

Press Release

17th June 2008



Reading Clues in the Landscape – guided walk

On Sunday 29th June, 2 – 4.30pm, Dr Ian Dormor, Landscape Conservation Officer, from the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, is leading a Landscape Detective walk which will start from the Methodist Church in Church Stretton.

Ian explained “The walk will lead us through the fields and woods on the flanks of Hazler and Helmeth Hills, which are to the east of the A49 at Church Stretton. We will be looking at how to read the clues in the landscape and exploring elements of medieval and later landscapes.

This is one 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.

To book on this walk please contact the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership on 01588 674080. Easy walking, but please bring sensible footwear and waterproofs.

ENDS

Editors Notes:

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

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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.
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