



# The Historic Landscape of the Mendip Hills

## Key Features

- A chronological look at the historic landscape of the Mendip Hills
- Explores both archaeological and architectural features in the landscape
- Richly illustrated with photographs, maps, plans and reconstruction drawings

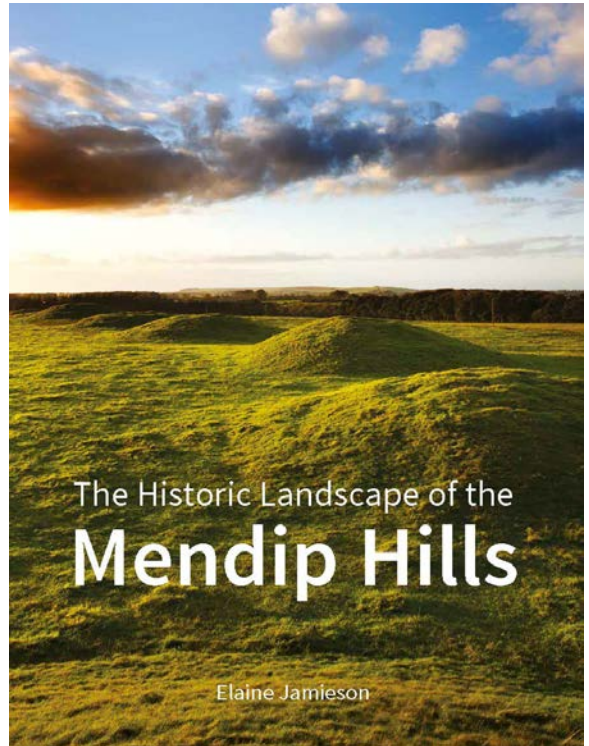
## About the Book

When travelling north-east across the Somerset Levels and Moors the eye is drawn to the dark mass of the Mendip Hills, a Carboniferous Limestone ridge which rises abruptly from the flatness of its surroundings. The spectacular chasm of Cheddar Gorge slices through the southern escarpment, the rock-cut recesses within bearing witness to thousands of years of human activity.

Bringing together a wide variety of new and past research, *The Historic Landscape of the Mendip Hills* explores the archaeology and architecture of this remarkable corner of England, beginning with evidence for the first hunting groups who passed through the region over half a million years ago. Succeeding generations have left their mark on the Hills, from the enigmatic ceremonial structures of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, to the ancient farming landscapes and brooding hill forts of the later prehistoric period. Field archaeology, combined with architectural and historical enquiry, has also allowed a complex narrative to be constructed for more recent periods of history. This is a story dominated by adaptation and change, evidenced by the developing architecture of manorial centres and the shadowy remains of earlier structures fossilised within village houses, or by flights of abandoned terraces of former strip fields and the unassuming ruins of farmsteads which bear testament to the people who once worked and occupied the land.

Richly illustrated with photographs, maps, detailed plans and reconstruction drawings, this volume presents a synthesis of the results of recent fieldwork undertaken by English Heritage and traces this region's remarkable past, revealing ways in which it has shaped the landscape we see and value today.

## New Title Information



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## Contents

1. The Mendip Hills Landscape
2. The Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic
3. The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age
4. The later prehistoric period
5. The Romano-British and early medieval periods
6. The later medieval period
7. The post-medieval period
8. The 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond

## About the Author

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