

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS
PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

REPORT
OF THE
COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1911.

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MANCHESTER:
ABEL HEYWOOD & SON, 47 to 53 LEVER STREET.

1912.

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY,

1911.

President:

SIR WILLIAM H. BAILEY, Sale Hall, Cheshire.

Vice-Presidents:

Sir W. P. BYLES, M.P., 3 Northumberland Street,
Higher Broughton.

Colonel CANDLIN, Heaton Chapel.

T. SKELTON COLE, Sheffield.

Colonel H. T. CROOK, C.E., J.P., Manchester.

Sir HAROLD ELVERSTON, M.P., Fulshaw Hall,
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THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

GEORGE MILNER, M.A., J.P., Manchester.

C. P. SCOTT, J.P., Manchester.

JAMES WATTS, Abney Hall, Cheadle.

HENRY J. WILSON, M.P., Sheffield.

HERMAN WOOLLEY, F.G.S., Manchester.

Council :

ABEL HEYWOOD (Chairman), Lever Street, Manchester.
E. E. AMBLER, 30 Edmund Street, Seedley.
W. BECKETT, 1 Lawson Street, Moss Side.
W. BROOKES, Holmside, Altrincham.
J. CHORTON, Arts Club, Manchester.
G. P. COOKSON, 596 Stretford Road, Manchester.
W. P. CHALLONER, 162 Bennett Street, Hyde.
W. CRAIG, 7 Muslin Street, Newton Moor, Hyde.
F. A. DUST, 17 Moxley Road, Crumpsall.
LUKE GARSIDE, Hayfield.
E. G. HILLER, 22 St. Ann's Square, Manchester.
H. HOLLAND, 185 Hyde Road, Woodley.
W. HUGHES, Minden, Mossley Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.
W. INGHAM, Cromwell Buildings, Blackfriars St., Manchester.
J. O. JACKSON, National Provincial Bank, Portishead, Bristol.
T. A. LEONARD, College House, Brunswick Street, Manchester.
F. E. MARSHALL, 156 Corn Exchange, Manchester.
J. MACAULEY, 60 Albert Grove, Longsight.
A. W. MASSEY, 33 Dale Street, Manchester.
R. MOWER, Buxton Road, New Mills.
T. MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.
H. S. PORTER, 28 Welbeck Road, Smithills, Bolton.
Dr. SANDIFORD, University, Manchester.
WM. TATTERSALL, Strutt Street, Manchester.
Professor F. E. WEISS, University, Manchester.
J. WILDING, 88 Monton Street, Moss Side.

Hon. Solicitor :

L. CARADOC EVANS, Town Hall, Salford.

Hon. Treasurer :

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, 19 Derby Road, Heaton Chapel.

Hon. Surveyor :

Col. H. T. CROOK, M.Inst.C.E., J.P., Lancaster Avenue,
Manchester.

Hon. Auditor :

WILLIAM GREGSON, Edge Lane, Stretford.

Hon. Secretary :

ARTHUR R. MOON, Solicitor, Prudential Buildings,
King Street, Manchester.

Assistant Hon. Secretary :

EDWARD WILLETT, 49 Spring Gardens, Manchester.

Inspector of Footpaths :

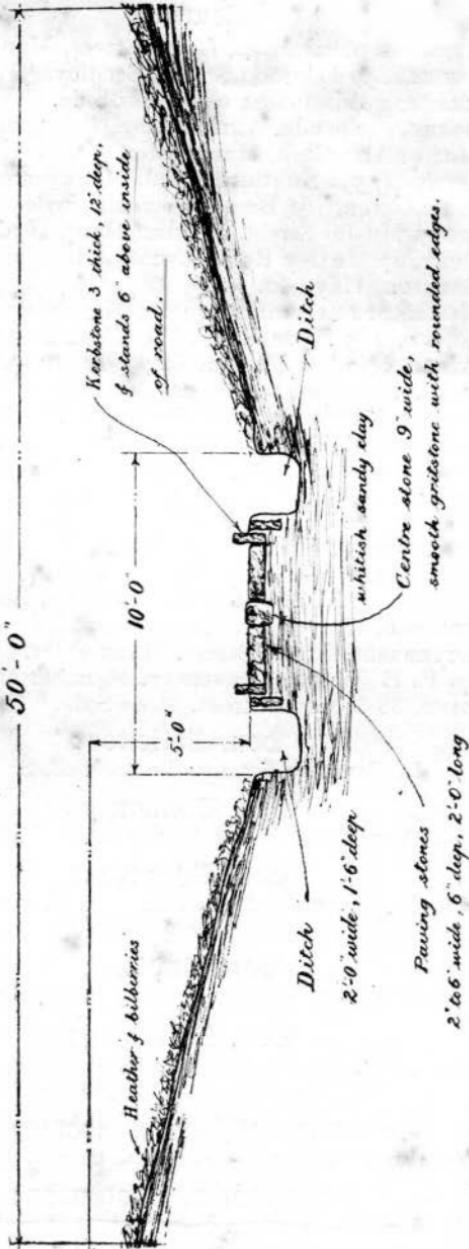
THOMAS MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.

Assistant Inspectors of Footpaths :

~~Rowland Mower~~
ROLAND MOWER, Buxton Road, New Mills.

G. H. B. WARD, 390 Cricket Road, Sheffield.

— Cross section of "Roman road at
— Doctor Gate, Cold Harbour Moor.
— Near Glossop. (1654 feet above sea level.)



Kindly lent by the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1911.

The year 1911 has, in many respects, been the most important as regards the work of the Society for many years.

The affiliation to the Society of the various Rambling and Pedestrian Clubs in the city has been the means of imparting to its work a new enthusiasm.

This enthusiasm has shewn itself in many ways, not the least being that the meetings of the Council directly reflect the views of the keenest ramblers and walkers in the city and district.

The influx of new members (which might have been expected) has not come up to expectations.

It is perhaps characteristic of the English people that they cheerfully allow their public privileges to be guarded by voluntary Societies. The fact that such a Society as this does exist ought to be esteemed very highly by the community it serves. A striking example of the necessity for such Societies is shewn in the fact that the Lake District possessed no association to deal promptly and efficiently with such a matter as "Hydroplanes" at Bowness.

This Society, on the other hand, possesses all the machinery for immediately dealing with any matter which comes within its jurisdiction.

A strong membership of this or any similar Society implies a strong public feeling.

It is the absence of such a feeling which has been a hindrance to legislation on the lines of the "Rights of Way" Bill, and which has resulted in the law of public

rights being entirely judicial. The last year has furnished two striking examples of the danger to the public from the continuance of this state of things.

Once more it is necessary to comment on the apathy of the public and the disregard by local bodies of the duties in regard to footpaths expressly given them by Parliament.

Most of the work done by the Society is work that should have been done by the local governing body. The result is that the Society often has to negotiate where, with the aid of a little public spirit on the part of inhabitants, it might compel.

The Council feel very strongly on this point, and they ask their members and the public to assist them in regulating this anomaly.

In accordance with recent custom the more important matters dealt with are separately detailed below.

The Council would like to call special attention to the settlement of the long-standing dispute about Doctor's Gate. This question has been before them for many years, and for the last three years in an acute form, and they feel that the settlement is one which is highly satisfactory.

When the public has enjoyed this natural continuation of the "Kinder" Walk, the Council feels that they will not fail to appreciate the work of the Society.

The Honorary Treasurer's Balance Sheet occupies its usual place in the Report.

As a concluding word, the Council makes its usual request, not for subscriptions, but for more members. The moral force of a large and representative membership cannot be too highly estimated, and it is this moral force, rather than the more sinister sequel, which enables the work to be carried on.

DOCTOR'S GATE.

The terms of the settlement are comprised in the following letter communicated to the Press by the agent for Lord Howard of Glossop :—

Sir,

We beg to inform you that an arrangement has been come to between our client, Lord Howard of Glossop, and the Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society, whereby his lordship agrees to put this footpath in repair and to open it to the public all the year round, excepting during the months of April and May, and also during the period from the 10th to the end of August.

The Footpaths Society on their part have agreed to use their influence in advising their members and the public not to seek to use the path during the closed periods, and it is hoped that it will be recognized that in the settlement which has been arrived at there has been shown a desire to meet the wishes of the public in as full a manner as possible.

(Signed) HALL, SON & HAWKINS.

The contents of the notice boards will be as follows :—

PEAK DISTRICT & NORTHERN COUNTIES FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

DOCTOR'S GATE FOOTPATH.

This Path is now open to the Public except during the following months :—

APRIL and MAY, AUGUST—from 10th.

PLEASE KEEP TO THE PATH.

Dogs not allowed unless held in leash.

For the benefit of those of our members who have not yet traversed this path, a brief description is appended, from the pen of Mr. G. H. B. Ward, of Sheffield, who, during the year, was appointed Assistant Honorary Inspector of Footpaths. The Council take this opportunity of expressing their pleasure that Mr. Ward has been able to accept the post. The Council gratefully acknowledge

the services of those who have rendered assistance in arriving at the satisfactory settlement which has been made. In particular, they wish to emphasize the exceedingly valuable services rendered by their Hon. Surveyor, Colonel Crook, with whom the settlement must always be associated. It will be seen that the owner has undertaken to make the path, and the Society will be saved the heavy expense in formation and maintenance which they had to bear, and still bear, in respect of the "Kinder" Path.

"The walk over Doctor's Gate may be said to commence at Glossop Station. A pleasant field path, affording good views of the high, swelling moorlands, north and north-west, leads, in a short half-mile, to Old Glossop, and, passing by the church, goes by two small mills, and, following a sandy road under the timbered slopes of Shire Hill (on the right, 1,023 feet), beyond Moorside Cottages, brings the rambler, one and a half miles from his starting point, to a stone bridge, over the Shelf Brook at the junction of Yellowslacks Clough, and the road to Mossy Lee Farm on the right hand. Here the real part of the journey commences, and we press forward, through an unobstructed, well-known gate, along a free pathway, and, after rising gently for a short distance, soon gain the side of the infant Shelf stream, prattling down its unpolluted and unimpeded way. It may be the beaver brown of sullen winter, the flaming dress of early August or Sunny June, when brackens wear their best gay green, and shadow and sunshine are chasing away the melancholies of the town and the headaches of our daily toil; but only in the days of autumn are we charmed by the golden beds of the dying fronds and the slender, hardy mountain rowans, whose leaves are blushing hectic red before their fall. In about a mile we leave our companion stream, and climb somewhat steeply up the right and southern slopes, and, in a certain

place, a wise walker will stay and look and sit awhile, for there is a view—the ridge and rocky crest of Higher Shelf Stones (2,039 feet) and the bellied slope of Gathering Hill (two streams 'gather' upon its heathery slopes), which, together, may remind the wanderer of the greater Carnedd Llewellyn and his long 'arm' of Yr Elen. Another mile and we have reached the summit level (about 1,690 feet), and survey the long summit ('The Edge') of Kinder, and a wilderness of heather and peat, with, if the smoke has gone, a distant view of Glossop Vale and lower hills, and the town-studded plain of busy Lancashire. The ditch on our left (N.W.) is, for some hidden reason, termed Devil's Dike, and we proceed downwards along a trenched track, where one perceives some of the old stones of the ancient bridle way, and in three miles from Mossy Lee we join the 91-year-old Glossop-Sheffield highway by the bridge at Thomasson's Hollow. We follow the bending road for two miles, down steep, sombre Lady Clough, where the old and half-obliterated Doctor's Gate follows just below, until, up a gentle slope, we see it rising on our left, thence to cross Oyster Clough, until, after affording splendid views of Kinder's frowning brows, it rejoins the highway at Hey Ridge Farm and Alport Bridge, two miles lower down the Ashop-Woodlands Vale. However, our way is to the Snake Inn (formerly Lady Clough House, and now bearing the sign of the arms of Cavendish), or for other refreshments at one of the isolated farmsteads beyond, and, after glancing up the Upper Ashop Clough, whence comes the well-trodden track o'er 'Kinder,' from William Clough and Hayfield town, we 'turn in,' having realised that the Roman Road of Doctor's Gate provides a serious rival to that historic route, affords a liberal education to a moorland tramp, and provides *one view* which 'Kinder'-Hayfield footpath cannot equal or excel."

GRINDLEFORD DISPUTE.

The Council were interested in a dispute in this district. The old bridle-path which has been obstructed leads from Grindleford to the Grouse Inn, and the case aroused some interest through repeated removal of the obstruction by a resident.

The Council's share was confined to an endeavour to bring about some settlement.

The dispute became, however, the subject of litigation, and the Council have felt it their duty to give financial support to the defendant.

The Secretary will be pleased to give any further information to anyone interested or desirous of contributing to the Defence Fund, which is being raised locally. The Bakewell R.D.C. recently held a local inquiry, the outcome of which, it is expected, will result in additional support to the defendant.

CARR MEADOW BRIDLE PATH.

This matter is so fresh in the public mind that no lengthy mention is necessary here.

Briefly, the facts are that when the Water Bill was before Parliament, the Stockport Corporation verbally agreed that the public footpath should be along the top of the dam. Under these circumstances it was not thought necessary to insist on this proviso being in the Bill, with the result that the public footpath is now at the foot of the dam, and the fine view is replaced by an embankment.

Representations were made to, and a deputation waited on, the Waterworks Committee, but the deputation was unable to secure the fulfilment of the honourable understanding entered into by the Corporation.

The Council afterwards organised a memorial to the Stockport Corporation, which in the course of a fortnight was signed by 10,000 people.

At the present time the matter has been referred to the Waterworks Committee again.

It is difficult to understand exactly why the Corporation should adopt this attitude, and the Council still hope that they may be induced to take a less parochial view of their responsibilities.

STRINES FOOTPATH.

The Council having enquired into this matter on the spot, decided to refer it to, and leave it with, the District Council.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION.

The Council again remind members that this Corporation keep a full and elaborate record of all public footpaths in the city. The value of such a publication, which is accessible without any fee to the public, cannot be over-estimated.

Mention was made of the matter in the last Report, and since then an opportunity of testing the practical value of this publication has increased the idea of its value.

The renewed thanks of the public are due to the Corporation for the idea, and to the City Surveyor for its fulfilment.

KESWICK.

The Council have been to some trouble in connection with efforts to continue public access to Swinside and Barff. The landowner—a local M.P.—has been seen on the matter, when he made an offer which the Council did not consider to be satisfactory.

The question of extending the work of the Society to the Lake District has arisen again in connection with the agitation against hydroplaning on Windermere.

The Council feel, however, that they cannot at present usefully undertake any responsibility for work there, and a Lake District Footpaths' Society, directed locally, should undertake the supervision of the public rights there.

BEETHAM.

The Council were approached, and advised, on an obstruction here, but have heard nothing since their first letter.

MAPS.

In continuation of the policy of educating the public in the work of the Society, the Maps which were recently exhibited in Manchester are now being shown in Sheffield. Messrs. Pawson and Brailsford have kindly given facilities for this at their premises in York Street, and the public are at liberty to inspect them at any time during business hours.

The Society is much indebted for the courtesy of the firm in affording these facilities.

The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ending December 31st, 1911.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Balance from 1910	53 9 2	Printing, &c.	6 9 0
Subscriptions, 1911	40 5 0	Hire of Rooms for Meetings	1 11 6
Bank Interest	0 11 11	Work & Material, Repairing Footpaths, Notice Boards, &c.	5 0 0
			Footpaths' Inspector (Honorarium) ...	5 0 0
			Dove Holes right of way claim—part of defendants' costs	10 0 0
			Counsel's Fee—Doctor's Gate Path ...	5 17 6
			Privilege Rent of Notice Plate at Strines, 1911	0 1 0
			Clerical Assistance	5 0 0
			Hon. Treasurer's Expenses (Postages, &c.) 0 17 5	
			Hon. Secretary's Expenses (Postages, &c.) 1 0 0	
			Assistant Hon. Secretary's Expenses (Postages, &c.)	1 11 11
			Assistant Footpaths' Inspector's Expenses 0 15 0	
			Balance in hand	51 2 9
				<hr/> £94 6 1

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, Hon. Treasurer,
19 DERBY ROAD,

HEATON MOOR,
NR. STOCKPORT.

Audited and found correct,

WM. GREGSON, *Hon. Auditor.*

DOCTOR'S GATE.

