



COVER PICTURE SUNDON HILLS



BRADENHAM

This leaflet has been produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board, the body charged with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Chilterns AONB.

If you would like to know more about the Chilterns or the work of the Conservation Board, visit the website [www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org)

You can contact the Chilterns Conservation Board at  
 8 Summerleys Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire HP27 9DT  
 Tel: 01844 271300 Fax: 01844 271301 Email: [office@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:office@chilternsaonb.org)

# Did you Know?





■ The Chiltern Hills have been protected as an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** since 1965.

■ The Chilterns stretch from the Thames in **Oxfordshire** through **Buckinghamshire** and **Bedfordshire** to Hitchin in **Hertfordshire**.

■ The centre of the Chilterns is only 35 miles from **Trafalgar Square**.

■ **100,000 people** live in the Chilterns AONB.

■ There are **20 railway stations** in or near the Chilterns.

■ There are **50 million visits** a year to the Chilterns.



CHILTERN GENTIAN



HUGHENDEN CHURCH

■ One fifth of the area of the Chilterns is covered by woodland, **three times** the average for England.

■ The beechwoods were planted mainly in the **eighteenth century** to provide timber for the furniture industry.

■ The Chilterns is home to England's largest population of **red kites**, a spectacular bird of prey re-introduced in the 1990s.

■ Many hedges in the Chilterns are ancient – the Black Hedge near Princes Risborough is over **1000 years old**.

■ The Chilterns is a stronghold of **rare flowers** such as the Chiltern gentian and the Military orchid.

■ The chalk in the Chilterns used to be at the bottom of the sea - it was formed between 70 and 95 million years ago from the shells of tiny **sea creatures**.

■ Some of the rare **chalk streams** in the Chilterns have sections which only flow in winter.

■ There are over **2000km** of footpaths and bridleways in the Chilterns and over 70 routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.



RED KITE  
rspb-images.com  
Roger Wilmshurst

■ The Chilterns is home to **Chequers**, the prime minister's country residence since the 1920s.

■ Famous Chilterns residents past and present include **William Penn**, the founder of Pennsylvania, **Roald Dahl**, **George Harrison** and **Ozzy Osbourne**.

■ The **Aston Martin** car was named after the hill climb at Aston Hill, near Wendover.

■ The Chilterns often provide locations for tv and films, for example, **The Vicar of Dibley**, **Midsomer Murders**, **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** and **The Dirty Dozen**.

■ **John Milton** completed Paradise Lost in his cottage in Chalfont St Giles.

■ In the first **Harry Potter** film Harry's broomstick was made out of Chilterns wood.



WALKERS ON COOMBE HILL

# did you know?