

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL

For the Year
ended 31st December
1943

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The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

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REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1943.

THE Council of the Society has pleasure in submitting to the members the Report for the year ending December 31, 1943. The number of cases in which the aid of the Society is asked for continues to increase. As will be seen from the Report during the past year the Society has had to deal with some of more than ordinary importance and public interest.

Your Council has to record the resignation (shortly before the last Annual General Meeting) of Mr. W. H. Coomber, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., as Honorary Surveyor, and (at the conclusion of the year's work) of Mr. Alfred E. Bowen, the Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. G. Smith, who for several years has acted as Assistant Treasurer. The Council accepted these resignations with much regret and placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen to the Society. Mr. Handel Kay, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., A.M.I.Struct.E., kindly offered to act as Honorary Surveyor, and was elected to that office at the last Annual General Meeting. Mr. J. E. Broom (the Honorary Auditor) has consented to act as Honorary Treasurer. His address—to which subscriptions should be forwarded—is 14 The Crescent, Longsight, Manchester, 13.

The office of Honorary Auditor relinquished by Mr. Broom will be filled by Mr. G. Smith.

Following are some of the many matters that have occupied the attention of the Society and its Officers:—

WATER UNDERTAKINGS BILL

During the past year a Bill was presented to Parliament by the Minister of Health which appeared to be a direct threat to the interests of the public. It was considered:—

- (a) That as drawn the Bill would enable the Minister of Health by Order to repeal any provisions contained in a local or private Act relating to a Water Undertaking. The Minister therefore had power to repeal the Birmingham Clauses or other protective provisions as regards public access contained in any local or private Water Act.
- (b) That the power proposed to be conferred on Water Undertakers by Clause 10 of the Bill to acquire any land by agreement for the purpose of their undertakings would enable them to acquire by agreement Commons in proposed gathering grounds and then to use certain sections of the Land Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845 for the compulsory extinguishment of the rights of common without reference to Parliament.

Your Council indicated its objections to the Bill both to the Minister of Health and to the Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society. As a result of the negotiations conducted by the latter Society with officials of the Ministry of Health and other interested departments it was agreed that no Order made by the Act should abrogate or affect any provisions contained in a local or private Act or statutory order for conferring on or preserving to the public rights of enjoyment of air, exercise and recreation on land or rights of access thereto for those purposes, or for conferring any public right of way. Just as agreement had been reached on this and other points it was decided to withdraw the Bill, but it is understood that it will be reintroduced during 1944. One of the points conceded was that organisations deemed by the Minister to be sufficiently representative of persons likely to be affected would have the right to object to an Order. Your Council had suggested that this right should be given to all Footpath Societies, Ramblers Associations and other similar organisations, but the concession granted was the utmost that could be obtained. It is not, however, anticipated that there will be any difficulty raised should this Society wish to object to any Order affecting land within its area.

FOOTPATH AT BIRCH HALL QUARRY, HAYFIELD

At Birch Quarry on the road between Birch Vale and Hayfield a public footpath commences leading to Ridge Top and Phoside—the commencement at Birch Quarry being marked by one of the Society's wooden direction posts. In recent developments at the Quarry a new occupation road has been made, and the banking on this new road has made the commencement of the footpath much steeper for two or three yards. The attention of the Hayfield Parish Council has been called to the condition of the path and the suggestion made that the commencement of the path would be improved by being converted into steps—the present abrupt connection being a slideway rather than a footpath.

DOCTOR'S GATE

In recent years the course of the Shelf Brook has had some very severe scourings in heavy floods and the site of the Society's footbridge has gradually worsened. Arrangements have been made for the rebuilding of the footbridge supports.

WESTEND-ALPORT BRIDLE TRACK

Many members of the Society would personally know Mr. A. J. Heron (for many years a member of the Society and for 21 years the President of the Manchester Rambling Club), and would regret to hear of his recent death. His former fellow club members desire to perpetuate his memory, and after consultation with the Officers of the Society, it has been agreed that the Memorial should take the form of a footbridge in the Bleaklow district, of which district Mr. Heron was especially fond. The site chosen for the erection of the bridge is the ford near the little hamlet of Alport on the Westend-Alport bridle track. It is desired to place the bridge as near as possible to the site of the original footbridge which finally disappeared some twenty years ago—a new footbridge being subsequently erected by the estate owners (presumably for the use of the occupying tenant of Alport Castles Farm) at a point seventy yards further south. The latter bridge has now been rendered insecure, and a footbridge would appear to be necessary both from the farmers point of view and that of the public. It will no doubt be recollect that for many years "No Road" notices were erected on this track, but shortly after the commencement of the war the estate owners met the wishes of the Society and removed the Notices. Before the erection of the footbridge could be proceeded with it was in the first instance necessary to obtain the consent of the estate owners and of their lessees (the Forestry Commission) and this was very readily given. The bridge will be erected as soon as materials and labour can be obtained.

The Forestry Commission suggested the erection of guide stakes on the track between the river and Alport Castles and also between the river and the Farm to enable the public to keep to the proper line of path, as previously suggested by the Society in 1940. On the Society consenting to undertake this work the Forestry Commission agreed to provide the necessary stakes. As soon as the stakes are received arrangements will be made for their erection.

MAM TOR AND WINNATS GORGE

Members would be pleasantly surprised to learn through the press that Mam Tor and the Winnats Gorge had been acquired and handed to the National Trust. The grateful thanks of all are mainly due to the Sheffield & Peak District Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, without whose efforts this acquisition would not have been possible. The Executive of the Branch made itself responsible to find no less a sum than £1,000, the balance of the money required. Your

Council when approached for a contribution towards that sum was clearly of the opinion that it would be the wish of the Members that a generous contribution should be made as it was in their interests, and in the interests of all lovers of the country-side that the money should be forthcoming in order to ensure that these most historic features of Peak scenery should be preserved to the public for all time. Accordingly a donation of £25 was made by the Society, which was much appreciated. The successful result of the scheme was assured by December 21, the private appeal to members and affiliated societies made by the local C.P.R.E. obtaining an immediate and generous response. Over £1,400 was forthcoming in a few weeks time, and the surplus of £400 will help to pay off the mortgage loan raised by the National Trust for this fund.

EDALE VALLEY

A Bill has recently been promoted by the Derwent Valley Water Board in Parliament for powers to acquire lands by purchase or easement in the Edale, Ashop and Derwent valleys as a water catchment area, including the formation of a Collecting Pool by a dam across the River Noe. In addition power is sought to increase the height of the dam of the Ladybower Reservoir.

This threat to what are virtually the three remaining valleys in this area was regretted, for in the opinion of your Officers more than enough of the Society's area is already occupied by reservoirs or gathering grounds, particularly in view of the apparent threat contained in the Water Undertakings Bill—previously referred to.

The present Bill would appear to be a reiteration of the 1940 Bill which was subsequently withdrawn from Parliament owing to the attitude of one of the constituent bodies. From a perusal of the Bill no public right seemed to be affected in the area to be acquired or by the increasing of the height of the Ladybower Reservoir Dam, but the Board was asked for an assurance that there was no intention now or hereafter of interfering in any way with public footpaths or access over the area of land to be acquired or in the Protection Zone or otherwise. The Society is working in conjunction with the Sheffield & Peak District Branch of the C.P.R.E., and it was understood that a Memorandum on the question of amenities and of the National Trust land at Edale End Farm was being presented to the Board by the C.P.R.E. and the Standing Committee on National Parks. In the Society's letter to the Board the hope was expressed that it would be possible for a satisfactory agreement to be reached

between the Board and those bodies whereby these delightful valleys would be left unspoilt by the works contemplated by the Board or contained in the Bill. Your Officers were very much concerned in regard to the National Trust land, not only as to its fate under the Bill but also in relation to promoted schemes generally. In their opinion it would be wrong when land has been given to the public for Parliament in any way to deprive the public from enjoying to the full the use of such lands for the purpose of air and exercise. If the sanctity of National Trust properties can be over-ridden it would be a vital blow to our movement. In the Society's letter to the Board reference was also made to this, and the hope expressed that an assurance would be received that it was not within the Board's policy to deprive the public of any of the lands that had or might be given to the public through the medium of the National Trust and that if it was the Board's intention to place the lines of pipes underground it might be that the land proposed to be purchased would be comparatively small as it would only be necessary to acquire easements in respect of such pipe lines.

It is pleasing to report that the reply of the Board indicated that it did not seek to interfere in any way with any public or private footpaths or rights of way; secondly, the Board had no intention of altering the character of any part of Edale Valley except for a matter of some ten acres, and the remainder of the valley would in character remain unaltered as practically the whole of the works would be underground. The Board's reply also stated that the proposals of the Board, and the interests of the Society and of the National Trust had a great deal in common as the Board wished to prevent industrial and other developments of the valley which would have the effect of polluting the waters of the river, whilst the Society and the National Trust desired to preserve its amenities from a purely æsthetic point of view, and the Board assured the Society that those amenities would be very little affected by the proposed works of the Board.

It is understood that the National Trust has now been assured that no Trust land will be acquired unless it be a small piece for the water guage in Jagger's Clough, and further that the Board will acquire easements for the pipe lines, and these will be underground.

PEAK CAVERN, CASTLETON

The Member of Parliament for the area in question sought the co-operation of the Society to prevent persons climbing over the rather rudimentary wooden barricades and damaging

the Ropewalks in the Peak Cavern. He suggested the erection of an iron fence with sharp spikes across the path and down into the gulley about 30 to 35 yards from the existing wooden barricades. Your Council was of the opinion that the matter was one for the tenants of the property who, if they so desired, could engage someone to protect the property, but it was arranged that your Inspector should interview the tenants which he did. After inspecting with them the position of the suggested new iron railing barrier he assured them that the Society would never agree to a barrier being erected which would deprive the public of 45 yards of footpath nearest the Cavern entrance which they have used without let or hindrance for over 40 years, and, in his opinion, the proposed railing would be an eyesore, a waste of metal and an unjustified curtailment of public rights.

TWITCHILL FOOTPATH CROSSING, HOPE

Following the Society's correspondence with the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council and that Council's representations to the Railway Company the Company has now carried out a further alteration which appears to have satisfied local residents. After the removal of the partly rotted old ladder stile the Company had placed a direct pathway up the bank but this has been altered to a zig-zag path, and there is now little element of danger.

PATH NEAR KILLHILL BRIDGE, HOPE, TOWARDS FULLWOOD STILE.

The Society's communication to the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council as to the obstruction of the footpath (which proceeds from a few yards beyond Killhill Bridge and runs parallel with the road for a short distance until at a cross fence the path turns slightly and taking a due northerly direction cuts off a curve in the road, which it rejoins at a substantial wooden stile shortly before the "tunnel" under the railway line is reached) proved successful in getting remedied the matters complained of. The metal wood stile is not in its former good condition to look at, but there is no difficulty in using it, and the stone gap stile is now clear of wire. In addition the outlet of the track at the Killhill Bridge end has been greatly improved by the construction of a good gap stile at the side of the occupation gate.

FOOTPATHS NEAR COWCLOSE FARM, HATHERSAGE

The Society was consulted by the landowner as to what public paths were claimed by Cowclose Farm, and later she

acknowledged as public the footpath from Cattis Side, which runs behind the Farm to Hathersage Church, the only uncertainty being the entrance to the path from Cattis Side. Apparently ramblers were not entering the path at the proper point, and to remedy this the Society has had erected a simple "Public Footpath" notice with a small direction pointer indicating the line of path. This path must not be confused with the parallel path commencing at a point nearer Brookfield Manor, which is also a public right of way despite the misleading character of the "Strictly Private" notice painted on the larger of the two gates through which the path emerges on to the road at Heald Bridge.

FOOTBRIDGES NEAR BROADHAYS FARM, HATHERSAGE

About a year ago following correspondence with the Hathersage Parish Council that Council repaired the two footbridges near Broadhays Farm. Recently it was found that the bridges were again in need of attention—in the case of the footbridge nearer Leadmill the handrail missing and one batten of the bridge itself even missing, whilst in the case of the second bridge the handrail was loose and required firmly refixing and nine battens of the bridge were missing. The attention of the Parish Council has been called to the condition of the bridges, which will tend to become dangerous, with a view to the necessary repairs being effected.

LEADMILL BRIDGE—HIGHLOW ROAD

The attention of the Society was called to the condition of the stile and wall on the north side of the Abney Road at a point between Leadmill Bridge and Highlow Hall. The tenant of Mount Pleasant Farm was interviewed by your inspector, who subsequently found that the short length of wall had been repaired, and an excellent step stile built into the wall, facilitating the use of a convenient way down to Leadmill Bridge.

FOOTPATH FROM GRINDLEFORD VILLAGE TO FROGGATT

Efforts were made to get the Derbyshire County Council to repair this footpath. Over a good proportion of the distance the track is actually made up of paving stones to a width of from 3 feet to 4 feet, and a number of the stones have for many years rested several yards below the line of path. As the complete restoration of the path as a paved way in its original condition would be a fairly substantial job which would present a difficulty

under war-time conditions, the County Council was merely asked to remedy the wet condition of the crossing of the causeway over the tiny stream near Horse Hay Coppice which required channelling ; attention was also called to the condition of the small slab footbridge at the northern end of the path. The County Council would not accept liability for the maintenance of the path except for a short length of approx. 150 yards at Grindleford in the Nether Padley Parish which was maintained by the District Council prior to 1930, when the maintenance of paths was transferred from Rural District Councils to County Councils. The County Council, however, intimated that it had been agreed to rebuild the slab footbridge and this work would be put in hand as soon as labour conditions permitted.

CHEEDALE

Following complaints received by the Society it has been suggested to the Assistant County Surveyor that his Council should improve the condition of the portion of the path through Cheedale which was liable to become impassable when the river was in flood. At the point in question the footpath actually follows the side of the stream bed and consists of a roughly laid causeway of pieces of limestone ; and what seems to be required is the lifting of stone out of the river bed on to the causeway to raise it to eight or nine inches above its present level for a total length of about 35 yards. The Society has gone to a good deal of expense in its endeavour to make this well-used track fit for public use ; during the past few years it has provided a new footbridge (as a Memorial to your late President) and, to enhance the value of the memorial, has effected substantial repairs to the adjoining footbridge—the total cost to the Society being £45. In view of this it seems only reasonable and proper that the County Council should now undertake the work of repair that is so urgently required.

FOOTPATHS IN GREAT ROCKS DALE

In 1929 the Quarter Sessions at Derby made an Order granting a diversion of the "Highway Bridle path leading from Blackwell Mill to near Great Rocks Back Pastures Farm." For several years your Inspector made a point of traversing the path in order to ensure that the public rights were not infringed. During the past Summer he found that one of the gates was kept closed by a piece of twisted wire, and also found another gate that was impossible to open. Furthermore two baulks of timber had been placed over the gap in the limestone wall, and

it was not practicable to get over them. The attention of the Assistant County Surveyor was called to the obstructions, and to the fact that for approx. 50 yards the way had been rendered boggy by reason of the bridle path having become in effect a trench bounded on one side by the field boundary wall, and on the other by the edge of a high tip. The Assistant County Surveyor obtained an undertaking from the Company which owns the land that it would remedy the matters complained of, and later it was found that the gates had been attended to and that the two baulks of timber removed. As no attempt had apparently been made to improve the muddy character of the bridle path caused by the tip, the Surveyor was asked to take the matter up again with the Company with a view to the carrying out of the Company's undertaking.

FOOTPATH AT STONY MIDDLETON

On representations made by the Society to the Bakewell Rural District Council as to the obstruction of the path up Combs Dale, the obstructions—consisting of a large quantity of barbed wire staked in the ground and criss-crossing over the grass flat at the junction of Rough Side and Combs Dale, at a point a little more than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile S.W. of Stony Middleton—have been removed from the actual footpaths. The barbed trip wires have been rolled back on to the green triangular flat enclosed by the paths, the two paths being now quite unobstructed.

FOOTPATH FROM TURNCLIFF OVER LEAP EDGE TOWARDS FLASH

From Turncliff an unobstructed way runs S.W. about 500 yards where it enters the public carriage road leading up to Axe Edge Road. Complaints were received as to the obstruction of a footpath which crosses such public carriage road and runs across Leap Edge a distance of 700 yards in a S.W. direction to a further public carriage road. At the commencement of this 700 yards stretch the boundary fence between private land and the public road consists of a very low stone wall with four or five planks marked "Imperial Chemical Industries." On your Inspector making his investigation he found that one of the planks had been broken down at a point where the path actually passes through the fence and barbed wires attached to it were broken—there had been at least three strands of barbed wire across this gap. Whilst there was no actual obstruction at the moment it was thought necessary to call the attention of the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council to the matter with a view to suitable action being taken to preserve the public rights.

MANIFOLD VALLEY

Your Council was concerned at the proposal to industrialise the Hamps Valley near Cauldon Low and the village of Waterhouse. In 1938 there was a similar attempt to industrialise the Edale Valley by the erection of a steel works, and although it was supported by the Rural District Council (as in the present case) the project had to be dropped owing to strong opposition on the part of Members of Parliament. It is confidently hoped that this attempt will be no more successful. Your Council has urged the Staffordshire County Council to give the utmost consideration to the representations made to such Council by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the National Trust. Representations have also been made by the Society to the Minister of Town and Country Planning.

It is rather disturbing to find that the District Council has scheduled the area for industry. As that Council took a very active part in objecting to the County Council's application to the Minister of Transport (which it will be remembered was supported by the Society) for confirmation of the Order prohibiting the use of the Manifold track by vehicles and cycles it would seem that the District Council look upon matters concerning the Manifold area as being only of local interest and not of national interest or concern. In this connection it is interesting to recall the statement by the Minister of Town and Country Planning, who gave the Government's considered view that "the natural beauty of our countryside is a matter of national importance and, as such, must be of direct concern to national planning."

BOWSTONEGATE RIDGE ROAD, AND PICKING RODS CHISWORTH

Having ascertained that these areas had been cleared the Government Department concerned was approached as to the reopening of the paths and the removal of the "No Road" notices with the result that the notices have now been removed and the paths are once again open to the public.

FOOTPATH TO CASTLE ROCK, ALDERLEY EDGE

The attention of the Wilmslow Urban District Council having been called to the condition of the ladder stile giving access to Castle Rock, that Council effected the necessary repairs.

FOOTBRIDGE NEAR PIGLEY STAIR BRIDGE, RIVER BOLLIN

In 1939 this bridge, along with two others, was repaired by the Bucklow Area Advisory Sub-Committee of the Cheshire County Council. Recently it was observed that the bridge (which consists of two stout baulks of timber which seem good enough for a long time) was in a dangerous condition, as one end of the bridge was only held up by a few inches of the bank—due to erosion. The condition of the bridge was reported to the County District Surveyor, and he has arranged for repairs to be carried out at an early date.

FOOTPATH OVER HARROP BROOK TOWARDS CHARLES HEAD

Following complaints your Inspector interviewed the farmer concerned who promised to remove the two lots of barbed wire complained of. It was reported that there was also barbed wire on the gate at the southern end of the path. The path, however, does not go through the gate but over the nearby stile, which is free from obstruction.

FOOTPATH FROM SYMONDLEY AVENUE, SUTTON LANE ENDS, TO BISHOP'S CLOUGH

In 1938 the Society had occasion to call the attention of the Sutton Parish Council to a very awkward stile on this path, and in consequence the stile was improved by the land owner. Later it fell into disrepair, and on the land owner being asked to repair the stile again, it is understood that he would not do so, but instead removed the steps of the stile and covered the stile with barbed wire. In addition the gate at the side of the former stile was locked. The Society was informed that the matter was one of dispute between the adjoining owners or tenants as to which is the side of the intervening hedge on which the path runs south of the point where the path is obstructed. If this is correct it is unfair that such a dispute should deprive the public of the use of a public right of way, and the matter has been taken up with the Macclesfield Rural District Council.

FOOTPATH OVER TEGSNOSE, MACCLESFIELD

In the Macclesfield press a notice appeared claiming that the land known as Tegsnose was private and threatening the public with proceedings if they trespassed on Tegsnose. As it was not clear from the notice what portion of Tegsnose was intended

to be referred to, and in order that there should be no misapprehension, the tenants of Tegsnose Quarry were communicated with for an assurance that the notice in question was not intended to refer to the way through the Quarry which it had been arranged, following an interview your Secretary had in 1930 with the tenants and the landowner (referred to in the Society's Report for that year) should have the obstructions removed therefrom thus leaving the way free for use by the public. In their reply the tenants, after disclaiming any responsibility for the notices, indicated that, much as they suffered from damage caused by people going about Tegsnose, in so far as they could control Tegsnose, decent people were always welcome.

FOOTPATHS AT TORKINGTON

One of the two footbridges reported in the last Annual Report as having collapsed has been re-erected. This is the bridge on the footpath opposite Holly Farm, Torkington Road, going S. across Achreley Brook. As to the footbridge on the path from Yewtree Farm, Offerton Road, going S.E. to Torkington Wood, the Surveyor to the Hazel Grove and Bramhall Urban District Council has been in communication with the Torkington Golf Club, the owners of the land. Whilst disclaiming any liability for the re-erection of the bridge it is understood that the officials of the Golf Club are not averse to undertaking the work provided the necessary materials can be obtained. The difficulty of obtaining timber and labour is holding up the re-erection and repair of several footbridges, and Parliament is being urged to agree to the issue of priority permits for timber required for this purpose.

FOOTPATH FROM ANDREWS LANE TO THE CANAL BANK, WINDLEHURST

Complaints having been received as to this path enquiries were made by your Inspector, and from the interviews he had with the owner and tenant of the land, it appeared that occasionally the public endeavoured to take a short cut alongside the fence at Windlehurst House and through the stack yard to get to the canal and bridge. The public footpath (which is admitted both by the owner and the tenant) after leaving Andrews Lane runs by "Lomber Hey" and then proceeds diagonally across the field on the north-east side of Windlehurst House. Although the tenant has been authorised to plough up the path by the County War Agricultural Committee he has gone to the extra trouble of leaving it clear.

FOOTPATH FROM STENNER LANE TO RIVER MERSEY BANK, DIDSBURY

Complaints having been received that persons were being stopped from using this path, and that notices had been erected at each end worded "This path is closed for the duration by Order of the Highway Committee, Manchester," the City Surveyor was communicated with, and it appeared that the notices had been erected without his authority. Later the words "of the Highway Committee, Manchester" were taken off, and subsequently it was ascertained that the River Bank notice had been removed, and the wording on the other notice obliterated, but this was afterwards restored, and one of the gates wired up. The City Surveyor was asked to take the matter up, and the path is now free from obstruction. As the notice at Stenner Lane has not been removed further representations have been made to the City Surveyor.

FOOTPATH FROM MILL ROAD TO BENTLEY LANE, BALDINGSTONE

The Society was consulted with reference to the application made to the Bury Corporation by the owners of the Mill adjoining this path for the closing of portion of the path. From the enquiries made by your Inspector it seemed clear that the closing would be against the wishes of the local inhabitants, and there appeared to be no reasonable grounds for the Company's application. Moreover, the "alternative path" offered to the public was already a public footpath. It appeared that the Sewering, Paving, and Street Committee of the Corporation had decided that the Company be informed that in the event of their applying for the closing of the footpath no objection would be raised, but that such decision had been referred back by the Town Council for further consideration. The Corporation was urged by the Society to refuse its consent to the proposed closing as that would prevent the matter being taken further, and would safeguard the rights of the public. The Town Council subsequently decided that they were unable to approve any application for the closing of this footpath.

PLOUGHING UP OF FOOTPATHS

During the year many paths have been stopped up and diverted under Regulation 62 of the Defence Regulations, but in most cases copies of the Orders that have been made by the

County War Agricultural Executive Committees have been forwarded to the Society, and this will enable your Council to keep a record of the many paths that will have to be re-opened when the regulation comes to an end. Whenever its attention has been called to paths being ploughed up without an Order having been obtained, the Society has asked the appropriate County War Agricultural Executive Committee to make the necessary Order upon the farmer. This regularises the position, as, although it enables the farmer to divert the path for the purpose of ploughing up the original path, he has to enter into an undertaking to restore all rights in respect of the way as soon as Paragraph 5A of Regulation 62 shall cease to be in force, and in the meantime he has to display copies of the Order at each end of the stopped footpath. In some cases the Executive Officer will only make an Order for the original path to be rolled out after ploughing, in lieu of permitting it to be diverted. During the year Orders have been asked for by the Society, and made in respect of the footpath at Highfield Farm, Ashford; two footpaths from Wheal Lane to Sheldon; footpath from High Low to Sheldon and the footpath from Bakewell running due west across Stonedge Lane and Crowhill Lane to the Sheldon Road. In respect of the footpath from Wheal Lane near Over Wheal Farm to Sheldon the farmer at the request of the Executive Officer (following the Society's representations) has removed stones which blocked a gap stile, and which had been placed there to prevent trespass by sheep; he also agreed to build a more satisfactory stile on another portion of the path. Orders have also been asked for and made in respect of the Dovedale footpath from Hartington to Thorpe Cloud and of the footpath which runs from the main road between Parsley Hey Station and connects in a north and south direction with Hartington Station, crossing the approach to Lean Low Farm.

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

During the past few years the Peak District National Park Committee (of which your Secretary is a member) has accomplished a good deal of useful work in the direction of formulating the claims of the Peak District as a National Park. The suggested area is approx. 550 square miles within the boundaries of Manchester, Sheffield, Macclesfield and Ashbourne. The preliminary plans and other data have been prepared and submitted for the consideration of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

SIGNPOSTS

As will have been observed, the many signposts erected by the Society for the guidance of ramblers, and which in the past have proved of great assistance to them, are now being re-erected—the need for their absence having happily gone.

FOOTPATH LIBRARY

The following additions to the Society's "Footpath Library," housed in the Special Collections Department of the Manchester Central Library, have been presented during the year:—

- "Walks in Wirral," Wirral Footpaths Society.
- "Britain's Mountain Heritage," by Arthur Gardner.
- "Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbook," 1943-44.
- Sheffield C.P.R.E. Annual Report, 1943.
- "Northern Rambler," Jan.-Dec., 1942.

FINANCE

The Council is pleased to record an increase in membership income on 1942 of £11 0s. 6d., being an increase in the past two years of £20 4s. 11d. However, of the £11 0s. 6d., £4 4s. 0d. was an increase of the usual affiliation fee paid by the Manchester Group of the Holiday Fellowship and £5 5s. 0d. a donation from the Youth Hostel Association (Manchester and District Regional Group). Actually, membership remained the same, 38 members failed to renew their subscriptions, and one member died on active service, whilst 39 new members joined the Society—membership being 315 together with 53 Affiliated Clubs.

The reappearance of the Society's Direction Posts (referred to earlier in the Report) will be a reminder of the dark days through which we passed and during which the Society continued without respite its work of protecting public rights. But for the Society's decision in 1939 to carry on its work without restriction it will readily be seen from a perusal of the Reports since that date that the public would be enjoying far less of the countryside that it now does. Nevertheless, despite its work the membership of the Society barely exceeds 300—a reflection on a large majority of the rambling public who continue to accept all that the Society does without any attempt to subscribe to its funds. Greater support is essential if the Society is to continue to carry out the vast amount of work which it is now called upon to undertake. Like everybody else your Officers are burdened with work which in normal times they would not

have to undertake, but despite this the work of the Society has at all times proceeded without delay; and it would be encouraging to them to know that their efforts, accomplished under very difficult circumstances, were appreciated by a much larger number of ramblers and lovers of the countryside.

Expenditure actually exceeded income by £7 18s. 2d., but this was occasioned by the £25 donation made towards the acquisition of Mam Tor and Winnats Gorge, in addition to the £15 less 2s. 6d. (donation during the year) transferred to the Post-War Reserve Fund. There was a balance in hand at the beginning of the year of £11 6s. 11d. which, less the £7 18s. 2d., leaves a balance in hand of £3 8s. 9d.

The Defence Fund has been augmented by £16 8s. 6d. during the year (of which £6 10s. 0d. was generously contributed by the Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club) and now stands at £337 8s. 7d.

As a further £7 14s. 6d. has been contributed during the year towards the Broomycrofthead Bridge Fund, leaving a balance now outstanding of £20 9s. 6d., your Council has decided to leave this fund open for another year, and urges members to make donations thereto in order to relieve the Special Reserve Fund from this burden.

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

The terms of membership are simple, involving no formalities other than the payment of a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum which entitles a member to receive a copy of the Annual Report, together with any information which it may be within the Council's scope to afford. It must be emphasised that in fixing the minimum subscription the Society has in view the desirability of obtaining the fullest possible public interest, and that the revenue derived from *minimum* subscriptions is inadequate to meet the needs of the Society's operations. The Secretaries of Rambling and kindred Clubs can perform a very useful service by bringing to the notice of their members the objects and claims of the Society *and urging individual membership*. Some Secretaries make themselves responsible for the collection of subscriptions from the Club members, which are forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer in bulk. Other Secretaries are urged to adopt a similar method, as it ensures that subscriptions are not overlooked, and is very helpful to the Society and its Officers.

The minimum Affiliation Fee for Clubs and Societies is 10s. 6d. per annum which includes the privilege of appointing a Delegate to attend the Council's meetings.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies

Accrington Naturalist & Antiquarian Society.
Art Museum Field Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bury & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club
Bramhall Ratepayers' Association.
C. E. Holiday Homes, Ltd.
Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (L.C. & N.W. District Association).
Central Rambling Club.
City News Fellowship (Ramblers Section).
Co-operative Holiday Association.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Sec.)
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Stockport Sec.)
Crescent Rambling Club.
C.P.R.E. (Buxton & District Area Committee)
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Derby C.H.A. & H.F. Rambling Club.
Field Naturalists & Archaeologists Society, Manchester.
Friendship Holidays Association Manchester Rambling Club.
Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Holiday Fellowship Limited.
Holiday Fellowship (Oldham & District Group).
Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group)
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "A").
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "C").
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "D").
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "E").
Manchester C.H.A. Club.
Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.
Manchester Pedestrian Club.
Manchester Rambling Club.
Marple Field Club.
North Staffordshire Field Club.
Oldham & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
"R" Club.
Ramblers' Association (Sheffield & District Federation).
Ramblers' Federation (Manchester & District).
Rochdale Field Naturalists Society.
Rucksack Club.
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Stockport Field Club.
Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.
Sutton-in-Ashfield & District Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists.
Vegetarian Society Social & Athletic Club.
Willersley Sidholme & Sidestrand Ltd.
Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section) Stockport.
Workers' Travel Association Ltd.
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.

Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1943

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	INCOME	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Printing Annual Report ...	13	0	0				Subscriptions for 1943:—						
Circulars, Posters, Envelopes re same ...	2	9	6				Paid in advance as per 1942 Statement ...	4	1	6			
							Paid during Year to December 31, 1943 ...	119	11	6			
Hire of Rooms ...						15 9 6							
Printing and Stationery ...						3 15 0							
Insurance Premiums ...						6 2 11							
Signpost account ...						3 2 2							
Subscription to Commons, O.S. & F. P. Society ...	2	2	0			1 0 6							
Affiliation Fees (C.P.R.E., 4 Branches) ...	2	2	0										
						4 4 0							
Advertising and Sundry Expenses ...						1 4 7							
Annual Meeting Lantern Lecture and Operator ...						1 16 0							
Secretary's Honorarium ...	30	0	0										
Hon. Treasurer—Clerical Assistance ...	5	5	0										
Footpaths Inspectors' Honorariums (Mr. Wild £15; Mr. Gill £7 10s. Od.) ...	22	10	0			57 15 0							
Footpaths Inspectors' Travelling Expenses (£9 7s. 11d. and £2 11s. 5d.) ...						11 19 4							
Inspection Fees re Awards ...						0 3 4							
Postages ...						10 19 8							
Bank Commission, less Interest (Bank account current) ...						0 0 2							
Amount transferred to Post-War Reserve Fund ...						14 17 6							
Donation to Sheffield & Peak District Branch of the C.P.R.E. towards the acquisition of Mam Tor and Winnats Gorge						25 0 0							
Balance brought forward from 1942 ...	11	6	11			157 9 8							
Less excess of Expenditure over Income to 31st December, 1943 ...						7 11 8							
Balance carried forward to 1944...	3	15	3							
Subscriptions for 1944 carried forward ...						161 4 11							
						2 9 0							
							£163 13 11						

DEFENCE FUND

Balance carried forward to 1944	337 8 7	Balance brought forward from 1942	321 0 1
		Donations received during year to December 31, 1943	16 8 6
£337 8 7			£337 8 7

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND AT DECEMBER 31, 1943

Balance carried forward to 1944 (Arnold Wilson Legacy, £713 16s. 8d.; G. H. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.G.S. Gift towards Erection and Maintenance of Signposts £50)	763 16 8	Balance brought forward from 1942	763 16 8
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MANCHESTER AND SALFORD SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AT DECEMBER 31, 1943

Interest as per contra transferred to General Account	26 5 0	Deposits at December 31, 1943 at 2½ per cent	500 0 0
Balance on deposit carried forward to 1944	1,000 0 0	Deposits at December 31, 1943 at 2½ per cent	500 0 0
£1,026 5 0			£1,026 5 0

BROOMYCROFTHEAD BRIDGE FUND

Cooper Bros. (Builders) Ltd., Erection of Bridge	32 0 0	Donations in hand	3 16 0
		Donations received during year to December 31, 1943	7 14 6
£32 0 0			£32 0 0

POST-WAR RESERVE FUND

Balance carried forward to 1944	£30 0 0	Balance brought forward from 1942	£15 0 0
		Donation received during year to December 31, 1943	0 2 6
£30 0 0			£14 17 6
£30 0 0			£30 0 0

CASH POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 1943

Balance at Credit of Defence Fund	£337 8 7	Cash at Bank	£117 0 0
Special Reserve Fund	763 16 8	Cash on deposit with M. & S. Savings Bank	1,000 0 0
Post-War Reserve Fund	30 0 0	Broomycrofthead Bridge Fund, Balance owing to General Fund	20 9 6
Subscriptions paid in advance for 1944	2 9 0		
Credit balance of General Fund	3 15 3		
£1,137 9 6			£1,137 9 6

(Signed) ALFRED E. BOWEN, Hon. Treasurer.

(Signed) J. E. BROOM, Hon. Auditor.

March 1, 1944