

Press Release

19th March 2008

Shaping the Shropshire Hills

Join us on Sunday 30th March, 2 – 4pm, Carding Mill Valley, for a guided walk to understand how the Shropshire Hills were formed.

The walk is being led by geology expert Andrew Jenkinson, from the Shropshire Geological Society, on behalf of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership. Andrew explained “The rocks that make up the Shropshire Hills were formed over an immense period of time and under different conditions from hot deserts to coral seas, and from volcanoes to tropical forests. The varied scenery of the Shropshire Hills, both natural and man-made, is largely a reflection of the rocks that lie beneath the surface.”

This is the first of a series of guided walk to find out more about the Shropshire Hills and why they were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 50 years ago.

The meeting point for the walk is the National Trust tea rooms at Carding Mill Valley and a minibus will take us up onto the top of the Long Mynd for panoramic views of the whole range of the Shropshire Hills. The walk will take us along the Portway and back into Carding Mill Valley.

Booking is essential as places on the minibus are limited. Please contact the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership on 01588 674080. For details of other guided walks focusing on the special qualities of the AONB visit www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk

ENDS

Editors Notes:

For further information contact Alison Scimia, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms SY7 9NZ Tel: 01588 674080. E mail SHAONBO@shropshire-cc.gov.uk www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk.

The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 40 AONBs in England & Wales. This designation is recognition of the national value of the area’s landscape, and brings duties on local authorities to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. Covering 23% of the county, the Shropshire Hills AONB extends from the Wrekin to the Clun Forest and from the Stiperstones to the Clee Hills. It is a diverse and tranquil area, with rugged hills, rolling pastoral fields, woods and meadows, picturesque villages and historic buildings, hillforts and ancient monuments.

The management of the AONB is guided by a statutory Management Plan produced by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership which comprises 5 local authorities, 31 other organisations and independent community members. The AONB staff team are funded by the Countryside Agency and the local authorities, and work with others to implement the AONB Management Plan. Shropshire County Council acts as host authority for the AONB Partnership. The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership plays three main roles:

- To develop policy and strategy for the area especially through the AONB Management Plan, and influence the policies and strategies of others
- To take and co-ordinate action to conserve and enhance natural beauty, promote enjoyment and understanding, and further sustainable development

- To support the involvement of the community in the management of the AONB.
