

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL

*For the Year
ended 31st December
1931*

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The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

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Constitution and Rules.

1. The Society shall be called "The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society."

2. The objects of the Society shall be :—

- (a) The preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the public highways, footpaths, bridlepaths, bye-ways, and other ways, vacant spaces, waste lands, and roadside slips, and to right of recreation over commons in the Northern and Midland counties, particularly in the Peak District.
- (b) The prevention of the abuse of such rights, especially trespass and damage to crops and property, and disturbance of game by trespassers.
- (c) The support by influence, petition or otherwise of Bills in Parliament promoting the aforesaid objects, or any of them, or others of a like or kindred nature.
- (d) The purchase, or promoting the purchase of rights of way and rights over open spaces to be dedicated to the use of the public for ever.
- (e) And all objects conducive to the foregoing, including the combination, or co-operation with other societies or persons in the promotion or furtherance of the aforesaid objects, or any of them.

3. An annual subscription of 2s. 6d. or upwards, payable in advance on the first day of January in each year, shall constitute membership.

4. The business of the Society not transacted in general meeting shall be in the hands of a managing committee, elected annually, and consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Solicitor, Honorary Secretary, and not less than Twelve other Members of the Society, with power to add to their number.

5. An annual general meeting of the members of the Society shall be held in the first quarter in every year, and shall receive, consider, and, if approved of, adopt the report of the Managing Committee for the past year, and transact any other business that may arise.

6. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held without delay whenever occasion shall arise, upon the requisition of five members specifying the reason for the meeting and communicated to the Honorary Secretary. Such meeting shall also be held before the institution or defence of any legal

proceedings, the costs of which the ordinary revenue of the Society shall be insufficient to defray, and a favourable vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at such meeting shall, subject to the necessary funds being duly subscribed or guaranteed, be sufficient sanction for the institution or defence of such proceedings, provided that no liability in respect thereof shall attach to any member beyond the amount of such member's individual subscription to the Society, or the amount of such member's guarantee towards the funds necessary to conduct such proceedings.

7. The Managing Committee shall by themselves or by Sub-Committees appointed from their number :—

- (1) Induce—or, if necessary, compel—as far as possible, all Local, Public, or Urban Authorities and District Councils to perform their duties as conservators of the said public rights.
- (2) Institute, or defend, assist others in instituting or defending, continue, compromise, abandon, or prosecute to judgment, at their discretion, and generally give instructions for all the legal proceedings sanctioned by general meeting as aforesaid.
- (3) Keep a map, or series of maps, wherein the situation of all footpaths and other public ways shall, so far as possible, be indicated and recorded, and visit, inspect, survey, and report on the same from time to time, and receive, consider, and investigate complaints of violation of any of the said rights, or of the abuse thereof.

8. All Sub-Committees shall, from time to time, report to the Managing Committee.

9. The Society shall subscribe and be affiliated to such national Society or Societies constituted for like objects, as may from time to time be determined in general meeting.

10. All General Meetings, whether Annual or Extraordinary, shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary's written notice, posted or delivered to members at their usual or last known addresses, at least three days before the day of meeting, and indicating the business for which the meeting is to be convened. Ten members shall form a quorum.

11. These rules may be rescinded, supplemented, or altered by resolution passed in General Meeting, but not otherwise, and then only after a week's notice in writing of the proposed alteration.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1931

THE work of the Society continues to increase, and the past year has been a very active one indeed for the Council and the Officials. The work of preservation of footpaths and protection of public rights comprises a great variety of cases, some of which may not appear to be of more than limited or purely local interest, and yet, at times, involve legal points of great importance and often difficult and sometimes costly investigations.

The alteration in the law relating to highways under the Local Government Act, 1929, also tends to increase the work of the Society, and in this respect it is hoped that the County Councils, Rural District Councils and Parish Councils within the Society's area will come to an agreement as to which body will see to the repair of footpaths and footbridges, and also to the protection of public rights.

A perusal of the Report will convince members that the Society can justly urge its claims for an enlarged membership and substantial support.

It is with deep regret that your Council has to record the deaths during the past year of Mr. T. Skelton Cole, Mr. Abel Heywood, J.P., and Mr. C. P. Scott, J.P.—all of whom had for many years been Vice-Presidents of the Society—and Mr. Walter Jones, whose work in connection with the preservation of the Cheshire footpaths, rendered valuable help to the Society.

Some, among the many matters which have occupied the attention of the Society and its Officers during the year may now be referred to.

Dalehead Footpaths.

In June last the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society asked for the co-operation of the Society in connection with a request made to them on behalf of the inhabitants of Dalehead, near Clitheroe, to support an appeal against the Justices' Certificate for the closing of the well-used road between Chapel House Bridge and the Old House Meadow Laithe, which is a picturesque link on the road from Clitheroe to Bentham, and one of the approaches to the Forest of Bowland and country to the west of it. After consideration of the facts connected with the matter the Council came to the conclusion that this was undoubtedly a case that should be fought, if possible, and agreed to share the costs of an appeal with the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society.

Unfortunately, it was found on investigation that the appeal to the Societies for help had been made too late. It appeared that in the Fylde Water Board Act of 1912 power was taken to close the continuation of the above-mentioned road from Chapel House Bridge to the Vicarage at Dalehead (which portion of the road it was proposed to submerge), but it was provided that before the closing took place the through route should be maintained by means of a new road constructed on a slightly diverted line. As the work progressed the date for completion was extended by another Act passed in 1925, but the obligation to provide the diversion remained. Two years later the Water Board sought permission, by way of Provisional Order, to repeal "Work No. 2," this being the Parliamentary term for the important diversion scheme! The Bowland Rural District Council opposed the Order, but early in 1930 that Council withdrew its opposition and consented to the repeal, as also did the County Council for the West Riding of the County of York, who had by that time become the Highway Authority. An agreement, dated the 3rd March, 1930, was entered into between the Water Board and the Bowland R.D.C. and the County Council whereby it was provided that the Water Board should be allowed to close the road (as provided by the Act of 1912) between Chapel House Bridge and the Vicarage without completing, and opening for public use, the road diversion, and relieved the Board from any obligation to construct the said road diversion. In consideration of such consent being given the Board agreed to pay to the County

Council, within one month of the passing of the Act of Parliament confirming the provisional Order, the sum of £2,000, to be expended on the reconstruction and/or repair of the Slaidburn to Bentham Road. Under the powers given to the Water Board by the Provisional Order, confirmed by the Act of Parliament passed in 1930, the Water Board proceeded in June, 1931, to close the road from Chapel House Bridge to the Vicarage by the erection of a wall across it, with the result that the remainder of the road to the Old House Meadow Laithe west of the abandoned diversion became a cul-de-sac, and in the said Agreement the County Council agreed to apply to the Highway Authority concerned for the stoppage up of the now severed portion of the ancient highway. It was in connection with this application that the Society was asked to support an appeal to Quarter Sessions. As the road had become a cul-de-sac (by the action of the Water Board) your Council found that an appeal could not be sustained as there could not, in law, be anyone who could say they were injured or aggrieved by the closing, there being no farms or houses abutting on the road in respect of which the application was made and, moreover, the Water Board owned all the land on both sides. Unfortunately, Courts of Quarter Sessions are not concerned with moral grounds, and as no appeal was lodged the Justices' Certificate for the closing of the road was confirmed, despite the representations that were made by your Council to the County Council to reconsider their decision and withdraw such application. Subsequently, efforts were made to induce the latter Council to ask the Water Board to re-open the road or, alternatively, to construct a diversion as originally intended, but it is regretted that such Council will not do this, nor can any satisfactory explanation be obtained as to the attitude of the County Council and the Rural District Council in regard to the whole matter, and particularly as to the reasons which caused the latter Council to withdraw their opposition to the granting of the Provisional Order. The County Council did ultimately agree that if the traffic should so develop as to justify it they would consider the construction of a new road. As to whether "traffic" is to be restricted to vehicular traffic your Council cannot say, as the County Council do not seem inclined to reply to the Society's communications on such point.

Your Council is much concerned that it should be possible for Highway Authorities and other bodies to obtain power to

close footpaths by applying for power to repeal "Work No. —." It is contended that when the closing of a public right of way is involved notices applying for the necessary powers should clearly indicate that a closing is being sought. As will be seen in this Report, a resolution was submitted to the Footpaths Preservation Conference on behalf of the Society urging that more effective provision should be made for the publicity of all proposals affecting public rights of way, and that, in addition to the notices required by law, it should be made a statutory obligation that notice of such proposals be served on the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society.

Whilst investigating the last-mentioned matter it was discovered that in the plans deposited in connection with the Water Boards 1925 Act there was shown an intended footpath diversion from Hollins to Chapel House Bridge (on the westerly side of the Reservoir) as laid down in the 1912 Act. Such path was intended to replace the footpath from Hollins via Grange Hall to Stocks in Bowland and thence on to the Church (St. James) and School, and it was provided in the Act that the last-mentioned path was not to be closed until the diversion was constructed. The old path is now completely submerged. The Water Board do not appear to have sought the repeal of the diversion work, but the fact remains that, consequent on the closing of the road from the Vicarage to the Old House Meadow Laithe, the diversion has technically no outlet. It seems incredible that the District Council should not have borne in mind such path when the previous matter was under consideration, but apparently it was overlooked. Your Council reported as to this path to the County Council, and asked what they intended to do, but was informed that the Water Board obtained a statutory repeal of the provisions relating to the intended road diversion and that there was no uncertainty as to the present position. Your President and Secretary had, however, considered the Acts of Parliament of 1912, 1925 and 1930 very carefully, and were of opinion that a repeal of the provisions relating to the intended road diversion had not been obtained, and the Clerk to the Water Board, in a subsequent interview with your secretary, agreed that no repeal had been obtained. The Clerk stated that the diversion had been made, but that it had no inlet, as the path from the Slaidburn-Bentham Road to Hollins was not a public road, nor was the path that

was submerged, and that the Acts of Parliament were incorrect insofar as they indicated such paths to be public rights of way. Your Secretary pointed out that any court of law would have regard to what was provided for in the Acts of Parliament, and that there did not seem to be any doubt that the public had a right of way from the Slaidburn-Bentham Road to Hollins and thence along the diversion road as far as Chapel House Bridge, where, of course, by reason of the closing by Quarter Sessions, it has become a cul-de-sac, and it was suggested to the Clerk that, having regard to the right the public had up to Chapel House Bridge, the Water Board should agree to the re-opening as a public footpath (it was previously a road used also by vehicular traffic) of the road from Chapel House Bridge to the Old House Meadow Laithe. This suggestion is receiving the consideration of the Water Board, but before coming to a decision they propose that they should inspect the locus with your Secretary, and an appointment is being arranged. It seems only fair and reasonable that the public should have some compensation for the loss to them of approach to Bentham and the district beyond from the East side of the Reservoir, particularly as it is understood that the Water Board had no particular desire to close the road from Chapel House Bridge to the Old Meadow Laithe, but that this was desired by the Highway Authority in order to free them from the liability to repair the road, which had become a cul-de-sac. The question of repair would not arise on a re-dedication of the road, as it would only be used by pedestrians.

**Footpath from Greenfield Farm across Ashway Brook to
Bill o' Jacks.**

In consequence of the afforestation scheme embarked upon by the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Mossley & Dukinfield District Waterworks, the footpath from Bill o' Jacks Road to the weir on the Greenfield Brook was closed, and it was ascertained that the waterman was stopping members of the public from using it. Upon representations being made to the Water Board by the Society and the Saddleworth District Council, the Water Board agreed to make a diversion, agreeable to all parties, subject to it being established that a

public footpath existed. It was pointed out on behalf of the Society that if it were forced to take action to establish the public right of way it must necessarily be on the existing line of path. So it was suggested the best way of overcoming the difficulty was to agree upon a diversion by way of compromise, on the lines that the Water Board Committee should be prepared to construct the diversion either forthwith or on the production of evidence of user of the path. Your Secretary met the Secretary and Engineer to the Water Board at the locus, and after discussion the suggestion mentioned above was accepted that the diversion should be made forthwith, and the Water Board Committee subsequently confirmed such agreement. There is some slight disagreement as to the exact line the new path shall take, but it is hoped an amicable settlement will soon be reached. The Society appreciates the efforts of the Water Board in planting trees, and urges ramblers to have regard to the direction posts that will shortly be erected by the Society, requesting that no lighted matches or cigarettes be thrown down. The Saddleworth Council has under consideration the provision of larger stepping stones across the Brook so that passage in the Winter months will be easier.

Footpath from Charity Lane (near the Forest Chapel) to Walker Barn by way of Bricklin Wood, "Dimples" and across Hacked Way Lane, Macclesfield Forest.

At the commencement of this path, at the Macclesfield Forest End, the Macclesfield Corporation erected a wire fence inside the wall, and within this fence put up a notice that trespassers would be prosecuted, such notice board being almost on the clearly defined footpath. Before the erection of the fence, the field path was entered from the road by an easy stile in the wall, but the stile has been altered, and the queer nature of the stile and the notice board behind it helped to mislead many into concluding that there was no way across the field (which is the course of the public footpath), but only along one side of the field in the narrow space between the wall and the new fence. On emerging from the Corporation land at Hacked Way Lane there was encountered

another very awkward wire fence right across the public footpath, a fence a lady might find it very difficult to negotiate. Moreover, the Corporation, in preparation for their afforestation scheme, had dug innumerable holes all over the hillside along which the path runs, and the path itself was much cut up in many places by the holes, some of which were, in wet weather, full of water—each hole being about two feet square. As a result of the Council's representation, the Corporation have removed the notice board away from the footpath, repaired the wooden stile at the Forest Chapel end of the path, and filled in nearly all the holes in the path. There still remains to be removed a portion of the wire fence at each end of the Corporation's land through which the path runs, and the Corporation has been communicated with as to this.

Pedestrians are asked to take particular care when using this path not to damage the young trees, which it is understood will soon be planted.

Proposed Reservoirs in the Goyt Valley.

A Conference of representatives of the various organisations interested in the preservation of amenities in the Goyt Valley was held in September at Buxton, at the instance of the Derbyshire County Committee of the Derbyshire Rural Community Council, at which Conference your Society was represented. It was decided to make an exhaustive survey of the Valley with a view to the preparation of a detailed memorandum that might be submitted to the Stockport Waterworks Committee, with a suggestion that a joint Amenities Committee might be permitted to co-operate with them in all future waterworks developments in that beautiful valley. The draft memorandum has been considered by the Council, and suggestions made, but it is understood that the memorandum has been forwarded to the Corporation in its original form, and the Corporation asked to receive a deputation. Your Council has asked to be informed of the appointment, when arranged, so that a deputation from the Society and the Ramblers' Federation may attend at the same time. The whole spirit of this effort is one of close co-operation with the Corporation in an effort to preserve, so far as possible, the amenities of the Goyt Valley.

Footpath through Carr Wood and Ashworth Valley.

The Council having heard from various sources that a charge of 1d. was being demanded from pedestrians using this path, the farmer was written to, and subsequently interviewed. Your Council is pleased to say that he was very reasonable, and admitted the right of way through his land, and stated that he had never asked anyone to pay for passage along the path. If a charge is made it is from persons diverting from the path into the adjoining pleasure grounds.

Footpath from Earl Sterndale to Chelmorton.

It having been reported to the Council that this path appeared to have been diverted and a "No Road" notice erected, the Dowlow Lime & Stone Company were written to asking for the removal of the notice. The Company in its reply stated that there was no notice on their land. The matter is being further investigated.

Footbridge over River Bollin at Ashley Mill.

The Council is pleased to record that in deference to its repeated requests, made since 1929 to the Highway Authorities, the Cheshire County Council has now erected a footbridge over the River Bollin, and the path from the Bleeding Wolf Hotel to the Polo Ground, Hale, is usable again.

Footpath over Barracks Ground, Ashton-under-Lyne.

This footpath having been obstructed, representations were made to the Limehurst District Council. As a result of action taken by the latter Council the Adjutant agreed to remove the obstruction from the path.

Footpath from Chapel Gate to Upper Booth.

For some time a "private" notice was erected on this path but it is now understood that the notice has been removed.

Footpath from Shatton Bridge to Leadmill Bridge.

This path being in a very bad condition, the Derbyshire County Council was asked to carry out the necessary repairs, but so far that Council is not prepared to undertake the liability.

Footpath from Hope Valley to Lose Hill.

As a result of the representations made by the Council to Messrs. Earle, the Company has constructed steps down and up the deep cutting (caused by the making of the Company's Railway) which intersected the footpath, and have also erected warning notices to the engine drivers. As will be seen elsewhere in the Report, the Society proposes to erect three direction posts, so that pedestrians will be better able to follow this delightful path in the future.

Footbridge near Clayton Bridge Railway Station.

Following a meeting at the locus between the County Surveyor, Officials of the Limehurst District Council and your Secretary, the County Council is now in negotiation with the owners of the land, on which the old bridge was situated, with a view to the rebuilding of the bridge.

Footpath from Adlington to Bramhall.

Following complaints that this path had been obstructed by barbed wire at a point where it crossed the field by Mark Farm, Adlington, the farmer was interviewed, when it was ascertained that he had no intention of obstructing the path, and the wire was erected merely to close a gap and separate the pastures, and he expressed his willingness to erect a stile in the fence, and take down the barbed wire.

Footpaths in Lea Valley.

Owing to floods, the footbridge crossing Lee Brook on the path from the Stirrup-Fattinghey Road to Woodseats was washed away, the path consequently becoming unusable. The same flood also washed away the approach to it, and if the bridge be re-erected on the old site it could only be approached through a private garden. At the same time, when investigations regarding the bridge were being made, it was also found that several paths in the valley had been obstructed, and that the path from Boarfold to Brickhouses on the Glossop Road was in a very bad condition at the Brickhouses end. The Glossop Dale Rural District Council, on being asked to effect the necessary repairs, intimated that the Council had ceased to be a Highway Authority by reason of the Highways Act, 1929, and suggested that the Derbyshire County Council should be asked to attend to the matters.

The latter Council, in reply, pointed out that the powers of Rural District Councils as respects rights of way and encroachments on roadside wastes were specially reserved to them by Section 30 (1) of such Act, and that the Rural District Council was the proper Authority to deal with the complaints. Further, that where repairs to footpaths are necessary, the Parish Councils had full powers, and were the most suitable Authorities, since the members knew what footpaths had, in the past, been repaired, and what work was strictly necessary; and the suggestion was made that the Parish Councils should be asked to see to the erection of the footbridge and repair of the footpaths. Both the Rural District Council and the Parish Council concerned have been acquainted with the suggestions of the County Council, and they have the matter under consideration.

Footpath from Congleton Edge Road to Newbold Astbury via Puddle Bank Farm.

On being furnished with the evidence of 15 residents that the path through Puddle Bank Farm was public, the Council was able to get the Congleton Corporation to make a request to the tenant of the farm to remove the obstruction erected by him. That request has not yet been complied with, and the Council is now engaged in obtaining additional evidence for submission to the Corporation.

Footpath at Harris End Fell.

The help of the Council was sought by Preston Ramblers as to the obstruction of the stile on this footpath in the next field to Kays Farm. The owner, on being asked to have the barbed wire forming the obstruction removed, and the stile made less dangerous to use, promised to inspect the stile the next time he was at Harris End.

Footpaths at Shireoaks.

Of the two footpaths which came to the notice of the Council some time ago by reason of "Private Road" notices, the notice on the track entering Shireoaks from the north side was, in pursuance of the representations made to the owner that the path was public, removed by him. On the other path—from Breckhead to Shireoaks—the "Private Road" notice did not appear to be erected when your Inspector of Footpaths traversed the path before the completion of the Shireoaks Reservoir, and it was assumed that the owner accepted the Council's contention that the path was public, and had caused the notice to be removed. On a later inspection of the path, however, it was found that the notice was in position again at a point near the Reservoir. As the investigations made reveal that there is undoubtedly a public footpath along the private carriage road to Shireoaks, the owner has been asked to remove the notice, or alternatively to add to the notice the words "Except to Pedestrians."

Footpath from Dawson's Farm to Common Barn Farm, Rainow.

The tenant of Common Barn Farm has been written to for an assurance that he is not disputing the right of the public to use the path as a public footpath, as it has come to the knowledge of the Council that he has intimated to pedestrians that it is a private occupation road.

Knutsford-Arley-Lymm Path.

In consequence of the many complaints that are periodically received as to this footpath, members of the Council traversed

the same, and were very much surprised to find that large portions of the path are ploughed up, and, moreover, practically 50 per cent. of the stiles obstructed. Consequently, at present, the path is very difficult to follow, owing to the ploughing up, and the obstructions are a source of annoyance to the public. It occurred to the Council that it would be beneficial both to the public and the farmers if a series of cheap wooden signposts were erected along the path at the places where it was difficult to follow, as the public would thus be helped to follow the line of path, and there would be less chance of their unnecessarily wandering over the crops of the farmers. The District Surveyor of the Cheshire County Council is at present considering the request made by the Council that the signposts should be erected.

Footpath from Phoside to Ridge Top, Hayfield.

On receiving a complaint that one of the poles of the Trent Valley & High Peak Electricity Company had been erected on this footpath, thus causing an obstruction, the Company was written to, and a reply is being awaited.

Footpath through Bradford Dale.

The attention of your Council being called to the notice board which had been erected on the drive leading from Alport upstream towards Bradford and Middleton, to the effect that the private carriage drive was closed to motors and other vehicles, the Haddon Estate was asked for an assurance that such notice was not intended to refer to pedestrians, whose rights to use the path should not be interfered with. A reply was received to the effect that the matter of this footpath was under discussion with the Joint Committee of the Bakewell Urban & Rural Councils, but as this reply was considered unsatisfactory the assurance was again asked for. No reply having been received, another letter was written to the Haddon Estate that, in default of a reply, it is assumed the right of the public to use the path as a footpath is not disputed.

Goit at Mossy Lea, Glossop.

Consequent on the disrepair of the Goit, the footpath for some time past has been in very bad condition. Both the Glossop Corporation and the Derbyshire County Council were asked to see to the necessary repairs, but they disclaimed liability, which apparently rests with the property owners. Meanwhile the nuisance continues.

Footpaths on Shuttlings Low.

Owing to the uncertainty in the minds of many pedestrians as to what the rights of the public are over the various paths on Shuttlings Low, investigations are being made which it is hoped will make clear the situation of the walks in the neighbourhood over which public rights exist.

Footpath through Benchill Farm, Shartson.

As a result of the Council's correspondence with the tenant of Benchill Farm, an obstruction on this path has now been removed.

Footbridge in "Happy Valley," Bramhall.

Complaints having been received that this footbridge has been washed away, the Hazel Grove-cum-Bramhall Urban District Council has been asked to re-erect the same.

Footpath between Mottram Hall and Butley Hall.

Members will be pleased to know that, as a result of the representation made by the Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Preservation Society to the Highway Authorities, the Cheshire County Council has now agreed to re-construct the Foreign Hey Footbridge in conjunction with the Parish Councils concerned.

Conference of Footpaths Preservation Societies.

The Second Annual Conference of Footpaths Preservation & Kindred Societies, which it had been arranged should be held in London on October 24, was postponed owing to the General Election, and held on March 12. The Society was represented by your President and Secretary, and the following resolutions were moved on behalf of the Society:—

“That it is very necessary that more effective provision should be made for the publicity of all proposals affecting public rights of way whether the procedure be by Private Bill, Provisional Order, or by application to Quarter Sessions. It is the opinion of this Conference that, in addition to the notices required by law, it should be made a statutory obligation that notice of all such proposals be served on the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society.”

“That in the opinion of this Conference it is urgently necessary that Highway Authorities be authorised and empowered by legislation to provide Footbridges to replace Stepping Stones the user of which is liable to be rendered dangerous at certain periods of the year by reason of floods and that the necessary amendments required in the existing laws to allow for such enlargement of public rights be incorporated if possible in one of the ‘Amenities’ Bills under consideration by the Government.”

Direction Posts.

Although during the year only one new direction plate has been erected, considerable repairs, etc., have been necessary, and in several cases a new post has been fixed to replace a post which had fallen through rotting at the ground level. :

The new plate and post were erected to indicate the commencement of the Stakeside footpath above Goyt’s Bridge. This is the second direction post presented to the Society by the Stockport Rambling Clubs, the first post standing on the Roman Road.

The post and plate to be erected near Poundswick, as the gift of the Art Museum Field Club, are not yet in position, as the necessary permission has not yet been received from the Town Clerk of Manchester, the proposed site lying within the new city boundary.

The Ramblers' Federation for Manchester and District, the Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club, the Peveril Social & Rambling Club, and the Manchester Rambling Club have each promised to defray the cost of the erection of a direction post. It is the earnest desire of the Society that other rambling clubs should make a gift of a new direction post to the Society, the average cost of which is about £2 10s.

At Hartington, the Society's direction post has been moved to a more serviceable position.

New posts have been fixed to two direction plates on the road from Chapel-en-le-Frith to Eccles Pike.

The direction post marking the commencement near the Snake Inn of the Oyster Clough Roman Road was brought down in a landslide, but has been re-erected.

The "Dogs in Leash" board near Kinder Reservoir has been repainted and re-erected.

A new post has been fixed to the plate at the bottom of Tunstead Lane, Hayfield.

A new post has been fixed to the direction plate at Brough, near Hope.

Direction posts and plates of the Society have been repainted in the following positions:—Two posts indicating riverside path between Bamford and Hathersage; post and plate near Maynard Arms, Grindleford; post and plate at Grindleford Bridge; post and two plates on Middle Moor, Hayfield; post and plate at Stonyford, Hayfield. Mile posts Nos. 1 and 2 from Hayfield on the Kinder footpath have been repainted, and in the latter case refixed. The three-armed direction post at Harry Moor, Hayfield, has been repaired and repainted. The first of the Society's posts from Hayfield to the Snake Inn has also been repainted. The five iron swing gates on the Hayfield-Snake footpath have been repainted, and small repairs effected to two of the gates.

The following work is in hand:—

An iron plated post at Alport Bridge to indicate the commencement of the Oyster Clough Roman Road.

Three finger posts at Glossop to indicate the approach to Doctor's Gate.

A finger post on the path Yewtree House to Flittogate Farm near Knutsford.

A finger posts at the Combs end of path over Chapel-en-le-Frith Golf Links.

A new post and plate to replace the fallen post and broken plate on the old Hayfield-Chapel Road.

A post and plate to mark the commencement of the Marsden "Pack Horse" Road.

Two posts and plates to indicate the field pathway from Hope Village to Lose Hill Ridge.

Two posts and plates on the path across Wild Moor from Goyt's Bridge to Edgemoor.

The post and plate at Derwent are to be repainted.

The Society has had 100 small bronze name plates made bearing its full name, together with the Secretary's address, and it is hoped by this means to facilitate members of the public getting into communication in regard to disputed ways, and rendering financial support. The name plates are to be attached to all the Society's direction posts.

Finances.

Having regard to the conditions of the past year, it is pleasing to report that there has been a slight increase in the subscriptions compared with the previous year. Moreover, many individual subscribers and affiliated clubs have increased the amount of their subscriptions. Having regard to the large volume of work that is accomplished each year, both in the preservation of footpaths and the erection and maintenance of signposts, the Council is anxious that the fullest possible support should be accorded to the Society. Unfortunately, the burden of supporting the Society would

still appear to be undertaken by a small percentage of ramblers and those interested in the preservation of footpaths. A few moment's consideration of the work achieved by the Society during the past year should be sufficient to enable members of the public to make up their minds that the Society **should** be supported by all pedestrians and lovers of the countryside. Without the Society the number of footpaths open to the public at the present time would be considerably fewer, in all probability the public would not now be enjoying the Hayfield-Snake Inn path, the Doctor's Gate track, the footpaths around Derwent Reservoir, and many of the Goyt Valley footpaths (to name just a few of the Society's achievements) !

The secretaries of rambling clubs and kindred societies would be doing a very useful service if they would bring to the notice of their members on all convenient opportunities the objects and claims of the Society, and urge individual membership. It is gratifying to report that several of the larger clubs are now doing this.

The Defence Fund has, during the year, increased from £144 9s. 2d. to £166 5s. 10d. Steady progress has, therefore, been made towards the minimum fund of £250 aimed at.

Membership.

The terms of membership are quite simple ; there are no formalities other than the payment of a subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, which entitles the member to a copy of the Annual Report and to any information which it may be in the Council's power to give.

In fixing so small a minimum subscription the Society had in view the desirability of obtaining the largest possible amount of public interest, but, of course, the revenue from subscriptions at this low rate is quite inadequate to the requirements for the conduct of the Society's operations.

The Council, therefore, renews its appeals for subscriptions higher than the minimum, and for donations to the Defence Fund mentioned above.

Affiliation.

The minimum fee for rambling clubs and other societies desiring to become affiliated is 10s. 6d. per annum. The payment of the fee carries with it the right to nominate a delegate to attend the Council's meetings.

There are still many rambling clubs and similar associations in the district which are not yet affiliated, and a special invitation is extended to these to attach themselves to the Society, for, by so doing, they would help financially, and, through their delegates, take a part in its management.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies.

- Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society.
- Ancoats Brotherhood.
- Art Museum Field Club.
- Associate Rambling Club.
- Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Bury and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
- Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (Manchester Section).
- Co-operative Holiday Association.
- Chorlton Road Congregational Church Rambling Club.
- Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Section).
- Derby C.H.A. and H. F. Rambling Club.
- Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
- Edgeley Botanical Society.
- Essian Rambling Club.
- Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society, Manchester.
- First Timperley Rovers.
- Friendship Holidays' Association Manchester Rambling Club.
- Glossop Field Naturalists' Society.
- Hans Renold Social Union Rambling Section.
- Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
- Heywood and District Botanical Society.
- Holiday Fellowship Limited.
- Holiday Fellowship (Oldham and District Group).
- Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group No. 1).
- Holiday Fellowship (Rochdale Group).
- Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).
- Hyde and District Footpaths Preservation Society.
- L. M. & S. Rambling Club.
- Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
- Manchester & District Library Fellowship, Rambling Section.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs and Societies—continued.

- Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "A")
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "C")
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "D" West)
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "E")
Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.
Manchester Pedestrian Club.
Manchester Rambling Club.
Manchester Social Club (Rambling Section).
Oldham and District C.H.A. Rambling Society.
Oldham and District Chamber of Trade (Juniors' Association) Rambling Club.
Onward Rambling Club.
Peveril Rambling Club.
Peveril Rambling & Social Club.
Plymouth Grove Wesley Guild.
"R" Club.
Ramblers' Federation (Manchester and District).
Rucksack Club.
Salford P.S.A. Rambling Club.
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.
Stockport Field Club.
Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.
Stockport Co-operative Sports Club.
Trinity Wesleyan Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists.
Vegetarian Society Social and Athletic Club.
Whalley Range Presbyterian Rambling Club.
Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section) Stockport.
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
Zion Rambling Club.

PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1930	...	...	19 2 7	Printing Annual Report	...	...	16 17 6
Subscriptions, 1931	...	...	116 14 4	Stationery, etc.	...	...	5 9 11
Stockport Rambling Clubs to defray cost of signpost erected at Stakeside	...	2	7 3	Hire of Rooms	...	...	7 7 0
Bank Interest	...	1	5 0	Insurance Premium	...	...	18 6
				Signposts and Repairs	...	26	4 0
				Travelling Expenses	...	6	6 2
				Maps	...	1	10 0
				Advertising	...	2	9 0
				Secretary's Honorarium	...	30	0 0
				Footpaths Inspector's Honorarium	...	10	0 0
				Subscription to Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society	...	2	2 0
				Subscription to Manchester, Salford and District Pedestrian's Association	...	10	6
				Postages	...	6	19 9
				Cheque Book	...	8	4
				Sundry expenses	...	1	3 8
				Balance carried forward	...	21	2 10
	<u>£139</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>£139</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>

DEFENCE FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		
Balance from 1930	...	...	...	144	9	2	
Donations, 1931	...	...	...	29	5	8	
	£	173	14	10		£	173	14	10
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, Hon. Treasurer.

A. E. BOWEN, Hon. Auditor.