

Stanage Forum



The SBSG was asked via the unforgettable Chris Falshaw to join Stanage Forum in 2000. Wendy Thomson then took on its representative role for several years and this has recently been passed to Neil Porter .

The role of the Stanage Forum is to represent the views of its diverse users to the Peak District National Park Authority, and is the main decision making body for it. The Forum was responsible for producing a Management plan acknowledged as a ground breaking example of a partnership between a public property and its users.

One of the major achievements has been the collaboration with the climbing fraternity and their cooperation in protecting Ring Ouzel nest sites from disturbance.

More recently there has been much work done on preparing a new Management vision for Stanage and the North Lees estate which reflects the needs of all its users and preserves the wilderness qualities of this beautiful countryside. Some specific birding issues are now being discussed and include:-

- More regular survey work on the upland, farmland and woodland areas
- Protection of key areas for breeding birds ie boggy areas for waders, bracken areas for Reed Bunting, Whinchat etc, and woodland clearing as part of Nature Improvement Area funding for Pied and Spotted Flycatchers
- Volunteer requests to SBSG members to help with GPS mapping nest box sites, condition survey re maintenance and replacement of boxes, ringing work for Pied Flycatchers and possible scrape digging/provision on a gathering field
- Donation from SBSG towards Farmland bird feeding costs (Yellowhammer possible target)
- Promotion of a 'Ours to Care For' Stanage car sticker costing £15 per annum

If anyone is interested in helping out with any of these projects please contact Neil Porter on nrporter48@hotmail.co.uk and he will keep you updated with progress and requirements.

Breaking News

Unfortunately one of the biggest threats to the precious Ring Ouzel breeding birds now comes from bird photographers. This has culminated in erection of signs pleading for these people NOT to harass the birds (It is illegal). Many of the offenders are from outside the area but could local

birders please respect these birds too. Our Atlas shows much less of a decline than National data so let's keep it that way.

N R Porter

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