

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL

**For the Year
ended 31st December,
1950**

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The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

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29 Brown Street, Manchester, 2.

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HAROLD E. WILD,
21 North Avenue, Burnage,
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REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1950

THE National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, has been on the Statute Book a little over 12 months.

One-third of the time allowed for the preparation of the official draft survey has passed. It is difficult to form an opinion as to the progress achieved in the National Footpath Survey now being carried out by Parish Councils under the direction of the County Councils. It is known that in certain cases the survey has not actually commenced, but where contact has been made between members of Footpaths Societies and the Parish Councils, real co-operation is taking place.

VOLUNTARY FOOTPATH SURVEY.—The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society in association with other organisations, took steps to organise a voluntary footpath survey on a County basis. Your Society was invited to take the initiative in Derbyshire. On June 10th it convened a Conference at Buxton at which a Standing Committee to co-ordinate the voluntary survey in Derbyshire was appointed, with Mr. P. Daley as Secretary. The Lancashire Branch of the C.P.R.E., acting for Lancashire, called a Conference at Preston, in which the Society participated. Further Conferences have been held during the year, at Chester, Stoke and Bolton.

A very large number of six-inch ordnance survey maps have now been issued by Mr. Redford, the Survey Secretary, and the voluntary survey is in progress in Derbyshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, the West Riding and North Staffordshire.

There is every indication that the diversion powers of the new Act will be brought into operation by many small land-owners. All diversion orders under the Act are subject to the confirmation of the Minister of Planning, and if the Minister insists on strict adherence to the provisions of the Act, footpath users will have little to fear. But "Diversion" and "Extinction" applications will call for some close watching by Footpaths Societies.

The Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, facilities the diversion or stopping up of highways (including footpaths) upon the authority of the Minister of Transport, and the Society have

made representations upon certain applications already lodged by quarrying interests.

FOOTPATH INSPECTOR.—Mr. Tom Ewart has been appointed an additional Footpath Inspector.

FOOTBRIDGE OVER CRANBERRY CLOUGH NEAR SLIPPERY STONES.—In the opinion of many walkers the finest moorland footpath in the Peak District is the path from Hazlehead and Langsett via Mickleden Edge and Cut Gate to Slippery Stones. At Slippery Stones itself a footbridge was provided some years ago at the instigation of the Society, and at the joint cost of the two district Councils and the Society. A short distance from Slippery Stones, on the Yorkshire side of the River Derwent, the path crosses Cranberry Clough. In dry weather there is no difficulty in crossing the stream bed. But the land above is an extensive moorland gathering ground, and in times of heavy rains Cranberry Clough can now be crossed only at some personal risk because a small footbridge placed here some years ago has now disappeared. On August 25th, 1949, the Society requested the Highway Authority to provide a new footbridge. The matter has been discussed on two occasions by the County Committee of the West Riding Council. Under the National Parks Act, the liability to replace the Cranberry Clough footbridge rests with the West Riding County Council. The Clerk of the County Council wrote the Society on March 1st, 1951, that his "Committee, while not disputing the fact that the footpath is a public footpath, do not consider that it is of sufficient general public utility to warrant special consideration. In these circumstances the Committee are not prepared to vary their previous decision not to accept liability for the repair and maintenance of the footpath or the footbridge in advance of the approval of the 'definitive map' in accordance with the Act and the inclusion of such footpath and footbridge thereon." The Society has been associated with many developments on this ancient Yorkshire-Derbyshire bridle way, including obstructions, direction posts, footbridges and even an appeal to a House of Lords Committee, and will continue its efforts in this case until a new footbridge crosses Cranberry Clough.

PLATTWOOD FARM ESTATE, LYME PARK.—Following the Society's representations, the owner of Plattwood Farm caused the "Private" Notice on the gate near Elmerhurst Cottages to be painted out. Other ways on this Estate are still under discussion, and it is hoped that in the near future a further meeting with the landowner will take place in which representatives of the Farmers' Union will take part.

OBSTRUCTION ON BRIDLE PATH NEAR WHITE HALL, UPPER GOYT.—Mr. Ewart drew attention to an obstruction on this useful cross-country bridle road, and steps are being taken to ensure that public rights are preserved. It was in part due to the existence of this bridle way that the Stockport Corporation provided the steel suspension bridge across the Goyt Reservoir. The preservation of public rights along the bridle way is moreover of considerable importance to the new "Open Country Pursuits Centre" recently opened at White Hall by the Derbyshire Education Committee.

OBSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATH NEAR FERN HOUSE, BUXTON.—The Society drew the attention of the Buxton Corporation to this obstruction, and in due course received a reply from the Town Clerk that steps had been taken to secure the removal of the obstruction.

CEMENT WORKS DIVERSION OF BROUGH PATH.—The Cement Works Company had applied to the Ministry of Transport for authority to divert the Brough end of the Bradwell to Brough footpath. There was little difference in the lengths of path involved, and after the Chairman of the Brough and Shatton Parish Meeting had been visited, it was resolved that the Society should not object to the diversion.

CEMENT WORKS DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH AT COTES GREEN, BRADWELL.—The Cement Works Company through the Ministry of Transport are seeking a diversion of a path above Pindale, Bradwell. The Society has entered an objection to the granting of the Order, and the Bradwell Parish Council have also entered an objection. The notice of intention to make an Order to divert was issued by the Ministry of Transport on October 13th, 1950, and the public were allowed three months from that date in which to object. But when your Secretary traversed this footpath he had to clamber over a stake and wire-netting fence by which the line of path had already been diverted by the Company. Appropriate representations have been made by the Society to the Ministry of Transport, and also to the Ministry of Planning.

FOOTPATH, YEW TREE HOUSE TO FLITTOGATE FARM.—Mr. Watson, the Society's Footpaths Inspector for Cheshire, reported upon the completion of a new brick and concrete cart bridge 100 yards upstream from the unusable old bridge. The Society communicated with the Tabley Estate, suggesting that a slight diversion of the public footpath should be made in order to allow use by the public of the new occupation

cart bridge. The Estate has agreed and the Society is grateful to the Tabley Estate for this concession. The Cheshire County Council were then notified by the Society of the line of path mutually agreeable to the Estate and the Society, and the suggestion was made to the County Council that the diverted line should be shown on the draft survey map. The County Council replied that the correct procedure was to indicate the old line of path on the draft survey map, and that a diversion order should be made subsequently under the provisions of the 1949 Act.

FOOTPATH FROM BROOKS' DRIVE TO HASTY LANE, HALE BARNS.—Mr. Watson investigated a complaint received from local residents regarding the condition of this footpath. The matter was referred to the Hale U.D.C., and some improvement in the condition of the path has been effected.

DOCTOR'S GATE FOOTBRIDGE.—The Society has carried out a satisfactory repair to this footbridge. The abutments have been raised so that the bridge is now three feet above normal water level, and the planks are bedded in concrete. The County Council has been requested to accept liability for future maintenance, and this has been agreed to.

STREAM CROSSING NEAR DOCTOR'S GATE CUL-VENT, SNAKE ROAD.—For some years the step-way and slab crossing on the Doctor's Gate footpath have been in a bad state of repair. The Society drew the attention of the District Surveyor of the County Council to the matter, and the stream crossing is now in good condition again.

FOOTBRIDGE NEAR SHADY LANE, BAGULEY.—The attention of the Manchester City Surveyor was drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of this footbridge on the Manchester boundary, and to the overgrown state of the hedges enclosing the path on the Manchester side. A reply was received from the City Surveyor, stating that the hedges had now been trimmed and the bridge would be made safe for pedestrians immediately.

REPAIR OF FOOTPATH IN CHEEDALE.—Mr. G. H. B. Ward drew the Society's attention to the dangerous condition of the footpath at one point near the Railway Viaduct. The Council requested the Derbyshire County Surveyor to carry out the necessary repair. The County Surveyor caused an inspection of the site to be made, and subsequently indicated to the Society that because of uncertainty as to the status of

the path the County Council could not carry out any repairs until the public or private character of the path had been established, and the Statutory Survey of Footpaths under the National Parks Act would be a suitable opportunity for deciding whether in fact the Cheedale footpath is a public way. For many years the landowner has maintained on a gate at the entrance to the path at the Miller's Dale Station end, a notice which indicates that the private path from the gate for one mile towards Buxton is rendered unsafe by blasting. One mile from the gate a footbridge across the Wye carries the Wormhill-Miller's Dale footpath across the stream. It is the Society's contention that whatever effect the notice at the Miller's Dale Station end of the path may have on the question of public rights along the first mile to the footbridge, the continuation of the path by the side of the Wye from the footbridge towards Blackwell Mill and Buxton is unquestionably a public footway, and has been used as such without interruption for considerably more than 30 years. It is regrettable that the County Council is prepared to delay the expenditure of a very small sum for a period of perhaps five years in the repair of one of the County's most famous limestone dale walks.

REPAIR OF STILE AT BRETTON.—Mr. Ward also drew the Society's attention to the bad state of repair of a wall stile on the Bretton to Cockey Farm path. This matter was referred to the Bakewell R.D.C. and passed on by the District Council to the County Council.

ALPORT MEMORIAL FOOTBRIDGE.—The Heron Memorial Footbridge at Alport is in need of repainting. Members of the Manchester Rambling Club have made a generous offer to tackle the job, and the Society has undertaken to provide the necessary materials. The Memorial Bridge Appeal Fund is still open, and contributions should be addressed to the treasurer of the fund, Miss M. Dawson, 2 St. Paul's Road, Withington, Manchester, 20.

LANTERN PIKE, THE EDWIN ROYCE MEMORIAL.—The dedication of the hill top indicator, erected as a memorial to Edwin Royce, took place on October 28th, 1950, in the presence of about 180 persons. The deeds of the hill top were handed over to the National Trust by Mr. Hugh Molson, M.P. Mr. G. H. B. Ward presided, and the plaque was unveiled by Mr. Hervey Rhodes, M.P.

During the year numerous other matters have been dealt with by the Society.

DIRECTION POSTS.—Direction posts have been dealt with during the year as follows :—

Presented by the C.H.A. "D" Section Rambling Club, a new post has been erected on the Bowstonegate Ridge Road to indicate the path down to Handley Foot.

Presented by Mr. G. Hutton in memory of the late A. F. Hart, a new post has been erected near Lower Cliff Farm, Lyme Handley.

Presented by the Manchester and District Rambling Club for the Blind, a new post has been erected in Doctor's Gate.

The Oldham and District Moorwardens having resolved to disband as an organisation, offered to mark the occasion by presenting the Society with a direction post. A new post and plate with an appropriate bronze name plate have been erected at Grains Bar. The original plate erected at this spot in 1935 by the Oldham Rucksack Club was damaged in 1940 when being removed by the local Council during the invasion scare.

The Society's direction plate erected near Hope Mill, which had been missing since 1940, has been traced by the District Surveyor of the County Council. A new post has been fixed and the post and plate are again in position.

The fallen post near Marsh Farm, Hope, has been refixed and repainted.

The direction post in Alport Lane has been refixed and repainted. A stay has been fixed to the post at Alport Bridge.

An uprooted mile-post and a fallen "dogs on leash" board in Ashop Clough have been re-erected.

Many of the Society's posts have been repainted during the year, these include three posts on the Birch Quarry-Peep O'Day footpath, three posts at Tunstead Milton, a post on the Chapel-Hayfield old road, the post at Mossylea Bridge, and direction post No. 1 at Carr Meadow, Hayfield.

The following clubs, societies and members have previously given or have promised to give, a direction post to the Society :—

The Stockport Rambling Clubs (two posts).

Manchester Rambling Club (two posts).

Peveril Social and Rambling Club (two posts).

Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club (two posts).

Our o' Doors Fellowship.

Chorlton Road Congregational Y.P.F.

Ramblers' Federation.

Manchester Pedestrian Club.

Art Museum Field Club.
Co-operative Holidays Association (three posts).
C.H.A. "A" Section Rambling Club.
C.H.A. "D" Section Rambling Club.
Ashton C.H.A. Rambling Club (three posts).
Hallamshire Footpaths Society.
Oldham Rucksack Club.
Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
C.E.H.--H. Comradeship (Manchester and Stockport Groups).
Manchester Holiday Fellowship Group.
Ancoats Brotherhood (two posts).
The late B. S. Harlow.
The late A. R. Moon.
Manby A. Gibson, Esq.
Friends of the late C. N. Jones.
Friends of the late Henry Brown.
Friends of the late W. T. Watson, A. Robinson, C. Stewart and
W. Hanson.
Oldham and District Moorwardens.
Manchester and District Rambling Club for the Blind
G. Hutton, Esq.
Central Rambling Club (Sheffield).
Sutton-in-Ashfield Rambling Club.

FOOTPATH LIBRARY.—The following additions to the Society's "Footpath Library," housed in the Special Collections Department on the Fourth Floor of the Manchester Central Library, have been acquired during the year:—

Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbook, 1950-51.
C.P.R.E. Annual Report, 1949-50.
C.P.R.E. Sheffield and Peak District, Annual Report 1950.
C.P.R.E. Lancashire Branch, Annual Report 1949-50.
Commons and Footpaths Society Journal, April, 1950, to January, 1951.
"Survey Maps and Public Rights of Way" (Commons and F.P. Society).
National Parks and Access Act, 1949.
"Quarrying in the Peak District," by Edgar Morton.
One-inch Ordnance Survey Map, Buxton and Matlock.
15 Ordnance Survey Maps 2½", North Derbyshire.
"The Woodlands Lovefeast," by Mrs. H. M. Mitchell.
"Homage to Cheshire," by Hedley Lucas.

FINANCE.—It is to be regretted that once more our expenditure has exceeded income by £43 13s. 2d., and that our reserves have again, for the fourth year in succession, been depleted.

The total membership now stands at 335 members and 62 affiliated societies as against 429 and 66 respectively for the year 1949.

During the year under review 11 new members were enrolled but 105 failed to renew their subscriptions, which means that the membership has fallen to a regrettably low level. In spite of this however, the increased generosity of those members who have supported us has enabled the Society to maintain its income at a level comparable with the previous year, for which we are grateful and hope that their support will be forthcoming during the year to come.

The year 1949 saw 63 new members obtained but 35 failed to renew.

In the case of Affiliated Societies 60 renewed their membership and six did not renew, while two new Societies were obtained. This compares with the previous year's figures of 61 renewals and five new enrolments with nine non-renewals.

The average contribution per member amounted to 5s. 5d. and that of the Societies to £1.

The Defence Fund has been increased by contributions during the year by £18 19s. 0d. to £502 5s. 7d., and the Post-War Reserve Fund by £1 8s. 0d. to £23 14s. 5d. while our good friends, the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers, have donated £10 10s. 0d. to the Defence Fund and £1 10s. 0d. to the General Fund; a remarkable continuance of their past support.

The erection of signposts and their maintenance has accounted for £63 19s. 2d. of which £15 8s. 6d. has been contributed by the following Societies and members on whose behalf certain posts were provided:—

Mr. G. V. Hutton.

Oldham Moor Wardens.

The voluntary footpath survey work mentioned in the 1949 Report has continued throughout the year, and the Society has expended on this cause the considerable sum of £46 12s. 1d. in addition to the £46 5s. 3d. expended during 1949.

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION.—The terms of membership are simple, involving no more formalities other than the payment of a minimum subscription of 3s. 6d. per annum for individuals, and a minimum of 10s. 6d. per annum for Clubs and Societies.

If you are not a member, please send your subscription or donation to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. G. S. Cooper, 13 Duffield Road, Salford, 6, Lancs., or the Secretary.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs and Societies 1950

Accrington Naturalist & Antiquarian Society.
Alderley Edge, Wimslow & District Footpaths Preservation Society.
Art Museum Field Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne & District C.H.A. & H.F. Rambling Club.
Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Barnsley Mountaineering Club.
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bramhall Ratepayers' Association.
Bury & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland, North-West Region.
C. E. Holiday Homes Ltd.
Central Rambling Club.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes, Manchester Section.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes, Oldham Section.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes, Stockport Section.
Co-operative Holidays Association.
Crescent Rambling Club.
Derby C.H.A. & H.F. Rambling Club.
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Eastwood Ramblers.
Eccles C.H.A. Social & Rambling Club.
Friendship Holidays Association (Manchester) Rambling Club.
Goyt Rambling Club.
Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Holiday Fellowship Ltd.
Holiday Fellowship Rambling Club, Bolton Group.
Holiday Fellowship, Manchester Group.
Holiday Fellowship, Oldham & District Group.
Holyrood Ward Ratepayers & Electors Association.
Karabiner Mountaineering Club.
Lido Ramblers.
Macclesfield & District Field Club.
Macclesfield Field Naturalists.
Manchester A.E.I. Rambling Club.
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
Manchester Association Rambling Club.
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. Social Club.
Manchester & District Rambling Club for the Blind.
Manchester Fellowship (Ramblers' Section).
Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.
Manchester Field Naturalists & Archaeologists Society.
Manchester Pedestrian Club.
Manchester Rambling Club.
Marple Field Club.
Marple Residents' Association.
Moorland Rambling Club.
North Staffordshire Field Club.
North-West Naturalists' Union.
Northwich Urban District Council.
Oldham & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Oldham Photographic Society.
Ramblers' Association (Liverpool & District Federation).
Ramblers' Association (Manchester & District Federation).
Ramblers' Association (Sheffield & District Federation).
Rochdale C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society.
Rucksack Club.
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "A").
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.
South-East Lancashire County Scout Council.
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Stockport Field Club.
Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.
Stockport W.E.A. Rambling Club.
Sutton-in-Ashfield & District Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists' Society.
Wesley Guild Holidays.
Youth Hostels Association (Prestwich Area Group).
Youth Hostels Association (Manchester & Salford Sub-Regional Group).
Youth Hostels Association (Altrincham Group).
Youth Hostels Association (Burnage & Levenshulme Group).
Youth Hostels Association (Sheffield Sub-Regional Group).
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.

The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

Dr.					Cr.
1949					1949
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To EXPENDITURE :—					
Annual Report :—Printing	26 12 0	26 0 0			
Distribution	8 4 11	8 5 9	34 5 9		
Hire of Rooms	34 16 11		8 5 0		
Printing and Stationery	8 5 0		25 12 4		
Insurance Premium	15 4 10 1		3 12 6		
Signposts Erected and Maintained	3 10 0	63 19 2			
Less contributions received	85 8 9	15 8 6	48 10 8		
Subscriptions to Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society	25 0 0				
Affiliations to Four Branches of the C.P.R.E.	60 8 9	2 2 0	2 2 0		
Advertising	2 2 0		4 4 0		
Sundry Expenses	4 4 0		13 4 0		
Maps and Plans	26 0 1		2 6 0		
Cost of 1949 Annual General Meeting	1 9 8		5 16 2		
Honorariums :—	3 0 0		2 10 0		
Secretary	8 6 0				
Two Footpaths Inspectors	26 5 0				
Treasurer	27 10 0	18 15 0			
	10 10 0	5 5 0	54 0 0		
Travelling Expenses :—	64 5 0				
Secretary	11 1 1 1	7 12 0			
Two Footpaths Inspectors	5 0 1 1	4 17 4			
Other Officials		5 5 0	17 14 4		
Postages and Telephones	16 2 10		16 2 8 1		
Cheque Books—Two	12 11 5 1		8 4		
Bank Commission	12 6		1 5 0		
Subscriptions for 1951 carried forward	1 3 0		6 1 6		
	2 16 0				
	£259 19 1		£243 18 3 1		£259 19 1
					£243 18 3 1

DEFENCE FUND AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

1949	1949
£458 1 11	Balance brought forward from 1949 ... £483 6 7
25 4 8	Add Donations received during the current year ... 18 19 0
£483 6 7	£502 5 7

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950	
£1,251 6 8	Balance brought forward from 1949 ... £1,145 13 4
	(Original Bequests to Fund:—Arnold Wilson Legacy £713 16s. 8d.; G. H. B. Ward, F.R.G.S. Gift towards erection and maintenance of sign- posts £50; Anonymous £12 10s. 0d.; Edwin Royce Legacy £500)
	Refund of "Lantern Pike" Deposit, 1948 ... 20 0 0
£1,251 6 8	£1,165 13 4
	£1,251 6 8
	£1,165 13 4

POST-WAR RESERVE FUND AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

£40 8 5½	Balance brought forward from 1949 ... £22 6 5½
1 18 0	Add Donations received during the current year ... 1 8 0
£42 6 5½	£23 14 5½
	£42 6 5½
	£23 14 5½

MANCHESTER & SALFORD SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

£567 14 5	Balance brought forward from 1949 a/c £581 17 11
14 3 6	Add Interest received to December 31, 1950, at 2½% ... 14 10 6
581 17 11	596 8 5
1,082 8 10	Balance brought forward from 1949 a/c 1,029 9 10
27 1 0	Add Interest received to December 31, 1950, at 2½% ... 25 14 6
1,109 9 10	1,055 4 4
80 0 0	Less Transfer to General Fund ... 70 0 0
1,029 9 10	985 4 4
£1,611 7 9	£1,581 12 9
	£1,611 7 9
	£1,581 12 9

CASH POSITION AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

£6 14 7	Cash at Bank on General Fund Account ... £2 13 2
1,611 7 9	Cash on Deposit with M. & S. Savings Bank ... 1,581 12 9
37 0 0½	{ Cash in Hand ... 23 15 5
	Petty Cash ... 8 2½
£1,655 2 4½	£1,608 9 6½
	£1,655 2 4½
	£1,608 9 6½

G. S. COOPER, Honorary Treasurer, 15th March, 1951.

G. SMITH, Honorary Auditor, 15th March, 1951.