

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

1894 — 1956

**Annual
REPORT
for 1956**



THE PEAK DISTRICT & NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY — 1956

President : F. S. H. Head, B.Sc., PH.D.

Vice-Presidents:

Rt. Hon. The Lord Chorley F. Howard
P. Daley A. J. Moon, B.A. (Cantab.)

Council: Elected Members:

Chairman: T. Boulger.

Vice-Chairman: E. E. Ambler.

L. L. Ardern	J. Clarke	L. G. Meadowcroft
Dr. A. J. Bateman	Miss M. Fletcher	K. Mayall
A. Bates	G. R. Estill	A. Milner
D. T. Berwick	A. W. Hewitt	E. E. Stubbs
J. E. Broom	J. H. Holness	R. T. Watson
J. W. Butterworth	J. E. Massey	H. E. Wild

Delegates from Affiliated Clubs and Societies:

F. Arrundale	F. Goff	H. Mills
R. Aubry	L. Griffiths	L. Nathan, F.R.E.S.
E. Bailey	J. Harrison	J. R. Owen
J. G. Baker	H. Harrison	J. Pye
J. D. Bettencourt, A.R.P.S.	J. F. Hibbert	H. Sandler
Miss D. Blakeman	A. Hodkinson	J. Shevelan
R. Bridge	W. Howarth	Miss L. Smith
T. Burke	W. B. Howie	N. Smith
E. P. Campbell	E. Huddy	Miss M. Stott
R. Cartin	R. Ingle	L. Stubbs
H. W. Cavill	L. Jones	C. Taylor
J. Chadwick	Miss M. G. Jones	H. F. Taylor
F. J. Crangle	R. J. Kahla	Mrs. W. Taylor
Miss F. Daly	T. H. Lancashire	W. Taylor
Miss E. Davies	A. Lapper	P. B. Walker
W. Eastwood	D. J. Lee	H. Walton
A. Fairhurst	W. Marcroft	G. H. B. Ward, F.R.G.S.
G. Fernley	H. Meadowcroft	Miss J. Ward-Oldham
J. L. Fleming	Miss M. Mellor	J. Willison
R. S. Frew	Miss N. Mellor	J. W. Wood
H. Gilliatt	S. N. Miller	T. S. Wood

Signpost Supervisor:

F. Higgins

Hon. Auditor:

J. E. Broom

Survey Secretary:

N. Redford

Registrar:

Miss Lake

Librarian:

L. L. Ardern

Secretary:

A. Smith, "Perigarth," Tytherington Park, Macclesfield.

Honorary Treasurer:

G. S. Cooper, 13 Duffield Road, Salford, 6.

Inspectors of Footpaths:

N. Redford (Chief), Dr. A. J. Bateman, T. Ewart, G. R. Estill,
J. H. Holness, H. Jones, H. King, A. E. Nash, G. H. B. Ward, F.R.G.S.

REPORT

For the year ending 31st December, 1956

THE Society's need for greater personal activity and interest as well as for more funds, has increased during the year, thus continuing the post-war trend. This demand on our vigilance is created by the activities of all kinds of people. Farming, housing, waterworks, motor-cycling, the Forces, oil storage—all these and more besides.

In urban areas the encroachment of private builders causes us much anxiety. And as, sometimes too late for remedy, a wall, a shed or house is reported to have been built across a footpath, we wonder how the plans came to be passed and the footpath ignored. We know that in contracts for sale of land a saving clause declares the land to be subject to such rights of way as have been hitherto enjoyed, but something more than that is required. For example, in the sale of a large estate of nearly 700 holdings, comprising nearly 5,000 acres, not one public footpath was indicated in the contracts, although it was a much frequented walking area and contained hundreds of popular footpaths.

When, as sometimes happens, the local authority as well as the builder ignores a footpath, even if it has been marked on the draft map, and notwithstanding that fact the path is built over or quarried away, we are still more perplexed. This is not conjecture. It is fact. Many local authorities, to their credit, are scrupulous about such things, but we would ask: can legislation effect a remedy? Visitors as well as local people can help in such circumstances by reporting to us before the work has gone too far.

NOTICES SHOULD BE READ AND RECORDED

Sometimes when footpaths are taken into consideration during development whether by private builders, local authorities or government departments, the diversion or perhaps the absolute closure of paths is proposed. Notices appear beside the footpaths as well as in the local press, but, couched in legal language, how often they are ignored, although action taken in accordance with them is often the walker's only safeguard. In many cases the authority will have provided for the walker's need, but the exception is threatened, and he passes along unaware that his favourite footpath is about to be extinguished.

Again, thinking of notices, how many of us can remember when a notice first appeared on such and such a path and its

text? This is important because correspondents have written to us pointing out that their favourite path was obstructed though it bore a notice declaring it to be public. Upon investigation we have sometimes found the notices to have quite a contrary effect. Walkers therefore, whether visitors or local people, should always have pencil and paper handy to record when they see a notice, what are its contents, and the spot where it stands.

THE FOOTPATHS SURVEY

During the year there has been greater activity in the Footpaths Survey. All the Draft Maps of our area were published before the last report was written, and we are now at the stage of hearings into our claims to paths omitted from those maps and into objections of landowners and occupiers that some paths that have been included are private. This process has been in operation in Lancashire for over two years, and in Yorkshire, West Riding, is in a more advanced state.

In Lancashire, hearings affecting our claims and counter claims have been held at irregular intervals. At some of them we have been represented by our inspector, Mr. H. Jones, and at others by Mr. N. Redford, our Survey organiser.

In Yorkshire it is pleasing to record two notable achievements:

- (a) the path we claimed from Lady Cross to the head of the River Derwent and on to Slippery Stones to join the Cut Gate path from Langsett has been accepted as a public footpath on the strength of documents of the time of Edward the First (700 years ago) written in Mediaeval Latin and deposited in the Public Record Office in London.
- (b) Our claim has also been accepted to the "Duke of Norfolk's Road"—a track leading east from the Derwent reservoirs.

The question here arises. Will the landowners and others who have opposed our claims accept the Surveying Authority's decision? If not, a stiffer struggle lies ahead, for they have the power to take their case to Quarter Sessions, and by subsequent appeal, to the High Court and even to the House of Lords. The West Riding County Council would then be the champion of the public right, although they would rely upon our evidence to sustain it. We mention this to show that pleased as we are to have passed the first hurdle, there may be others on the horizon.

In Derbyshire the year has been one of sifting claims and owners' objections by the Surveying Authority. The result of this process is not yet known, but we are informed that hearings are shortly to begin in which the strength of our evidence will be fully tested.

In Cheshire, all we know is that our claims and the owners' objections are fermenting. Much of what lies ahead is unknown to us — the Surveying Authority being unwilling to divulge any information. As we have claimed 363 omitted paths, and there are a great number of objections to included paths—how many and where we cannot even guess—and seeing that we are only entitled to a month's notice to prepare evidence to combat objections, our difficulties can be imagined.

In Staffordshire our General Secretary attended five preliminary hearings into our claims to 159 omitted paths and owners' objections to 27 paths. In addition, certain individuals claimed 21 other paths. Of the 27 challenged paths only 5 were retained as public, but 14 others challenged by the British Transport Commission are deferred until two cases before the House of Lords have been decided. As to our claims, 103 out of 159 were accepted. In these hearings there was little real opposition, but evidence had to be given for every path claimed that it had been used as a right of way for 20 years, and much weight was given to local opinion. Written statements were accepted, but without the backing of our representative to fill in the details and to argue the case, they would probably have been ineffective. At the next stage the opposition of the owners and their lawyers will have to be overcome.

Many of these paths are in the Peak National Park area, but although appeals were made to walkers to give and gather statements about them, they fell largely upon deaf ears, consequently our Secretary had to devote a great deal of time to obtaining evidence for each hearing.

Generally speaking, in Derbyshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire, what has happened until now has been in the preliminary stage. The main test as far as we are concerned will be the intermediate stage, when the Society has to justify or lose its claims to 363 Cheshire paths, 320 Derbyshire paths, and 122 Staffordshire paths and to rebut the unknown Cheshire objections, about a thousand footpaths in all !

FOOTPATH INSPECTORS

During the year we lost the services of our Chief Inspector, Mr. R. T. Watson, who resigned in June, and we heartily thank him for all the work he has done during his tenure of office. Mr. N. Redford kindly took over this post as an addition to his existing office of Survey Secretary.

Additional Inspectors were appointed and the Society's area reapportioned as shown below.

Dr. A. J. Bateman, 9 East Meade, Manchester 21, has charge of the area lying west of the Macclesfield Canal to a line from Lymm to Sandbach (the east boundary of the Runcorn and Northwich R.D.C.s) and from Mr. Esthill's area in the north running south to the end of the Society's area.

Mr. G. R. Estill, 23 Ambleside Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester, a new sub-inspector, has charge of Lymm, Sale, Altringham, Bowdon, Partington, Carrington, Warburton and Dunham Massey parishes.

Mr. T. Ewart, 148 Beresford Road, Manchester 13, has charge of Derbyshire and Cheshire south of the Romiley—Hathersage railway line and east of the Macclesfield Canal.

Mr. J. H. Holness, 6, Dale View, Haughton Green, Denton, Manchester, has charge of Lancashire north and west of the River Tame to Mr. Jone's area at present undefined, commencing south of Bolton.

Mr. H. Jones, 9, Nixon Road, Daubhill, Bolton, has charge of an undefined area commencing south of Bolton and going northwards.

Mr. H. King, 7, Midgeley Crescent, off Hurst Bank Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, has charge of North Derbyshire (Chapel R.D.C.), Tintwistle, Longdendale, Saddleworth and adjoining urban areas north of the Romiley—Hathersage railway line.

Mr. A. E. Nash, 130, Northwich Road, Weaverham, Nr. Northwich, has charge of our area from a line from Lymm to Sandbach (the east boundary of the Runcorn and Northwich R.D.C.s) running westwards to the end of our area, and going southwards from Warrington.

Everybody encountering obstruction or interference with a footpath is invited to send particulars to the inspector concerned.

OBITUARY

Mr. H. Robinson, of Whitefield, passed away during the year and in addition to leaving to us one-eighth of his eventual estate, bequeathed to our library the largest single addition which it has yet received—77 books and 42 maps.

SIGNPOSTS

The Signpost Supervisor, Mr. Frank Higgins, has carried out the following work during the year:

Posts and Plates repainted and/or refixed:

- No. 95: Near Whitehall—Whaley Bridge—Buxton old road.
- 102: At Higher Disley.
- 104: Clough House, Wildboar Clough.
- 109: At Dissop Head, Higher Disley.
- 71: Near Hayridge Farm, Alport Bridge.
- 61: Roman Road, Goyt Bridge, near Buxton.
- 24: At Castle Hill Farm, Bollin Valley.
- 106: West of Alport Bridge.
- 80: Near Longside Plantation.
- 82: Near Stake Farm, Cat and Fiddle.
- 83: Near Shutlingsloe Farm.
- 65: At Goyt Bridge.
- 94: At Thornhill, Hope.
- 97: Below Jacob's Ladder.
- 12: At Alport Bridge.
- 108: At Alport Castles Farm.
- 31: At Hartington.
- 67: At Alport Bridge.
- 85: Above Jacob's Ladder.

New Post and Two Plates erected at Gun Farm, Back Rowarth, provided by Manchester and District Rambling Club for the Blind, one of the plates in Braille.

New Post and Two Narrow Plates re-erected: Castle Hill Farm, Bollin Valley.

Footbridge Repainted: Alport Bridge.

The following list indicates the signposts which the Society has erected and which are still functioning in our area:

SIGNPOSTS

1. At Carr Meadow, Hayfield—Glossop Road.
2. Middle Moor, Hayfield.
3. At Stonyfold, Kinder Scout.
4. Tunstead Lane, near Hayfield.
5. Near Peep o' Day Farm, Chinley (and 23)
7. At Tunstead Milton (also 8, 9 and 28).
10. Near Snake Inn, Glossop Road.
12. At Alport Bridge, Glossop road.
- 13 & 20. At Hope Cross Roman Road.
14. Near Nether Booth, Edale.
15. Near Snake Inn, Glossop Road.
16. Ashop Clough (also 17).
19. West of Kinder Reservoir.
22. At Barber Booth, Edale.
- 24 & 39. Near Lidgate Farm, Eccles Pike.
25. Near Win Hill, Ashopton.
26. On Hathersage — Bamford main road.
27. On Eccles Pike road.
30. On Kinder Road, Hayfield.
31. In Hartington village.
33. Near Mount Famine, Hayfield.
34. Near Grindleford Bridge.
35. On Hope Road, Castleton.
36. On Castleton Road, Hope.
37. S.W. of Watergates Bridge, Hope.
38. At Brough.
43. At Grindleford.
46. At Yew Tree House, Tabley, Knutsford.
50. On Slippery Stones path (also 51 and 52).
53. On Hayfield—Snake Inn path.
54. Near Long Lee Farm, Rowarth.
56. On Snake Inn road, near Birch Clough.
57. On Ashopton — Fairholmes road.
58. On Glossop road, at Doctor's Gate.
59. Near Mossylea Bridge, Glossop.
60. Near Snake Inn (Oyster Clough path).
61. On "The Street," Goytsbridge.
64. Near Kinder Reservoir.
65. Stake Side path, Goytsbridge.
67. Alport Bridge, on Glossop road.

68. Near Woodruffe Arms, Hope.
- 69 & 70. Near Bill o' Jacks, Greenfield.
71. Near Alport Bridge, Glossop road.
72. Near Abbey Grange Farm, Derwent.
74. At Grindle Clough, Derwent.
75. Near Moscar House Farm, Ashopton.
76. At Foulstone Delf, Strines.
77. Near Lose Hill Farm, Hope.
78. Sir William Road, Eyam Moor.
79. Grains Bar, near Oldham.
80. Disley — Whaley old road.
81. Near Flittogate Farm, near Knutsford.
82. Stake Farm, near Cat and Fiddle Inn.
83. near Shutlingsloe.
84. At Thornhill, near Hope.
85. Above Jacob's Ladder, Kinder.
86. On Strines Road, Moscar.
87. Great Rocks, near Buxton.
88. East of Hope Mill.
89. Above Little Hayfield.
90. Near Hollowood Farm, Tabley.
91. Near Littleley Farm, Arley.
92. Near Marsh Farm, Castleton.
93. Near Hope, Lose Hill.
94. At Thornhill, near Hope.
95. Near Whitehall, Buxton.
96. Sheldon Road to Bakewell.
97. Below Jacob's Ladder, Edale.
98. On Chapel Gate, Edale.
99. At Stoke Ford, Abney.
100. Near Abney Grange.
102. On old road Higher Disley.
104. Near Clough House, Wildboarclough.
- 106 & 107. Near Alport, Ford.
108. At Alport Castles Farm.
109. At Dissop Head, Bowstonegate.
110. At Blackshaw Farm, Hayfield.
111. Small Plate at Alport Ford.
- 112 & 113. At Grindslow, Edale.
114. At Doctor's Gate, Glossop.
115. Lyme Handley, Lower Cliff.
116. South of Bowstonegate Farm.
117. Near Lillies Inn, Via Gellia.
118. Near Westend Farm, Derwent.
119. Near Elmerhurst Cottage, Disley.
120. Gun Farm, Back Rowarth.

FINGER-POSTS

1. Near Cockyard, Combs, Chapel-en-le-Frith.
2. Above Tunstead Farm, Hayfield.
4. At Birch Quarry, Hayfield.
5. Near Ridge Top Farm, Hayfield.
6. Near Phoside Farm, via Hayfield.
7. Near Stonyford, Kinder.
8. Near Blackshaw Farm, Lantern Pike.
9. Near Grindle Barn, Derwent (also 10 and 11).
12. S.W. of Wheelstones, Derwent Edge.
13. On Moscar — Derwent path.
14. S.E. of Bamford House, Derwent.
15. Near Slippery Stones, Derwent.
16. Near Cranberry Clough, Derwent.
17. On Cut Gate path, near Langsett.
18. Near Bamford.
19. At Green Sitches, near Lost Lad.
20. S.W. of Bradfield Gate Head.
21. At Bradfield Gate Head.
22. At Arley, near Mere.
- 23 & 24. Near Castle Mill, Bollin Valley.
- 27 & 28. At Alport.
29. Near Summer Close Farm, Todd Vale.

Five mile posts on Hayfield — Snake path.

Inch Fund.—At the last Annual Meeting it was decided to establish an Inch Fund whereby contributions could be made of 2/- per inch of post, to help to build up the Signpost Account, and the gift of signposts by clubs and individuals was suggested at the same time, with a yearly target of five posts, the cost of a signpost to-day varying between £10 and £15. Donations are now invited for both these purposes.

During the year, as shown above, the Manchester Rambling Club for the Blind supplied a unique post with one plate in Braille and another for sighted people, as a memorial to their late chairman, Mr. Reg. Watson. For this the Society is especially grateful.

Derbyshire County Council's Scheme: During the year the welcome news has been received from this authority that they have decided to signpost all the footpaths in the County, a programme that will take about 30 years to complete. The average annual number of paths to be covered

in the Peak District will be about 75. In July we convened a meeting of kindred bodies at Chinley and subsequently submitted a list of about 100 paths as a suggested priority. This activity on the part of Derbyshire County Council should give us an opportunity to attend to some other parts of our area that urgently need consideration. And meanwhile we hope that this example will be imitated by other county councils in our area.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Since issuing our last Annual Report, we have regretfully received the resignation of Mrs. P. Bramwell for private reasons, and we require a successor urgently.

LIBRARIAN

We are happy to report that since our last issue we have had a volunteer for this post. Mr. L. L. Ardern, a librarian, of 7, Birchvale Drive, Romiley, via Stockport, has very kindly undertaken to take charge of our library. We have this year received a notable addition to it as previously mentioned. Incidentally the maps are mainly 1 inch to a mile O.S. Popular Edition, and the books are interesting to walkers wishing to know more than the mere topography of the countryside. Mr. Ardern will welcome further additions to the collection, and hopes to issue a catalogue or list of the books available as soon as convenient.

MOTOR-CYCLES AND CARS ON FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Following a large-scale abuse of footpaths and bridleways by motor-cycle trials in October, 1955, we, along with other amenity bodies, actively urged on to the Government that the law should be strengthened. After a voluminous correspondence our combined efforts were successful, and a clause was added to the Road Traffic Act making such trials illegal unless authorised by the landowner, the occupier and the County Council, and giving power to the County Council to formulate regulations which must be observed. It is hoped that either the County Councils' Association or one of them will draw up a schedule of regulations that will become the standard for the whole country.

During the year we instigated the successful prosecution of two persons, one a motorist, the other a motor-cyclist, for driving along the Sponds Hill bridleway, near Whaley Bridge. Vigilance, however, is still needed here, as reports

reach us of similar occurrences, but unfortunately those who have reported have omitted to give registration numbers, place, time and date—all of them necessary details.

In Reddish Vale our new inspector, Mr. Holness, saw two motor-cyclists riding on a footpath and in the subsequent prosecution they were fined £1 each.

BAKEWELL BY-PASS SCHEME

This scheme, which was put forward by the Derbyshire County Council and the Peak Park Board and would destroy the amenities of the Wye riverside in the interests of relieving traffic congestion in the town, was debated for three days at a public inquiry in Bakewell. Mr. P. Daley represented us along with the Ramblers' Association in opposition to it. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has yet to give his decision.

FOOTBRIDGES

No. 1: Footbridge in Deepclough, Goyt Valley: The Derbyshire County Council have erected a new bridge here with handrails.

No. 2: Footbridge in Cheedale: We are proceeding with the repair of this bridge which we erected some years ago.

No. 3: On path from Fenny Bentley to Alders Farm, Dovedale: We have brought the question of the repair of this bridge to the notice of the Derbyshire County Council, and it is receiving attention.

No. 4. At Leyland House Farm, Leyland: The Leyland U.D.C. have repaired a dangerous footbridge here and made it safe.

No. 5: Near Bradley Hall, Euxton: The Lancashire County Council have completely reconstructed the footbridge here.

No. 6: Over the Irwell, north of Clifton House: Representations were made to Swinton Council for the replacement of this bridge which has been missing for some years. They omitted the path from the draft map and do not intend to replace the bridge. This is unfortunate and shortsighted as the bridge provided the only pleasant river crossing for miles and an escape from the disagreeable collection of chimneys and cooling towers at Kearsley.

No. 7: Near Guest Farm, near Chorley: Our inspector, Mr. H. Jones, persuaded the farmer here to place a wooden footbridge over a gully.

No. 8. Near Whittle Brook, Whitefield: The Whitefield U.D.C. have been asked to provide a small bridge here, the stream being too wide to cross in wet weather

No. 9: Over the Irwell at Nuthall: Mr. H. Jones has been very active in his efforts to have this footbridge repaired—by press publicity, visits to the Council offices, and in preparing a petition of over 360 users of the bridge. The Ramsbottom Council are the authority, but are unwilling to repair it.

No. 10: Foreign Hey Footbridge over River Bollin, Mottram St. Andrew: The Cheshire County Council have now repaired and re-opened this bridge.

No. 11: On path from A523 road, Prestbury to Flash Lane, Bollington: The Cheshire County Council have had a small bridge placed over the stream here.

No. 12: Two Footbridges at Outside Farm, Marton, nr. Northwich: The Cheshire County Council have handsomely replaced one of these bridges and have materials ready for the replacement of the other.

No. 13: Footbridge over Birking Brook between Rostherne and Ashley: The Cheshire County Council have been asked to replace this bridge which has been washed away.

No. 14: Footbridge at Early Bank Wood between Dukinfield and Stalybridge: A substantial wooden bridge here was destroyed by fire and its replacement would be prohibitive, but the Stalybridge Council have estimated that a culvert as a substitute would cost £250 which they feel should be shared between the Dukinfield Council and themselves.

No. 15: Footbridge over Bollinghurst Brook, near Elmerhurst Cottages, Disley: The Cheshire County Council have arranged for the repair of this bridge.

No. 16: Two footbridges in North Staffordshire: (a) at Gradbach, (b) between Ramshaw Rocks Bar and Strines Farm, Ramshaw: The repair of these two bridges having been brought to the notice of the Staffordshire County Council, they have replied deferring action until the Footpaths Survey has been completed. We consider this to be contrary to the spirit of the 1949 Act and are taking the matter further. Both of them are in a beautiful and unspoiled part of the countryside.

No. 17: Bridge at Upper Fold, Chapel-en-le-Frith: As forecast in our last report, this bridge has been repaired during the year by the Derbyshire County Council.

No. 18: Replacement of Rowarth Footbridge by Stepping Stones: Following the note in the last Annual Report, we considered the request of New Mills Council to contribute £35 to the cost, and it was decided that in present conditions we could not do so.

No. 19: Handforth, Charlotte Footbridge: The Wilmslow Council still refuse to repair this footbridge.

No. 20. Jackal Lane Footbridge: The closure of this footbridge over the railway at Ashton-under-Lyne was sanctioned by a Bill, now an Act of Parliament, promoted by the British Transport Commission. We consider that the closure ought to have been vetoed by the Ashton Corporation as the bridge is used by a warrantable number of their ratepayers. No more is required than the maintenance of the temporary bridge, which still exists.

BULLS IN FIELDS TRAVERSED BY FOOTPATHS

We have had more complaints than usual about this embarrassment, and walkers are asked to notify us of any such trouble they may encounter.

At Alsop-en-le-Dale: Mr. Ewart reported this to us and we to the police who had the bull removed to another field.

In Beresford Dale: A walker reported this to us and we to the Derbyshire County Council, since when there have been no complaints.

Near Reddish Vale: On the complaint of Mr. Holness we reported this to the Lancashire police who have obtained an undertaking to the farmer to keep his bull away from the path.

Bull alongside footpath and a dangerous dog at Lt. Harthill Farm, Rowarth: The police have this matter in hand.

SAND EXCAVATION NEAR CONGLETON

For some years extensive sand quarrying operated by three rival firms has been threatening the footpaths between Astbury and Congleton. We have spent much time exploring the situation and the Secretary represented us at a public inquiry. At the indirect instigation of the Ministry of Transport, he convened a meeting of representatives of Congleton

Council, the Cheshire County Council and the firm mainly concerned. As a result, a procedure of excavation has been evolved by which a whole hillside will be quarried away, the footpaths being moved from time to time, and finally restored to their former position.

FOOTPATH DIVERSIONS AND CLOSURES

Investigation of diversion and closure orders continues to occupy much of our time. During the year the following have been investigated:

Turton, Lancashire. Closure of path to accommodate playing fields.

Sale, Cheshire: Closure of path to accommodate housing development by private builder. With better planning this path could have been preserved. Supporting the local people we opposed the scheme, but after a public enquiry the closure was confirmed.

Didsbury: As a result of our representations the Manchester Education Committee have agreed on a satisfactory diversion of this path, necessary to accommodate a new school.

Brinksway, Stockport: Part of the Mersey riverside path having been closed for convenience of maintenance, we represented to the Corporation that the remainder of the path should be preserved. The diversion did not affect it.

Long Lane, Chapel-en-le-Frith: School playing fields would have closed a footpath here, but on our representation the County authority provided a diversion.

Near Butley Ash Inn, Prestbury: This diversion is from the main Macclesfield to Stockport Road, and has been put forward by the Prestbury Safety First Committee for the safety of school children. We have approved.

Buxton: We have approved a proposal to accommodate a Diesel engine servicing station by diverting a footpath. Unlike most diversions, this one will make the line of path more convenient for walkers.

Euxton and Ulnes Walton, near Chorley. This proposal for the closure of a path aroused some local feeling, and Mr. Jones investigated. The Secretary took charge of the opposition, but the case was lost. The alternatives are busy motor roads, and as the neighbourhood is becoming built up, the lack of the footpath may become a real loss.

Near Werneth Low: A diversion is afoot here to facilitate the change-over to T.T. milk on Needham's Farm, between Beacon Houses and Radcliffe Fold. It is a much-used path and the Land Commissioner states that the diversion would be in the interests of agriculture. As the footpath rights will be preserved we have decided not to oppose the proposal.

In a number of other cases which have been investigated our inspectors felt that no action was called for.

Members are asked to keep a good look out for notices of diversion and closure of footpaths, and also for any activity threatening any footpath.

PLoughed Up Footpaths

When you find a ploughed footpath please do three things: (a) take note of the path and the field; (b) inquire from the local people whether the path has been regularly ploughed in the past or whether this is a recent innovation, and (c) send us full particulars promptly.

This is necessary because the ploughing of paths is increasing. Where the farmer has a customary right to plough we can do nothing about it. But where he has no such right he can be prevented. The trouble is to obtain sufficient information to enable action to be taken.

Ploughed up path south of Lower Carr Green, Warburton: We have taken this up with the Cheshire County Council.

Cuddington: We have taken up with the same Council a similar case here.

Millington: We have taken similar action about two footpaths here.

Near Bakewell: We have taken similar action with the Derbyshire County Council about the path from Harthill Lodge to Bakewell.

Near Whaley: We co-operated with the Whaley Council about the ploughing of the path from Whaley-Disley road to Hockerley Farm, and do not expect that there will be trouble again.

Charlesworth: The path from Padfield to Valehouse Signal Box which was ploughed up has been reseeded and walked over. It is now in good condition.

Glossop: The same remarks apply to this path from Windy Harbour to Little Padfield.

Warburton and Dunham Massey: The County Council assert that the path from Warburton Lane to Henshall Lane is subject to a right of ploughing. We would be glad to know of any evidence to the contrary.

FOOTPATHS IN DERBYSHIRE

Mappleton to Fenny Bentley, Dovedale: obstruction removed.

Monsal Dale Station to Netherdale Farm: After three years of perseverance Mr. Ewart had this footpath cleared of obstruction. By the year end it had been obstructed again.

Townfield Lane, Shatton End, Derwent Valley: A new gate has been provided by the owner and steps by the Derbyshire County Council.

Salterford Road to Taxel: Stone steps and a ladder stile have been provided by the farmer on Mr. Ewart's representations.

Footpath at Thornhill, Hope: The owners have removed obstructions here.

Buxton: Fern Lodge to Harpur Hill: Buxton Corporation have erected signposts on this path.

Tideswell Moor: After more than a year's correspondence the barbed wire obstruction here has been removed.

Buxton: The Corporation have had a locked gate freed on Duke's Drive.

Flagg, nr. Buxton: from Town Head to Flagg: A stile obstructed for three years has now been freed.

River Derwent Path, Shatton to Leadmill Bridge: Repairs have been made to the bank and the notices "Footpath Unsafe" have been removed. It is now quite safe.

Whaley Bridge: Taxal Lodge to Macclesfield Road: Stockport Corporation have satisfactorily repaired a stile on this path.

Footpaths in Charlesworth: We are very concerned about the footpaths in this area. In 1955 the Secretary, on information supplied by Mr. King, who had spent much time in the area, went over about a dozen paths with the Assistant County Surveyor. This year, after much correspondence, he met a member of the Surveyor's staff, together with representatives of owners and of the Chapel R.D. Council, expecting a scheme for freeing the footpaths from obstruction.

Unfortunately that was by no means the case. Therefore, although none of the paths in question has been challenged at the draft map stage (they are all on the draft map) it is possible that they will be challenged at the next stage. We therefore have to prepare for this eventuality, and a map of the paths can be seen at the Annual Meeting at which members are asked to sign statements of use. Otherwise they may be lost.

Edale: Interference with footpath parallel to Peat Lane has ceased.

Rowarth Post Office to Ford: Sewage overflowing on to this path has been diverted.

Near Matlock: The path Wensley to Brightgate formerly ploughed up has been left unploughed this year, and there is now no cause for complaint. Obstructions on the paths from Wensley to Tearsall Farm have been freed and there are stiles and gates all the way. On a path at Kelstedge the Council have caused a farmer to cease stopping pedestrians.

Near Buxton: Kingsterndale to Deepdale: There are now no obstructions on this path.

Near Chesterfield: As a last resort the Coal Board at Wingerworth were willing to supply a substitute path for paths they intend closing, but the Parish Council have rejected the offer stating that new paths were not desirable, thus cutting the ground from under our feet!

FOOTPATHS IN CHESHIRE

Delamere Manor Farm: Mr. Nash obtained the removal of barbed wire.

Little Leigh and Barnton: Two footpaths here were investigated by Mr. Nash and afterwards freed from obstruction.

Greave to Gee Cross: Obstructions to this path have been removed.

Lyme Handley: Between Cornhill and Bailey's farms a stile has been repaired. At Bollinhurst Brook and also on the Dissop Head path Stockport Corporation have repaired stiles.

Kettleshulme: Stones obstructing a stile have been removed on the path from Blackhillgate Farm to Saltersford Road on representations of Mr. Ewart to the farmer.

The stiles on certain paths in the Kettleshulme area are obstructed and have been the subject of continued investigation by Mr. Ewart and of representation to the Macclesfield

R.D. Council by the Secretary. In two cases the paths were omitted from the Draft Map and this caused difficulty. On a path at Old Mat's Farm a stile has been removed, and on the footpath from Blackhillgate Farm to Saltersford Road a forbidding notice has been displayed. Both these paths are well known to ramblers and local people and are undoubtedly public rights of way. A stile on the path from Todd Brook to Priest Farm is in a bad state also.

A new councillor for Kettleshulme has been elected to the R.D.C. who is footpath minded, and we are hoping that he will be able to have some improvements made.

Peckforton Hills: We have caused a misleading "Private" notice board here to be resited.

Shaw Heath, Knutsford, to Broadoak Farm, Mobberley: A footbridge here has been freed from obstructions and two new stiles made by the Knutsford Council.

Near New Platt Farm, Allostock: A path here has been freed from barbed wire.

Disley Golf Course: The Golf Club have placed a notice in the club house asking players to avoid walkers using the public footpaths.

Lee Hall, near Prestbury: A challenge to footpaths here has been taken up successfully and an attempted restriction and diversion has been abandoned.

Mottram Bridge to Adlington Road: Barbed wire obstructions have now been removed from this path.

Brookledge Lane to Clarke Green, near Adlington: After years of haggling, this footpath is now clear of obstructions, two new stiles having been erected.

Macclesfield Corporation Reservoir: A new reservoir having been proposed at Lamaload in the Dean Valley, the Corporation have agreed with the Society to discuss any diversion of footpaths or roads.

Trouble at Lower Ballgreave Farm, near Macclesfield: Complaints of a farmer here abusing ramblers were investigated. He is very angry at people spreading out over his fields instead of keeping to the footpath. Those adhering to the line of path need have no fear.

Horse-riding on Footpaths at Ringway: We complained of this to the Clerk of the Cheshire County Council, who is attending to the matter.

FOOTPATHS IN STAFFORDSHIRE

Ilam: Where barbed wire obstructed the path from Townend Farm to Ilam Moor Lane, a stile has been provided, and where it was ploughed up the field has been grassed.

Suitable action has been taken on the following paths: from Consall Upper Farm to Greenhead; from Winkhill Bridge along Black Brook and River Hamps; three footpaths in Grindon; four footpaths in Butterton; footpath in Bradnop; path from Ipstones to Foxt; path in Leek.

FOOTPATHS IN LANCASHIRE

Footpaths at Orrell and Wigan: Representations to the local authorities and other action taken here have led to the preservation of a footpath through Ackhurst Wood, and to greater vigilance on the part of the authorities as to its amenities, very valuable in this area.

Footpath at Hall o' th' Hill, Chorley: Mr. Jones's persistence has secured the removal of an obstruction here.

Lark Hill Farm path, Euxton: Mr. Jones succeeded in having the stiles on this path freed from obstruction.

Aspull Common, near Wigan: The Secretary investigated a scheme for building a school with playing fields on the common, and developing the adjoining land for a housing estate, the latter not being common land. He has made a suitable report to the authorities.

Other paths dealt with in Lancashire are: two paths in the Crimble and Queen's Park districts of Heywood; paths near the proposed reservoir on Greenfield and Chew Brooks; path off Rochdale Road, Middleton.

THANKS

We would like to thank those local authorities which have co-operated with us and helped to make footpaths walkable by providing footbridges, stiles and signposts and have caused owners and occupiers to remove obstructions and provide stiles where it was their responsibility.

VANDALISM

We deplore all acts of violence which are destructive of the equipment of the countryside, making relations between the country dweller and the townsman harsher than they need be, and hope that our members will discourage them wherever possible. A well-marked and well-stiled path, free from obstructions, conduces both to good temper and to an absence of wanton damage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Membership

The full force of the increase in subscription rates will not be felt until 1957 when they officially come into operation, but many members have taken the initiative and renewed their membership at the increased figure which has had some effect in increasing the receipts from £197 12s. 3d. in 1955 to £219 3s. 11d. for 1956, in spite of the fact that the level of membership has remained almost constant at 511 members and 58 societies compared with 509 and 57 respectively for 1955.

Despite appeals and efforts to increase the number of members we have not succeeded in interesting more than a fraction of those who benefit from the Society's work.

The appeal for a minimum of 1,000 members made some time ago still holds good and the day when this is achieved is eagerly awaited. Offers are invited for members to assist in the collection of subscriptions and in obtaining new members. Suggestions of new fields of revenue will be welcomed. There is ample scope here for a membership secretary, for which vacant office the Council appeals for a volunteer elsewhere in this report.

Finance

Again the funds have been reduced by the continual deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account, but it is to be noted that the budgeted figure of expenditure which the Treasurer warned the members could not be exceeded without a financial crisis, has been maintained in spite of the fact that a claim for compensation for loss of earnings in respect of 1955 has been met in full. Comparatively, the deficit was reduced from £76 in 1955 to £46 this year after deducting the figure of compensation.

The coming year promises to be one of increased expenditure both in the administration of the Society and in the work of the Survey, Footpaths Inspection and Signpost Maintenance, and although the increase in membership rates will possibly add a further £20 to the income, the increase under the foregoing three heads is likely to be in the region of £25, £30 and £20 respectively, apart from the unknown burdens which the succeeding stages of the footpath survey may bring.

A brief glance at the accounts will be sufficient to show that each section of the Society's work is costing more

and this is progressive with the passing of the years. This constant increase has to be seriously considered by the Society and it is now faced with one of two alternatives—either to restrict the work undertaken or to increase the income, which is most satisfactorily accomplished by increasing the number of members.

RE-ORGANISATION OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts which follow are the first to be drawn up according to the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee and consist of an Income and Expenditure Account, Expense Account (which receives the surplus or deficit on the previous account), Defence Fund, Survey Account and Signpost Account.

The important feature to note in this arrangement is the fact that the income derived from membership fees and affiliations is applied entirely to the administration of the Society in the form of the Expense Account which means that the remaining activities covered by the Survey and Signposts Accounts have no financial support other than donations made by members and other interested persons and bodies.

Whereas last year the Special Fund was dispersed among these accounts giving them a good financial start for the present year, no such fund is now available and the only amounts carried forward to next year are those shown which are lamentably small. The building up of these accounts during the coming months, therefore, depends upon the generosity of members and the strengthening of the membership figures for which we have so often appealed.

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

The Council gives hearty appreciation of the continued generous support of members, affiliated clubs and societies, and hopes that this will be renewed, enabling the work of the Society to go forward with increased impetus.

The terms of membership are simple, involving no more than the payment of a minimum annual subscription of 5/- for individuals, 2/6 if under 18 years of age, 7/6 for man and wife, 10/6 for family membership, and 10/6 for clubs and societies.

Subscriptions which are now due, and donations may be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. G. S. Cooper, 13 Duffield Road, Salford 6, Lancashire.

AFFILIATED RAMBLING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Accrington Naturalists' and Antiquarians' Society.
Altrincham and District Natural History Society.
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.
Bowdon Warlocks.
Boy Scouts' Association, S.E. Lancs. County Scout Council.
Bramhall Ratepayers' Association.
Bury and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Camping Club of G.B. & I., North West Region.
Central Rambling Club.
C.E. Holiday Homes.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes, Manchester Section.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes, Stockport Section.
Co-operative Holidays Association.
Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Congleton District Committee.
Crescent Ramblers.
Derbyshire C.H.A. & H.F. Rambling Club.
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Eastwood Rambling Club.
Eccles C.H.A. Social and Rambling Club.
Friendship Holidays Association (Manchester) Rambling Club.
Glossop and District Rambling Club.
Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
High Lane Residents' Association.
Holiday Fellowship, Ltd.
Holiday Fellowship, Manchester Group.
Holiday Fellowship, Oldham Group.
Holiday Fellowship, Stockport Group.
Macclesfield and District Field Club.
Manchester A.E.I. Rambling Club.
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
Manchester Associates Rambling Club.
Manchester C.H.A. (Section A) Rambling Club.
Manchester C.H.A. (Section C) Rambling Club.
Manchester C.H.A. (Section D) Rambling Club.
Manchester C.H.A. Social Club.
Manchester and District Rambling Club for the Blind.
Manchester Fellowship (Ramblers' Section).
Manchester Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society.
Manchester Pedestrian Club.
Manchester Public Libraries Staff Association.
Manchester Rambling Club.
Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
Marple Residents' Association.
Moorland Ramblers' Club.
North-Western Naturalists Union.
Northwich and District Joint Anglers' Association.
Oldham and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Oldham Photographic Society.
Ramblers' Association.

Ramblers' Association, Liverpool District and North Wales Area.
Ramblers' Association, Manchester Area.
Ramblers' Association, Sheffield and District Area.
Rochdale Field Naturalists' Society.
Rucksack Club.
Sheffield Clarion Ramblers.
Sheffield C.H.A. (Section A) Rambling Club.
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.
Sheffield Rambling Club.
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.
Stockport Corporation Transport Social and Athletic Society
(Rambling Section).
Stockport Field Club.
Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.
Stockport W.E.A. Rambling Club.
Stoke-on-Trent C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Stoke-on-Trent H.F. Rambling Club.
Sutton-in-Ashfield and District Rambling Club.
207 Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists' Society.
Wayfarers' Rambling Club.
Wesley Guild Holidays.
Woodford Residents' Association.
Workers' Travel Association, Ltd.
Y.H.A., Burnage and Levenshulme Group.
Y.H.A., Manchester and Salford Sub-Regional Group.
Y.H.A. North Midlands Regional Group.
Y.H.A., Prestwich Area Group.
Y.H.A. Sheffield Sub-Regional Group.

The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1956

1955			1955		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
36	11	6	To EXPENDITURE	£	s. d.
6	0	9	Annual Report: Printing	38	10 4
			Distribution	9	19 9
				48	10 1
29	15	0	Hire of Rooms...		20 15 0
74	4	0	Printing and Stationery	48	11 5
-	-	-	Insurance Premiums	5	2 0
			Subscriptions to Commons, Open Spaces & F.P. Society	2	2 0
2	2	0	Affiliation to Four Branches of the C.P.R.E...	2	2 0
				4	4 0
-	-	-	Sundry Expenses	-	-
			Cost of 1956 Annual General Meeting	-	-
6	6	6	Honorariums: Secretary	30	0 0
30	0	0	Four Footpaths Inspectors	45	0 0
52	10	0	Signpost Inspector	12	10 0
12	10	0	Treasurer	5	5 0
				92	15 0
			Travelling Expenses:		
12	0	10	Secretary...	10	6 1
9	16	3	Four Footpaths Inspectors	24	9 3
-	-	-	Signpost Inspectors	-	-
13	0	0	Other Officers...	16	9
				35	12 1
22	10	1	Postages and Telephones	42	3 1
8	4	0	Cheque Books (2)	8	4
1	15	0	Bank Charges	2	0 6
				2	8 10
			Subscriptions Paid in Advance for 1957	-	-
1	17	6	Maps and Plans	3	10 0
4	14	0	Signposts Erected and Maintained—Accrued 1955	22	16 6
53	9	7	Compensation: 1955, £82/19/6, 1956, £12/12/0	95	11 6
				£375	0 11
				£425	19 6
				£375	0 11
				£425	19 6

January 16, 1957

Accounts adjusted in accordance with Council Resolution 24/1/57.

G. S. COOPER, Hon. Treasurer.

DEFENCE FUND AT 31st DECEMBER 1956

1955			1955					
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
587	13	7	Balance brought forward from 1955	...	1.000	0	0	
34	11	3	Add Donations received during year	...	28	11	0	
377	15	2	Add Transfer from Special Reserve Fund	...	-	-		
<hr/> £1,000 0 0			<hr/> £1,028 11 0			<hr/> £1,000 0 0		

SIGNPOST ACCOUNT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

1955			1955					
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
-	-	-	Balance brought forward from 1955	...	60	0	0	
1	6	6	Add Donations received during year	...	15	1	6	
-	-	-	Add Surplus on A.G.M. Lecture	...	19	17	1	
60	0	0	Transfer from Special Reserve Fund	...	-	-		
53	9	7	Transfer from General Fund	...	-	-		
<hr/> £114 16 1			<hr/> £94 18 7			<hr/> £114 16 1		

SURVEY ACCOUNT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

1955			1955					
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
-	-	-	Balance brought forward from 1955	...	55	0	0	
55	0	0	Transfer from Special Fund	...	-	-		
70	10	5	Transfer from General Fund	...	-	-		
4	11	6	Add Donations received during year	...	79	5	6	
<hr/> £130 1 11			<hr/> £134 5 6			<hr/> £130 1 11		

EXPENSE ACCOUNT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

1955			1955						
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
- - -			Brought forward from 1955	...	...	155	1	9
						£2155	1	9	
- - -						- - -			
							£2155	1	9

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

1955			1955						
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
5	9	9	Cash	...	...	25	7	4
-	-	-	Petty Cash	...	...	9	7	0
81	12	5	Bank	...	...	4	1	8
1,188	12	1	Deposits at Manchester & Salford Savings Bank	...	...	1,109	15	11
						1,148	11	11	
5	12	6	Less Accrued	...	...	59	6	0
						1,089	5	11	
£1,270	1	9				£1,089	5	11	
						£1,270	1	9	
							£1,089	5	11