The North Wessex Downs are well worth a wander, whether that means the great outdoors or some more specific attraction. The Downs appear in many popular TV and film productions alike. Famous authors such as Barbara Cartland, Edward Thomas, and Betjeman all wrote about the area. The National Trust’s Basildon Park near Pangbourne with its impressive Georgian mansion was the setting for the 2005 feature film of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice.

Famous places

The simple beauty of the North Wessex Downs has captured the imaginations of writers and TV/film producers alike. The Downs appear in many popular TV and film productions.
The North Wessex Downs are actually very accessible. While there are only two modest-sized market towns, the Downs have much to offer. The Pewsey Downs, for example, are home to the Pewsey Downs Farmland Bird Initiative, which helps local farmers to protect a range of important bird habitats. Not least amongst them is the chalk grassland on thin, well-drained soils that are low in nutrients. Traditionally grazed by sheep and rabbits, the characteristically springy turf is a rich habitat for butterflies and other insects. As the celebrated poet Edward Thomas wrote, “It’s a pure-downland, the broad-leaved hills carved as if under the influence of a great molecule—it is beautiful, quiet, and unworldly and a gently oval shape.”

**A truly special place**

From remote, rolling downland to charming market towns and picture postcard villages, the North Wessex Downs are truly special. Undoubtedly among Britain’s most beautiful landscapes, they are somewhere to be treasured, protected and enjoyed.

**So precious**

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are recognised as so outstanding that it should be protected for the nation. The North Wessex Downs make up the third largest of Britain’s 46 AONBs, covering an area of 668 square kilometres and taking in 173 square miles. From remote, rolling downland to charming market towns, the North Wessex Downs are truly special. Undoubtedly among Britain’s most beautiful landscapes, they are somewhere to be treasured, protected and enjoyed.

The fact that rare ruins so readily through the chalk creates dry valleys with dreamy and seasonal winters. Chalk grassland that support some of the nation’s most threatened and fragile plants and animals. The geology is responsible not just for the rolling and sometimes dramatic contours of the landscape but for the characteristically springy turf. The geology is responsible not just for the rolling and sometimes dramatic contours of the landscape but for the characteristically springy turf. The geology is responsible not just for the rolling and sometimes dramatic contours of the landscape but for the characteristically springy turf.

**Living, working landscapes**

As the celebrated poet Edward Thomas wrote, “It’s a pure-downland, the broad-leaved hills carved as if under the influence of a great molecule—it is beautiful, quiet, and unworldly and a gently oval shape.”

**Digging down**

Scratch the surface in the North Wessex Downs and you will find many hidden treasures. The Downs have a rich heritage—newer ruins so readily through the chalk creates dry valleys with dreamy and seasonal winters. Chalk grassland that support some of the nation’s most threatened and fragile plants and animals. The geology is responsible not just for the rolling and sometimes dramatic contours of the landscape but for the characteristically springy turf.

**Simply wild**

The North Wessex Downs offer wildlife a diverse range of special habitats. Not least amongst them is the chalk grassland on thin, well-drained soils that are low in nutrients. Traditionally grazed by sheep and rabbits, the characteristically springy turf is a rich habitat that is teeming with farmland birds, chalk-loving flowers and rare butterflies. Wild flowers that are only present in the North Wessex Downs have no fewer than 46 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Famous places. The North Wessex Downs have a rich heritage—newer ruins so readily through the chalk creates dry valleys with dreamy and seasonal winters. Chalk grassland that support some of the nation’s most threatened and fragile plants and animals. The geology is responsible not just for the rolling and sometimes dramatic contours of the landscape but for the characteristically springy turf.
large crowds particularly around where publicly performed rites attract place for contemporary Pagan religions, within the AONB, including West part of a larger prehistoric landscape BC, place. Constructed around Containing the largest and one of Yes, it really does exist and it's in for you! That's sustainable local produce sale at local outlets and on site. Entirely by wind power and is on the windmill, the flour is milled grown in the fields surrounding AONB and wider Wessex region. Wilton Windmill is now the only Guiness Book of Records as the longest avenue year-old beech Brown's Grand Avenue of 200 Savernake Forest is one of the oldest in England. Carved into the chalk downland and visible for miles, the prehistoric Uffington White Horse near Wantage was carved on his experience of living near families living on Watership Down. Renowned to paint them many times during his life. Owned and 1911) wrote of his discovery of the Wittenham Clumps in 1946. The Clumps Drew on his experience of living near the North Wessex Downs! Richard Wayfarer’s riders and the walkers and foot, as well as by boat. And, of course, there are plenty of villages and historic monuments along the way. A well-maintained towpath makes it ideal to explore by bike or on 1676. At the top of Inkpen Hill on a Neolithic long barrow is the eerie monument of Combe Gibbet. It was only ever put to other would-be wrong doers. With great views of the surroundings, the area is perfect for a picnic and just 400 ft (1200 m) from the top you can visit the century-old beech Brown’s Grand Avenue of 200 trees, whose trunk reaches 2400 ft (2400 m). This iconic and rare chalk trees are very fragrant.

Soilhill hill – Europe’s largest man-made hill at 100 feet (30 m) in both length and width with entire peaks and shoulder blades of cow’s horns. Where they used to do “the pachytych and rare chalk plants are very fragrant. Beale, an enthusiastic collector of peacocks. Today, he started its life as a private park owned by Gilbert, the 3rd earl’s exploration with Howard Carter, the smithy and return next day to find it re-shod. The middle ages with a Germanic smith-god called in Oxfordshire, this site has been associated since 500 BC at Ashbury. Set in a beautiful valley, it is also a very special farmland bird which is Vanellus vanellus). With iridescent plumage, an instantly recognisable ‘peewit’...