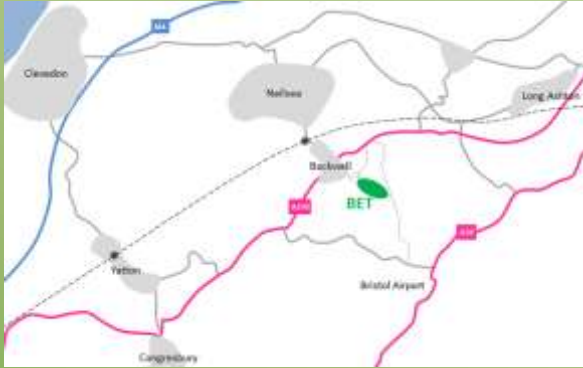


## How to find the Reserves

The BET Reserves are located south-east of Backwell on either side of Cheston Combe. Please refer to the large map overleaf for details of parking places, footpaths, and viewpoints.



## Volunteering with BET

BET is dependent upon volunteers to manage the woods. Volunteer days are organised every week.

Do join us — no experience is necessary.

For further information, see our website or contact the Reserves Manager, Ian Chambers.

Tel: 01275 463315

E-mail: [chimpychams@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chimpychams@yahoo.co.uk)



## Become a member now!

As a local charity, we hope you will support us.

Annual subscriptions: £5 (single), £10 (family).

Donations are also gratefully received.

For further information please contact the Membership Secretary, Anne-Marie Smith.

Tel: 01275 463966

E-mail: [anne-marie@electricbubble.co.uk](mailto:anne-marie@electricbubble.co.uk)

# The Backwell Environment Trust Woodland Reserves



The Backwell Environment Trust (BET) was founded in 2004, to protect and preserve the beautiful countryside surrounding the historic village of Backwell.

BET owns and manages two nature reserves to the south-east of Backwell, high up on Backwell Hill, which offer free access to the whole community.

There is a network of lovely footpaths including sections of level, wheelchair-friendly paths in both reserves, leading to magnificent viewpoints.

The reserves are home to many rare species and have a rich archaeological history.

BET welcomes you to our lovely woodland reserves and hopes you will enjoy your visit.

## Acknowledgements

The BET reserves were purchased with generous grants from the North Somerset Aggregates and Landfill Levies funds and the kind assistance of Backwell Parish Council and the members and supporters of BET.

BET was delighted to be awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for voluntary groups, in June 2010.



<http://www.backwellenvironmenttrust.org>

## Jubilee Stone Wood



Purchased in 2005, the 10-acre Jubilee Stone Wood Nature Reserve contains many rare species, including the Hazel Dormouse, Greater Horseshoe Bat and the Yellow Bird's-nest plant.

Since acquiring the woodland, our volunteers have returned approximately 3/4 acre of scrub to wildflower meadows. Smaller sections of the woodland have been coppiced to create sunny glades, whilst approximately 500 metres of hedgerows have been laid.

Two ponds have been created, which provide an invaluable source of water for the larger mammals on the reserve and are home to many aquatic species including frogs, newts, and dragonflies.

The wood also contains a 300 metre 'easy access trail' leading to the magnificent viewpoint at the historic Jubilee Stone, which is especially suitable for wheelchairs and the less mobile.

The Jubilee Stone monument was erected in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. The views across the Nailsea valley to Tickenham Ridge, Tyntesfield, and Wales beyond are truly spectacular.

## Badgers Wood



Badgers Wood was acquired in 2009. The 12-acre reserve climbs almost 100 metres, giving spectacular views over the old Coles Quarry, the Bristol Channel, Exmoor, and the Welsh hills beyond.

The quarry and surrounding meadows make attractive hunting grounds for birds of prey. Buzzards, kestrels, and even peregrine falcons can often be observed from the viewpoint.

Whilst the majority of the trees in the woodland have grown up over the past 50 years or so, there are areas of hidden ancient woodland on the reserve that have been left relatively undisturbed for many centuries.

On the steeply sloping, north-facing hillside where the sun rarely penetrates, thousands of lush-green ferns carpet the ground beneath the moss-covered limestone cliffs.

A woodland trail (The Fern Way) was completed in 2011 by BET volunteers to lead you through this hidden, magical landscape. In 2012, the Community Trail was added, giving easier access to the lower levels.

## Archaeology



The rabbit warren in Jubilee Stone Wood was granted to Sir Richard Rodney on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1318 by the order of King Edward II, and the remains of the **warrener's cottage** are still visible.

Warreners were appointed to protect and harvest rabbits. The cottage would have been a two-storey structure, and the warrener would have used the ground floor as a workshop to process the rabbits whilst using the upper storey as his living accommodation.

The restoration of the nearby **limekiln** began in 2006. The lime kiln was constructed sometime between 1843 and 1884 to convert limestone (calcium carbonate) to quicklime or lime (calcium oxide). This material had many uses, ranging from the production of lime mortar and limewash for buildings to its use in agriculture as a soil improver.

There is widespread evidence of **historic mining** in both reserves, including two seventeenth-century underground lead mines and several piles of waste deposits.

