

Press Release

17th October 2008



The Wrekin – work behind the scenes

The Wrekin – join us for an autumnal walk on Sunday 26th October at 10.30am. Enjoy the stroll through the woodland up to the top and find out more about work 'behind the scenes' - looking after the woods for wildlife and protecting the impressive hillfort at the summit.

Pete Lambert, from Shropshire Wildlife Trust, is leading the walk and added "The Wrekin's oak woods include many ancient trees and are today valued for their beauty and wildlife. As we reach the summit and the hillfort, the woodland gives way to heather-clad heathland and the most spectacular views. It is said on a clear day you can see 17 counties, so fingers crossed. "

The Wrekin forms the northerly tip of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Phil Holden, AONB Manager, will be joining the walk to explain a bit more about AONBs, what it means and why the area was designated 50 years ago.

To join the walk meet at the Forest Glen car park at 10.30am. The walk should take about two hours, please wear suitable shoes and bring refreshments. For more information contact Pete Lambert on 01743 284285.

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Editors Notes:

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

For further information contact Pete Lambert, Shropshire Wildlife Trust.
Tel: 01743 284285. E mail: petel@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

The Wrekin Forest conservation plan is available at www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.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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