

Press Release

22nd July 2008



Living in the Iron Age – illustrated talk, walk and children’s activities

Join us at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre on Sunday 27th July for an action packed day discovering the rich Iron Age heritage of the Shropshire Hills.

At 10.30am, hillfort expert, Shelagh Lewis, is giving an illustrated talk on hillforts, focussing on the great number in the Shropshire Hills, what they were used for and why they were built.

The talk is followed by an optional walk from the Discovery Centre up to Norton Camp, at 11.30am. This site, although under cultivation, gives you an excellent impression of the scale of the hillfort. The views from the top are stunning and a number of other hillforts on can be pinpointed from here.

From 2.30 – 4pm there are hands on activities for children back at the Discovery Centre. A charge of £2.50 will be made for the children’s activities to cover the costs of materials.

If you want to find out even more about the Iron Age, visit the excellent new attraction at the Discovery Centre. The new exhibition includes a fascinating section on ‘Men of Iron’ and the impact of the Iron Age in Shropshire - see inside an Iron Age round house and dress up in Celtic clothes.

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

If joining the walk please bring suitable footwear and waterproofs. For more information about the event, please contact Stephanie Hayes, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership on 01588 674080.

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Editors Notes:

2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

For further information contact Stephanie Hayes, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms SY7 9NZ Tel: 01588 674087. E mail: SHAONBO@shropshire.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 Natural England 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.
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