

MENDIP

ROCKS!

FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 2026

An exciting programme of events to celebrate the awe-inspiring 450 million year geology of the Mendip Hills



PROGRAMME 2026

MENDIP

ROCKS!

FESTIVAL 2026 • 1st to 24th OCTOBER

It's

ROCKTOBER!



All events must be booked
unless otherwise stated



The Mendip Wolves

Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd October

6.30pm – 8.30pm or 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Ebbor Gorge Car Park, BA5 1AY

Experience an after dark lantern performance in the heart of Ebbor Gorge, inspired by the wolf and its ice aged connection to the Mendip landscape. Devised by artist Sean Harris and conservation palaeoecologist Professor Danielle Schreve. Free. Booking essential.

Explore Ebbor

Saturday 3rd October

12pm – 4pm

Ebbor Gorge, BA5 1AY

Celebrate the wonders of Ebbor Gorge at our family open day. Experience dramatic limestone cliffs, ancient woodland and hidden caves as experts reveal how geology, archaeology and wildlife intertwine to create this remarkable landscape. Book onto guided walks, take part in hands on activities, and uncover stories of ice age animals that once roamed the Mendip Hills. Free entry. Walks must be booked in advance.

Digging Deep: Discovering the Somerset Coalfields

Tuesday 6th October

11am – 2.30pm

Somerset Earth Science Centre,
Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU. £15

Discover Somerset's coal mining past and the ancient forests that once flourished here with an illustrated talk by Andy Gordon. Afterwards, join Andy and Dr Martin Whiteley to search for Carboniferous plant fossils at Writhlington Batch. Please bring a packed lunch. Fossil site has steep terrain and uneven ground.

For all outdoor events,
please wear sensible
footwear and weather
appropriate clothing



Discovering the Geology of Great Elm and Vallis Vale

Wednesday 7th October

10.30am - 2.30pm

Fordbury Bottom, Great Elm,

Frome, BA11 3NY. £8

Join geologist Dr Martin Whiteley for a fascinating guided walk to discover how ancient oceans and tectonic forces shaped Tedbury Camp and the De La Beche unconformity. 2km along path with steps.

Earthforms & Artforms:

A Creative Workshop at Fairy Cave Quarry

Thursday 8th October

10.30am - 2pm

Somerset Earth Science Centre,

Stoke St Michael.

BA3 5JU. £15

Create your own expressive artwork in the atmospheric Fairy Cave Quarry with local artist and geologist Steve Cobbin. Explore dramatic limestone, hidden caves, and fossil textures. Suitable for all abilities. Materials can be provided. Entry to the quarry challenging for those with mobility issues.

Where Lava Met the Sea: Exploring Sand Point's Carboniferous Volcanic Past

Friday 9th October

11am - 3pm

Meet at National Trust car park,

Kewstoke, BS22 9UD. £8

Join geologist John Kirby for a fascinating guided walk to discover ancient Carboniferous volcanic formations and learn how dramatic geological processes shaped this striking landscape. Steep terrain and uneven ground.

Deep Time & Human History: A Geo Archaeology Adventure

in the Mendip Hills

Monday 12th October

10am - 3pm

Meet at Blackmoor Reserve car park, Charterhouse, BS40 7XR. £10

Join geologist John Kirby and archaeologist Andrew Buchanan for a guided 5 mile walk as they explain how tropical seas, tectonic forces, and human history has shaped the Mendip Hills. Steep terrain and uneven ground.

Layers of the Land: The Geology of Glastonbury

Tuesday 13th October

10am - 12pm

Meet outside Glastonbury Tourist Information Centre, BA6 9EL. £8

Join local expert Val Graham for a captivating walk to uncover geological stories behind the legendary Isle of Avalon. Climb the Tor for stunning views and insights into how geology shaped the Glastonbury landscape.

Torr Works Quarry Tours

Wednesday 14th October

9.30am - 12.30pm or

1.30pm-4.30pm

Somerset Earth Science Centre,

Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU. £15

Get up close to ancient Carboniferous rock and observe how it is extracted and processed on this unique, guided minibus tour of one of the largest limestone quarries in the UK. Please wear trousers, long sleeved top and boots.

Building Stones of Shepton Mallet Guided Walk

Tuesday 15th October

10am - 12.30pm

Shepton Mallet Market Square,

BA4 5AZ. £8

Join local geologists Steve Cobbin and Stephen Thompson for a fascinating insight into the processes that forged the rocks that built the historic market town of Shepton Mallet.



Earth Science Week
11th - 17th October 2026

More Event Information and Booking <https://mendiphills-nl.org.uk/mendiprocks> or call 01749 840156

Somerset Earth Science Centre Geo Lectures

Saturday 17th October



12.30pm – 4.30pm Somerset Earth Science Centre, Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU. £15 (Students/Unwaged £5)

Celebrate Earth Science Week with an afternoon of specialist lectures delivered by speakers from a range of geologically-related disciplines including award winning presenter and writer Anjana Khatwa, palaeontologist Ryan Antcliff, and cave explorer Vince Simmonds. Light refreshments included.

Halecombe Quarry Tours

Tuesday 20th October

10am – 12pm or
2pm – 4pm

Somerset Earth Science Centre,
Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU. £15

Explore the full sequence of Lower Carboniferous limestones that make up the northern limb of the Beacon Hill Pericline. Be amazed by its many uses and learn about past and present extraction and processing methods during this unique guided minibus tour. Please wear trousers, long sleeved top and boots.

Building Stones of Wells Cathedral

Wednesday 21st October

10am – 12.30pm

Wells Cathedral Entrance,
Cathedral Green, BA5 2UE. £8

Discover the hidden geology of Wells Cathedral on a fascinating guided tour with geologist Stephen Thompson. Explore dramatic architecture and the rocks that helped shape one of England's most beautiful cathedrals.

Whitley Quarry Tours

Thursday 22nd October

9.30am – 12.30pm or
1.30pm – 4.30pm

Somerset Earth Science Centre,
Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU. £15

Explore Whitley Quarry on a guided minibus tour and discover how Carboniferous limestone is extracted, processed and transported. See the quarry's trains and learn how stone from one of UK's largest quarries travels across the country. Please wear trousers, long sleeved top and boots.

Somerset Earth Science Centre Museum Open Day

Saturday 24th October

11am – 3.30pm

Somerset Earth Science Centre,
Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU.

See our extensive collection of fossils, rocks, and minerals. Bring in your own rocky treasures for identification. Lots of fun activities for all. Fossil and mineral sales. Light refreshments available. Free entry (donations welcome).

MENDIP ROCKS!

Brought to you by



Mendip Hills
National
Landscape



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