

Beneath the Ridge : caves and mines workshop November 5th 2018

The Sandstone Ridge Trust are holding a free one-day workshop on the caves and cavities that are the focus of their current fieldwork. Guest speaker is Chris Carlon.

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The Sandstone Ridge Trust is creating a comprehensive list, or gazetteer, of the natural and man-made caves, rock shelters and other cavities beneath the Ridge.

The Ridge features a series of sandstone caves, mostly in the western-facing escarpment, from Frodsham in the north to Overton Scar in the south. Many have been extended and exploited by human activity. No systematic study of these caves has been undertaken but it is thought that some have associations that stretch back into pre-historic times. There has certainly been activity in the caves recorded from the eighteenth century, involving both habitation and industrial activity but this has been poorly documented and little understood. Copper mining has also been conducted on the Ridge and suspected prospectors' shafts exist in a number of places. The completed gazetteer will inform the Trust's planning of future projects, investigating the caves and mines for their histories and environmental value.

On Monday 5th November the Trust are conducting a one-day workshop to bring volunteers up to date on the research that has been conducted so far and set up small teams to help explore some of the lesser-known parts of the Ridge in the search for more cavities. Their key speaker will be Chris Carlon, author of the 1981 monograph, "The Gallantry Bank Copper Mine, Bickerton, Cheshire", and they hope to learn more about mineralisation in the local sandstone as well as something about the practice of copper mining and any tell-tale signs in the landscape that can lead to a better understanding of its history on the Ridge.

The event will take place in the Arthur Meredith Room at Tarporley Community Centre, High Street, Tarporley, from 10.30 till 3.30 on Monday November 5th, with a break for lunch. Please make your own lunch arrangements but tea and coffee will be provided.

The event is free and members of CAS are welcome but numbers must be strictly limited so, if you would like to attend, please contact the project organiser, Peter Winn, to reserve a place: peterbrookcottage@gmail.com