

## Press Release

8th August 2006

### Thirty three thousand free trees handed out in three years

Over the last three years the Blue Remembered Hills project has distributed over 33,000 free trees in and around the Shropshire Hills.

The trees handed out are all British natives and range from the mighty oak to the humble hawthorn. The aim of the project is to encourage people to plant local provenance trees. These trees have a direct link to the ones that originally grew here thousands of years ago.

Mike Kelly, River Valleys Officer, explains the benefits of planting local trees “Local, trees are adapted to local soils and our wildlife is dependant on the timing of these trees flowering and fruiting. Local trees also maintain the distinctive landscape of the area and these qualities could be lost forever as more imported trees are planted”.

As usual the scheme is open to schools, farmers, community groups, small businesses and even householders. We are able to supply a wide range of trees, from one or two trees for specimen planting, up to 300 or more for small woodland creation. All trees will be supplied with cane supports, spiral guards and planting guidelines.

2007 is the last year of the scheme so contact Mike Kelly, at the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, for an application form on 01588 674080 or visit [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk) and link to the application form from the home page.

**ENDS**

Editors Notes:

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: contact Mike Kelly if photo required 01588 674091

For further information contact Mike Kelly, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms SY7 9NZ Tel: 01588 674091. E mail [SHAONBO@shropshire-cc.gov.uk](mailto:SHAONBO@shropshire-cc.gov.uk)  
[www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

The Blue Remembered Hills project, developed by the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, is a major 5 year Heritage Lottery project to involve people in protecting key landscape features in and around the Shropshire Hills AONB.

The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 41 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.

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 manages the AONB Office.

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