

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
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Press Release

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Funding available for undergrounding of electricity cables in the Shropshire Hills AONB

Central Networks, the electricity distributor, has allocated funds for reducing the visual impact of overhead lines within nationally protected landscapes in their area. This includes the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, within which between £1million and £2million may be available over the next few years.

Phil Holden, AONB Manager, commented "The money could enable around 25km of typical telegraph pole-mounted cables to be undergrounded. The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership is seeking suggestions from members of the public about particular overhead cables which could be run underground to improve the visual amenity of the area."

Suggestions will be assessed and prioritised by the AONB Partnership for consideration at a regional panel. Central Networks will then look at the feasibility of preferred proposals, including operational effect on the network, the views of landowners, and other factors such as archaeology or biodiversity interests.

Undergrounding will not be possible in all cases when these factors have been taken into account. Examples of proposals that are likely to be prioritised are cables which are prominent on hillsides and high ground, or clusters of cables in Conservation Areas within settlements.

If you have any suggestions please contact the AONB office on 01588 674080.

ENDS

Editors Notes:

IMAGES: map to highlight the Shropshire Hills AONB boundary and overhead cables in the countryside

For further information contact Phil Holden, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms SY7 9NZ Tel: 01588 674088. E mail SHAONBO@shropshire-cc.gov.uk
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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.
