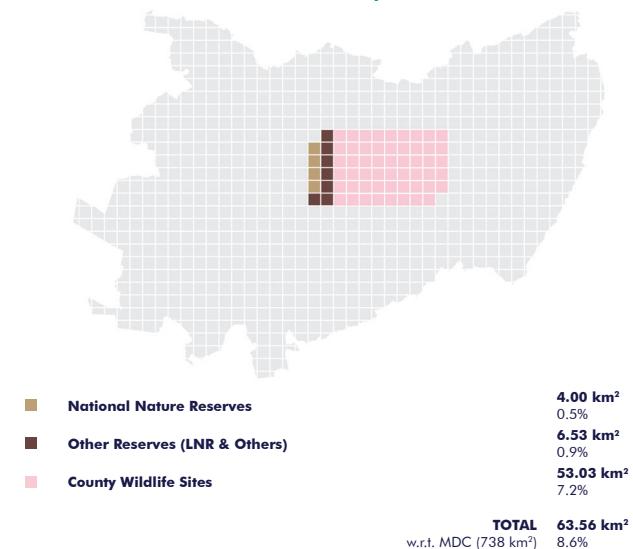
4.8 Accessible Land Managed for Conservation & Woodland



4.9 Extent of Protected Landscapes



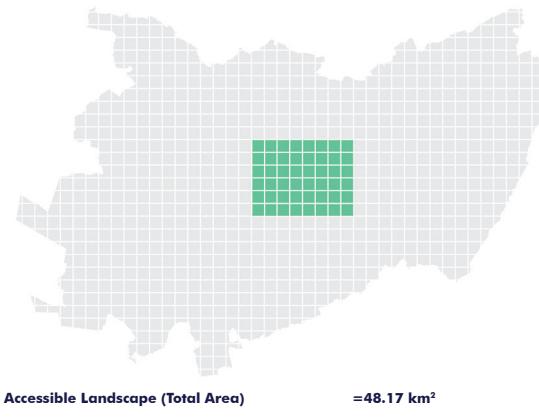
4.10 Nature Reserves & County Wildlife Sites



4.1.15 There are 1,056 ha of Open Access Land and around 3,761 ha of other accessible landscape including Nature Reserve Sites and accessible Woodlands across the district.

4.1.16 The various designated public rights of way form a network totalling some 1,413 Km. Of these around 100 Km are identified as long distance footpath routes. There are also around 18 Km of shared off road cycle paths.

4.12 TOTAL AREA OF ACCESSIBLE LANDSCAPE



■ Accessible Landscape (Total Area)

=48.17 km²

4.11 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & SUSTRANS CYCLE ROUTES



— Long Distance Paths (PROW)

=106 km

— Other Public Rights of Way (PROW)

=1,289 km

— SUSTRANS (off-road)

=18 km

— SUSTRANS (on-road) * not counted towards total

=84 km

Total PROW & SUSTRANS in MDC (Total) = 1,497 km

REFERENCES FOR SECTION 4.0

- [4.1] Area information gathered from MDS GIS data/mapping
- [4.2] ONS data via <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/>
- [4.3] Somerset County Minerals and Waste Plan – Appendix
- [4.4] Extent of Solar Farms derived from MDC Public Planning Applications
- [4.5] Extent of woodland coverage UK – Forestry Commission source
- [4.6] Data sets for agricultural production
- [4.7] Data sets for Stewardships