

STANAGE FORUM STEERING GROUP

Note of a site meeting at Hollin Bank themed on improved access on 28 April 2015

Present

Members: Jacque Bevan, Neil Porter, Stella Mcguire, Julian Dunk, Jean Monks, John Horscroft, Henry Folkard, Bill Gordon, John Dalton.

PDNPA and Attendee: Rebekah Newman, Sue Smith (Access and Rights of Way), Charlotte Gilbert (British Horse Society).

Apologies: Jean Hodgkinson, Terry Howard, Jane Marsden, Adam Long, Mary Bagley.

Suggested areas for improvement

1. By way of introduction, and amidst snow, sleet, hail and a biting cold wind Rebekah explained there were **five main items for consideration:**

- **dedication** of the Stanage Plantation, Dennis Knoll, and Hood Brook woodlands for open access;
- establishing an alternative way with concessionary bridleway rights from the wall above the **Plantation down to Hollin Bank;**
- review of access points and waymarked routes within **the Warren**, along with removal of extraneous fencing;
- a waymarked route between **Ridgeway Side** and the vicinity of Hood Brook, plus enhancement of extant access points from Birley Lane;
- siting of access points into **Dennis Knoll.**

2. On **process**, recommendations would be cleared with archaeology and conservation interests, and any concerns referred back to the Steering Group for further consideration.

3. The following access improvements are also being proposed although because they are straight forward they weren't discussed in detail at the meeting:

- a concessionary path to Holy Trinity Chapel although owing to practical difficulties this will not be extended to the well.
- a short linking route between the concessionary path through the meadows and the Ridgeway side woods (which are open access).
- a way-marked route through Tain Wood linking through to Cattisside.
- The removal of fences in the upper section of Tain Wood below Hollin Bank toilets

4. The group walked up the **Plantation bridleway**, noting where possible alternative sections could be indicated, where improvements to access furniture were needed, and where the surface of the way merited attention. Charlotte advised on equestrian needs. She will be riding the proposed route in a few weeks time and feed in any additional observations in the light of that experience.

5. It was decided not to encourage additional use of the bridleway along the north-western edge of the Plantation because this was not part of any historic pack horse route and was so wet and/or steep in places as to be unsustainable.

6. We returned via the south-eastern boundary to note an established path through that area, and agree a new access point for the fenced area on the site, at the line of the old sledgeway.

7. Thereafter we adjourned to the Ranger Station to consider the remaining items. John Dalton agreed amongst others to trial the proposed way through the Warren. Agreed proposals were documented on a master map which Rebekah will circulate as soon as possible following receipt of any further comments.