

STANAGE FORUM STEERING GROUP

Note of a site meeting at Hollin Bank themed on cultural heritage on 25 June 2015

Present

Members: John Dalton, Jean Hodgkinson, Jean Monks, Neil Porter, Stella Maguire, Terry Howard, Bill Gordon, Henry Folkard

PDNPA: Rebecca Newman, Sarah Whiteley, Maily's Cochard

Apologies: Jacque Bevan, Adam Long, Mary Bagley

UPDATES

Ring Ouzels

The Wall End nest had failed due to predation.

Green Crack and Cowper Stone had successfully fledged, though a second nest at Cowper Stone had been predated.

The Black Hawk nest was about to fledge.

The Wall End pair had apparently re-nested at Counts Buttress (both nests in holly).

Adults with young were in the Plantation: nest site not known.

At Broken Buttress 3 young were in the nest.

At Burbage seven nests were recorded. Burbage Oaks and Higgarr Tor were among the successes, the latter with co-operation from Outdoor Education Centres.

Woodland Birds

Flo, with the help of Bill and Keith Singleton (volunteer ranger) had ringed 82 pied flycatchers young and the young from 2 redstart nests. Alan Kydd from the Hope Valley Bird Study Group has agreed to produce nest monitoring records for the last 5 years (from Flo's note books) and send these to the BTO. These will also be used as part of the monitoring of the condition of the woods for woodland birds.

Stanage pole

A kind offer to make a collar for a new Stanage Pole has been made by Hope Construction Ltd. and a meeting with the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers was scheduled for the afternoon to discuss how they could be involved including using the replacing of the pole as a celebration of the end of the group which is about to fold..

Stella is writing an article on the Pole for ACID which will be circulated to all when available.

Stanage stickers

It was noted that car stickers would be sold at the forthcoming Hathersage Gala and that historical material would be taken to engage people in the history of Stanage-North Lees.

Camping Pods

These are arriving at the camp site next week.

Hathersage Swimming Pool

The swimming pool at Hathersage was noted as a bonus for some visitors to North Lees and we are trying to develop a relationship of mutual benefit..

CULTURAL HERITAGE INITIATIVES

Rebekah had circulated a paper on the Delivery of Cultural Heritage Initiatives which had been prepared in conjunction with Ken Smith.

Information Collection

The paper proposes a drawing together of all the extant information from diverse sources into a Grey Report, with enhancement of availability of such information on the web site.

The proposal for a Lidar survey was particularly welcomed.

The importance of industrial archaeology, of more recent features like the trig point, and of trackways of various ages was noted as being of equal importance to ancient and medieval sites. The Buckstone area as well as the Paper Mill, RB site and the Chapel (and well) was identified as a possible focus for further investigation.

It was stressed there must be particular attention paid to the social and ‘people’ history, particularly in the context of the access movement in Sheffield and elsewhere (which is missing from Ken’s paper), as well as to the archaeological record.

There was a general discussion on what sources were available, how reliable these were, where duplication could be avoided and where more research was indicated.

This included John Barnet’s archaeological survey, the Accessible Wilderness publication, Clarion Club records, Sir Hugh Beech’s archive, records relating to the Cruck Barn and also its possible links with others via pack horse routes, the genesis of the Holy Trinity well, records by Rosamund Meredith, parish files, the publication ‘Days of sunshine and rain’, and personal recollections.

Conservation and Interpretation

The question of what on site information and interpretation was appropriate arose. This had been extensively discussed in previous Steering Group meetings, and was raised again. There was agreement that ‘nothing above the road’ was appropriate, and that ‘within car parking areas’ should be the sole focus for any form of display.

There was a feeling a small QR code might be appropriate at the Mill Pond / Paper Mill, Holy Trinity Chapel and well sites though others were not happy with the concept of any labelling at all, preferring to encourage the use of eyes rather than I Pads.

Revision of the 'North Lees through Time' leaflet was indicated, and the relevance of some areas just outside the current Estate boundary to the history of what took place within the Estate was noted – eg the Hood lands, the context of North Lees within the wider Bamford Moor, links with the Buck Stone and the role this played in Medieval history, or the original name of Sled House for Robin Hood's Cave.

The possible involvement of Hathersage Historical Society was mooted particularly in relation to any local community involvement in excavation projects. There was a general feeling of excitement over the idea of local people involved in projects like this at Stanage.

The Way Forward

It was agreed that the following items should be implemented in the short term with the production of the Grey Report and subsequent conservation and interpretation projects, targeted for incorporation into a HLF bid.

Short term Actions:

1. Publication of revised Hunter Society leaflet with better photos and without the inaccuracies!
2. Inclusion on the website of John Barnett's report and hopefully Rosamund Meredith's booklets
3. Open day at Hollin bank Aug 31st (BH Monday) where Bills photos, records and artefacts will be on display
4. Hathersage gala 11th July where some of Bills stuff will be on display. Stella volunteered to support him.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23 July at Thorpe Farm at 7.30pm.

Jacque had agreed the Andrew McCloy, as Chair of ARP Committee, should be invited to attend. For that meeting Rebekah would begin to pull together the strands of what had been agreed over the previous series on meetings into a refreshed Management Plan. In turn this would inform a paper that was due to go to ARP Committee in September.

Site Visit

We then adjourned to visit the Romano British remains, noting particularly a cup shaped carved indentation near a hawthorn tree, the (reconstructed) ruin of the Holy Trinity Chapel – or was it more related to an original hall – the site of the well and associated sump, and the path of the water supply to the Hall.

Thanks to Sarah Whiteley for attending on behalf of the Cultural Heritage Team at the NPA.