

Fact Sheet Ten

Did you know?



- People have lived and worked in the Cotswolds for over 6,000 years.
- Farmland covers most of the AONB.
- Over 1/2 of the country's flower-rich (jurassic) limestone grassland is found in the Cotswolds.
- Cotswold stone buildings and villages are known the world over.
- The AONB has a network of drystone walls at least equivalent to the length of the Great Wall of China
- The AONB attracts 38 million day visitors each year.
- The native Cotswolds sheep was known as the 'Cotswold Lion', at one time providing wool for over 1/2 of England's cloth.
- The AONB has internationally important beech and yew woods.
- The AONB has a population of 139,000¹ but two million people live close by.
- Local stone has been quarried in the Cotswolds since Roman times.
- The endangered species of snail, *Laurea sempronii*, is found on just one wall in the Cotswolds.
- Tourism is one of the major industries in the AONB.
- The Romans arrived in the Cotswolds in AD47 building now famous roads, like the Fosse Way, and great towns like Cirencester.
- The Cotswolds has always been a favourite with artists and writers such as William Morris and Laurie Lee.
- The Cotswolds building style is famous: it includes a steep pitched roof, ridge tiles and coping; tall chimneys; large window sills of stone or wood; and detailed window surrounds of stone.
- In the Middle Ages, Cotswold wool merchants built themselves grand houses and endowed magnificent 'wool' churches which still stand today.
- The AONB has some of the finest gardens and arboreta in the country, such as Westonbirt.
- The AONB has 10% of the country's breeding horseshoe bats.
- There are over 3,000 miles of public footpath in the AONB.
- The geology of the Cotswolds has a big impact on the landscape: underlying much of the AONB is the Great Oolite, a limestone much prized as a building stone.



Photographer © Nick Turner

1. Census 2001.

Cotswolds Conservation Board

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