

## Press Release

15th July 2008



### The Wrekin Hillfort – celebrating our heritage

A date for your diary – Saturday 26th July - The Wrekin Hillfort, celebrating our heritage, from 11am to 4pm. Iron Age re-enactment, story telling, traditional woodcrafts, guided walk around the hillfort and book signing with local authors.

This event is being held to celebrate the Wrekin hillfort and highlight some of the activities which have been taking place over the last year. It is also a chance to say thank you to everyone who has been involved.

Pete Lambert, Wrekin Forest Officer of Shropshire Wildlife Trust, enthused “We have been working with the Raby Estate, English Heritage and the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership to put together a Restoration Plan for the Wrekin hillfort. The Wrekin is Shropshire’s icon and a much loved landscape feature. The Plan recognises the varied and valued attributes of the hillfort and it is essential that the management of one issue does not have a detrimental affect on another.”

Families will be able to imagine, with the help of story telling and re-enactment, the reality of living on the Wrekin during the Iron Age. A guided walk at 2pm with Andy Wigley, Historic Environment Advisor at Shropshire County Council, will lead people around the hillfort and highlight some of the management issues around historic monuments and access.

Local authors Allan Frost and George Evans have written a number of books on the Wrekin and will be book signing at the event. There will also be traditional woodcraft demonstrations and refreshments and toilets are available at the Halfway House.

The event is free. Please note that car parking is available at the Forest Glen and there is no unauthorised vehicle access onto the hill itself.

For more information please contact Pete Lambert at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust on 01743 284285.

**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 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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