

HILLFORT STUDY GROUP : FIELD-MEETING in MIDDLE MARCHES, APRIL 2009

The meeting to visit hillforts in the midst of the Welsh Marches, mostly in South Shropshire, is to be held on **24-27 April 2009**, based in **Church Stretton** (which has a station, on the Shrewsbury-Hereford line). Brief details of venue and itinerary are given below, with fuller particulars to be provided at the meeting (while additional details can be supplied in advance should they be required by anybody intending to attend but expecting to arrive late). As usual, the core of the meeting will run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, but this is a region where hillforts are so thick on the ground that we are spoilt for choice, so optional extras are on offer for any member with the time and inclination to visit additional sites on the afternoon of Friday 24th and/or on Monday 27th, as follows [with full and final details for Friday, outline only for Saturday to Monday].

FRIDAY 24th APRIL 14.00 : meet at Harry Tuffins supermarket on A49 (and close to station) in Craven Arms [SO 432829]; thence to park in Aston-on-Clun [392818], for gentle walk to BURROW HILL CAMP [3883 : multivallate and multiple enclosure, with complex entrance, numerous internal platforms]; return to Aston for drive to Church Stretton, arriving about 18.00 [SO 449934]
20.00 : meeting at Long Mynd Hotel, for business followed by two illustrated talks about the Shropshire / Middle Marches area (GG on hillforts and Andy Wigley on non-hillfort settlement)

SATURDAY 25th 9.00 : depart Church Stretton for morning visits to CAER CARADOC [SO 4793 : bivallate; inturned/guardchambered entrance approached by terraceway, internal platforms] and NORDY BANK [SO5784 : simple, univallate, contour-fort]
Lunch at Royal Oak, Clee Hill [SO 582757]
Afternoon visits to TITTERSTONE CLEE [SO 5978 : extensive, rubble-walled enclosure; excavations by O'Neil; at 533m, said to be fourth highest hillfort in England but, fear not, we park at 475m] and BODBURY RING [SO 445948 : small, univallate, and puzzling]

SUNDAY 26th 9.00 : depart Church Stretton for morning visits to BURY DITCHES [SO 3283 : multivallate, with elaborate entrances, guardchambers] and FFRIDD FALDWYN [2196 : complex multiple enclosure with multivallations; excavations by O'Neil]
Lunch at Montgomery [SO222965]
Afternoon visits to RATLINGHOPE/STITT HILL [SO 4097 : enclosures and cross-dykes in combination] and THE LAWLEY [SO 503986 : small, univallate, with ?unfinished hillfort at 494978]

MONDAY 27th 9.30 : depart Church Stretton for morning visits to EARL'S HILL [SJ 409047 : multiple enclosure] and PONTESFORD CAMP [SJ 408055 : small, low-lying; excavation by Barker]
Lunch on the hoof.
Afternoon visit to THE WREKIN [SJ 629082 : multiple enclosure; inturned/guardchambered entrances; excavations by Kenyon and Stanford].

Many sites have fine views — so pray for fine weather.

All sites bar those on Monday are on OS 1:50,000 sheet 137. The Monday sites are on sheets 126 and 127.

The Friday evening meeting will be held in the Long Mynd Hotel (www.longmynd.co.uk), situated on the hill immediately above Church Stretton (within easy walking distance of the station). It is also suggested that we dine there on the Saturday evening (bookings for this can be made on the Friday evening).

Bed and breakfast with evening meal at this hotel is priced at £66/person/night (Fri and Sat), £52 (Sun – Thurs), for April 2009 (prices based on two persons sharing twin/double).

Alternatively, this hotel has seven self-catering lodges, with either one or two twin/double bedrooms (i.e. suit 2 or 4 people). These can be booked for a 3-night stay (not shorter), 2-person lodge costing approximately £190 (i.e. £31.5/person/night), 4-person lodge costing £240 (i.e. £20/person/night). Residents in lodges receive 20% discount on meals in the hotel restaurant. This seems a good deal — early booking is probably advisable. Individuals to make their own booking — phone 01694 722244 / email reservations@longmynd.co.uk.

There are also cheaper B&B options in Church Stretton, at no great distance from the Long Mynd Hotel — contact Tourist Information : phone 01694 723133, or http://www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/bed_breakfast/

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