

## **Jane's Fundraising Appeal – 'In The Footsteps of Ethelbert'** **Sponsored Walk August 2021**

Please support the Sutton Walls Conservation Group by sponsoring me to undertake a four mile walk from St Ethelbert's Well in Marden and around Sutton Walls twenty five times over twenty five days (100 miles) in August to raise much needed funds for this restoration and conservation project. My initial target is £1,250.

During the pandemic the Group has had to put fundraising plans on hold and now need to raise funds to support future projects - the restoration of the East and West Entrances, the installation of interpretation boards to bring the history of Sutton Walls to life as well as tree management programmes and other measures to ensure the hill fort is removed from the Heritage At Risk Register. We hope to receive grants but have to show we are able to raise funds ourselves and are self-sustainable. All of these projects will be in partnership with Historic England.

The Sutton Walls Conservation Group (SWCG), was set up in 2017 to conserve and restore this Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of Sutton Walls in Herefordshire. It is one of the most famous Iron Age hill forts in Britain, which is also associated with King Offa of Mercia and the murder of King Ethelbert. We are committed to a Conservation Management Plan aimed at improving the ecology, protecting the archaeology and increasing accessibility and knowledge of the public.

Sadly, the site is now at risk from general deterioration, unmanaged scrub and trees which may be affecting the below ground archaeology, diminished ground cover which is allowing erosion of the ramparts and burrowing animals in increasing numbers on the site. This is altering the significance of the monument and urgent action is needed to prevent deterioration and improve the monument's condition.

In 2020 we received a grant from Historic England for an ecological (badger, bat and tree) survey, geophysical surveys and archaeological mapping surveys of the site which are informing our plans for the restoration.

Please visit our website [www. suttonwalls.co.uk](http://www.suttonwalls.co.uk) to read more about the charity and the extraordinary history of Sutton Walls.