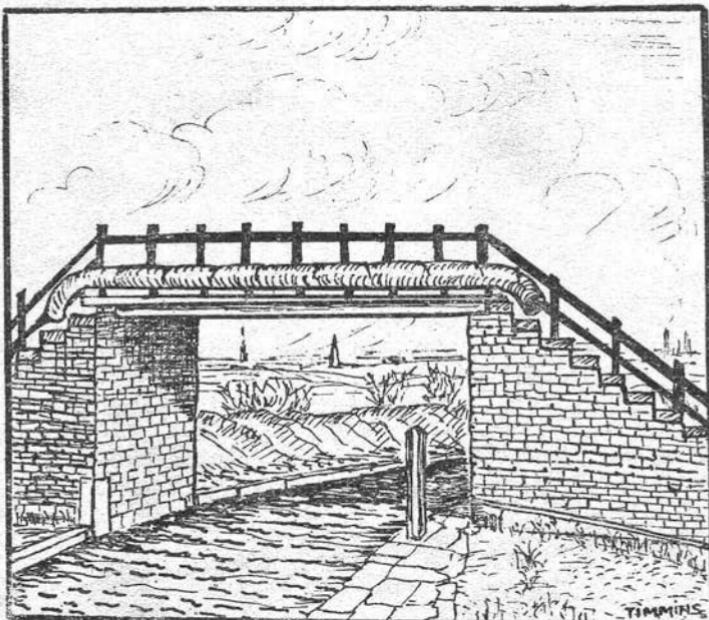


THE PEAK DISTRICT AND  
NORTHERN COUNTIES  
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION

1894-1960



BRIDGWATER CANAL

ASTLEY, LANCS

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
for 1960

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES  
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY — 1960

Founded in 1894

Secretary: H. KING

7, Midgley Crescent, Ashton-u-Lyne, Lancs. Tel. No. ASH 5126

President: F. S. H. HEAD, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Vice-Presidents:

The Rt. Hon. LORD CHORLEY, M.A., J.P.  
P. DALEY F. HOWARD A. J. MOON, B.A. (Cantab.)

COUNCIL:

Elected Members:

T. Boulger (Chairman)	E. E. Ambler (Vice-Chairman)
L. L. Ardern	A. W. Hewitt
Dr. W. F. Beech	J. H. Holness
D. T. Berwick	J. E. Massey
J. E. Broom	L. G. Meadowcroft
J. W. Butterworth	K. Mayall
Miss M. Fletcher	A. Milner

Footpaths Inspectors:

N. Redford (Chief)	G. R. Estill	C. Sanderson
D. A. J. Bateman	M. Keane	M. Travers
H. Dickinson	A. E. Nash	
T. Ewart	H. Stott	

Survey Secretary: N. Redford

Signpost Supervisor: F. Higgins

Librarian: L. L. Ardern

Hon. Treasurer: G. S. Cooper, 13 Duffield Road, Salford 6.

Membership Secretary: Miss B. Rowland  
14 Woodleigh Street, Blackley, Manchester 9

Delegates from Affiliated Clubs and Societies:

F. Arrundale	A. Fairhurst	W. Marcroft
R. Aubry	G. Fernley	Miss D. McFildes
D. P. Bailey	J. L. Fleming	Miss M. Mellor
J. G. Baker	R. S. Frew	Miss N. Mellor
F. Barlow	H. Gilliatt	S. N. Millor
A. M. Berrell	F. Goff	H. Mills
J. D. Bettencourt,	L. Griffiths	E. W. Newton
A.R.P.S.	J. Harper	J. Ogden
Miss D. Blakeman	J. F. Hibbert	J. R. Owen
R. Bridge	A. Hodkinson	J. Pye
G. A. Brittan	Miss A. Hollows	H. Sandler
P. Bramwell	W. B. Howie	J. Shevelan
Miss E. Bryan	E. Huddy	N. Smith
E. P. Campbell	R. Ingle	L. Stubbs
W. Coyne	J. B. Johnston	H. F. Taylor
F. J. Crangle	L. Jones	Mrs. W. Taylor
Miss E. Davies	Miss M. G. Jones	W. Taylor
W. Eastwood	W. R. Jones	P. B. Walker
Miss J. Ellington	G. Kevins	H. Walton
Mrs. E. A. Evison	T. H. Lancashire	Miss J. Ward-Oldham
S. Evison	A. Lapper	J. Willison
W. Eastwood	D. J. Lee	

Auditor: F. Wallwork

Registrar: Mrs. D. King

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1960.

Before the passing of the National Parks Act, 1949, many Highway Authorities refused to accept responsibility for the maintenance of footpaths, but the Act placed that responsibility fairly and squarely upon their shoulders. But there remained a loophole, and a number of authorities took advantage of it, refusing to take any action until the footpath survey had been completed and the definitive map of their area had appeared.

This final stage has now been reached in many parts of the country, and the Highway Authorities concerned are faced with the prospect of maintaining all the footpaths shown on the definitive maps. The reaction of some of them has been to ask the Minister to make Orders closing numbers of paths on the ground that they are not needed for public use. It is possible for this to be done under the Act, and awareness of the possibility is spreading among landowners as well as local authorities.

This constitutes a formidable and continuing danger to the future of footpaths, and the Society is determined to combat it. Whenever Draft Orders are submitted for the closure of paths in our district we shall oppose them and press for an inquiry, provided we can get sufficient evidence of user.

The Minister's recent refusal to confirm Draft Orders for the closure of two paths over the Peckforton Hills, should encourage us to walk as frequently as possible over the many important and pleasant footpaths that are at present too little used. We hope that clubs and members will join in the public rambles we are arranging over paths of that type in various districts, and that they will continue to use the paths regularly.

To encourage the use of such footpaths the Society is planning to erect many more signposts during 1961. It is hoped that members and clubs will assist with this work by donating generously to the Signpost Fund.

The inclusion of the above mentioned sections of the National Parks Act referring to the maintenance of footpaths, in the Highways Act, 1959, is very welcome, as is also the new Section of the Act which enables legal action to be taken against any Authority that fails in its duty. We should, however, have liked to have seen the Highway Authorities' responsibility for the repair of stiles more clearly defined, since many of them still deny their liability for this work.

## FOOTPATH SURVEY

During the year there have been many important developments concerning the Footpath Survey.

**Lancashire County Council** published the Provisional Map of the County early in the year. Many objections were lodged against it, including one by the British Transport Commission who objected to the inclusion of canal towpaths. The Society has offered to assist the County Council by providing evidence and witnesses to support their case when the objections are dealt with at the Quarter Sessions.

In **Staffordshire**, the County Council decided to delete 13 of the 200 or so footpaths that had been added to the Draft Map in North Staffordshire as a result of the Society's representations. We objected and a public inquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The deleted footpaths were in the Dane Valley and Hollinsclough area. The Minister's decision is awaited.

In **Derbyshire** the Society's representations concerning footpaths omitted from the Draft Map of Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District were considered at official "hearings," and the claims made by the former Hallamshire Society in respect of North-east Derbyshire were also dealt with by the County Council. Early in the new year the Society's claims for paths in Bakewell Rural District will be heard and the whole of the Society's area in Derbyshire will then have been dealt with.

In **Cheshire** the County Council commenced the hearing of the Society's claims, and our representations concerning omissions from the Draft Maps of the Nantwich, Northwich, Bucklow and Congleton Rural Districts were considered. Other important hearings dealt with the towpaths of the Manchester Ship Canal, the Bridgewater Canal, the River Weaver Navigation, the Trent and Mersey Canal, and the Shropshire Union Canal. Early in the new year our claims in respect of the Macclesfield Rural District including the Macclesfield Canal towpath and the Peak Forest Canal towpath, will be the subject of still more hearings.

The Society has been represented at all these Cheshire hearings by Mr. A. Smith or by Mr. A. Nash.

Our Survey Secretary, Mr. N. Redford, has collected numerous statements from local people to support the Society's claims throughout the whole of our area.

## SIGNPOSTS

The Society is very much indebted to Mr. Frank Higgins for the work he has so willingly carried out during the year as Signpost Supervisor.

Mr. Higgins has repainted and/or re-fixed the following posts and plates during the year:

No.

5. Near Peep o' Day Farm, Hayfield.
12. Near Peep o' Day Farm, Hayfield.
31. At Hartington.
33. Near Mount Famine, Hayfield.
57. Near Ladybower Reservoir.
77. Below Lose Hill, Hope.
93. Near Lose Hill Farm, Hope.
96. Near Bakewell.
98. On Chapel Gate, Edale.
104. Near Clough House, Wildboarclough.
115. Near Lower Cliff Farm, Lyme Handley.
116. South of Bowstonegate.
117. Near the former Lilies Inn, Via Gellia.
123. At Ilam.
124. On Rushup Edge.

The fingerpost near Phoside Farm (No. 6) was re-erected and re-painted.

**New Signposts.**—During the year the following new signposts were erected:—

At Bowstones, as a memorial to the late Mr. William Taylor.

At Old Lyons, Belmont, as a memorial to the late Miss Mildred Barker.

At the stepping stones in Dovedale as a memorial to the late Mr. Frank Sale.

We are indebted to Mr. J. Bantoft for his assistance in the making of the plates for the last two signposts.

**Future Signposts.**—The post to be donated by Mr. G. F. Staniforth is to be erected at Saltersbrook, and the two posts given by Mr. C. B. Harley, of Sheffield, are to be in the Dovedale area of Staffordshire.

Mrs. A. Watson has asked us to erect two posts in the Wildboarclough area to the memory of the late Mr. Joseph Macauley, her first husband.

A bequest of £100 was received from the late Mr. F. M. Duncalf for the erection of signposts within a 20-mile radius of Macclesfield.

The Oldham C.H.A. have offered to pay for the erection of a signpost in the Greenfield area.

In addition it is planned to erect 12 signposts during 1961 from the money at present held in the Signpost Account.. These are to be in the following areas :—

Cheshire—at Brereton, Tabley, Lymm and Macclesfield Forest.

Staffordshire—in the Dovedale and Dane Valley areas.

Lancashire—Near Cheeseden Brook and on Belmont Moors.

West Riding—At Bradfield and Saddleworth.

So that the Society may continue to signpost desirable foot-paths that are at present little used in order that they may be saved, we earnestly appeal to members and affiliated clubs to donate generously to the Signpost Account. We hope that it will be possible to plan a larger programme for 1962.

## FOOTBRIDGES

The Society welcomed the erection of a footbridge over the Upper Goyt by the Manchester Area of the Ramblers' Association in memory of the late Mr. Bob Howarth and the late Mr. Joseph Macauley. It has made the footpath on to Burbage Moor accessible in all weathers.

**H. Jones Memorial Fund.**—Arrangements have been made for two signposts to be erected as memorials to the late Mr. Harold Jones on the following sites:

On the track from Barrow Bridge to Winter Hill, at the road junction.

On the track from Belmont Road over to Winter Hill, 100 yards past Green Arms.

Details of the dedication ceremony are included with this report.

**Edwin Royce Memorial.**—A contractor has been asked to re-construct the pillar of the view finder on Lantern Pike and to re-fix the plate.

## CANAL TOWPATHS

During the year the Society's claims for rights of way along towpaths in Cheshire were considered at a number of official hearings. A hearing at Knutsford dealt with the towpaths of the Bridgewater and Manchester Ship Canals, and hearings at Middlewich with the River Weaver Navigation, the Trent and the Mersey Canal, and the Cheshire section of the Shropshire Union Canal. With two exceptions the local authorities through whose areas the canals pass, supported the Society's case, which was prepared by Mr. Arthur Smith, who also represented us at the inquiries. Mr. Arthur Nash, the Society's inspector for the area, collected over 1,250 signatures to support the case for the River Weaver Navigation and the Trent and Mersey Canal. The outcome of the hearings is still awaited.

During 1961, hearings will be held in connection with the other canals in our part of Cheshire, including the Macclesfield Canal and the Peak Forest Canal.

The Lancashire County Council included all towpaths that had been claimed at the Draft Map stage on their Provisional Map, but the British Transport Commission has challenged the right to include any towpaths at all. The cases will be dealt with at the various Quarter Sessions. During 1960, one case was heard in respect of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal in the area of Scarisbrick, near Southport. Through lack of witnesses, Lancashire C. C. lost its case. Already notices have appeared on this section of the canal stating that members of the public will be fined £5 if they do not leave the canal towpath when requested to do so.

To avoid a recurrence of this, the Society is co-operating with the Lancashire County Council to collect evidence and obtain witnesses in support of all future cases taken to Quarter Sessions.

Accordingly, the Society is anxious to collect evidence from persons who used the towpaths, particularly on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, without interruption, before the appearance of any notices or closures for one day in the year, etc. In the case of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal it may be necessary to produce evidence of uninterrupted user before 1911. The other canals affected in our part of Lancashire include the Rochdale Canal and the Ashton Canal. Outside our area but used by many of our members, is the Lancaster Canal in the Garstang and Bay Horse area.

Whatever success we have with the present hearings in Cheshire, it seems certain that at the Provisional Map stage we shall have the same fight that is now to take place in Lancashire.

We appeal to all people who can assist in giving or collecting evidence for any canal towpaths in our area, including the West Riding, to write to us without delay. We should be grateful if members would visit reference libraries and let us have details of references in books to the public use of towpaths in the 19th and late 18th centuries.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Arthur Smith for his work in connection with the towpaths.

---

### LIBRARY

The Society's collection in the Manchester Central Library, is available to all members free of charge, but the number of books and maps borrowed during 1960 was again very low. The collection contains many guide books, maps and books of interest to people who enjoy the "out of doors." A list of maps available can be obtained from the Secretary. It includes not only maps covering the Society's area, but many of districts visited by members when on holiday.

During the year many of the books and maps were rebound and repaired by the Central Library staff. A donation was made by the Society towards the cost of the work undertaken.

It is still not possible to give any definite information about the extension of the opening hours of the Special Collections. The present hours are:—

Mondays to Fridays — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturdays — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

---

### APPRECIATION

We wish to thank those local authorities which have helped us to make footpaths more walkable by providing footbridges and signposts and have caused farmers and landowners to repair stiles and remove obstructions. We would like also to thank the local authorities, particularly Parish Councils, who have supported us at hearings into our claims for footpaths omitted from the Draft Map.

We are especially grateful to those Local Authorities that have donated so generously to our funds.

### ADVERTISEMENTS

We would ask our members to support the advertisers who take space on the cover of the Annual Report. This source of revenue goes toward the cost of printing the Annual Report.

## FRONTISPICE

This year's frontispiece illustrates the Bridgewater Canal at Astley, Lancashire. Once more our thanks are due to Miss M H. Timmins for her fine drawing.

## A TRIBUTE TO OUR CHAIRMAN

In June, our Chairman, Mr. Boulger, completed 40 years' service as an officer of the Society. For a year he was an Inspector of Footpaths and then for 25 years, until 1946, was Secretary of the Society. Since then he has been Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Society's Council.

As Secretary of the Society, he dealt with many noteworthy cases including the freeing of the Doctors Gate Bridleway, the Cut Gate — Ladybower to Hazlehead footpath, the Benfield case concerning a footpath on Werneth Low, and also the footpaths in the Goyt Valley, Manifold Valley and Cheedale.

For many years he was a member of the Council of the Commons Society. He was chairman of the Pennine Way Association and is still a member of the Voluntary Joint Committee for the Peak National Park.

During his forty years with the Society he has never missed an Annual General Meeting and until his recent visit to America had only missed four Council meetings.

Recently, Mr. Boulger retired from business. We hope he and Mrs. Boulger enjoy many happy years of retirement together and that we will continue to have the pleasure of his company and the benefit of his wide knowledge and experiences.

## OBITUARIES

**Mr. H. Meadowcroft.** The death of Mr. Herbert Meadowcroft was a great loss to the Society. For over 40 years he had been a delegate to the Council, representing the Stockport Field Club, and seldom did he miss a meeting. He often contributed much to the discussion as he took a keen interest in the preservation of footpaths, particularly in East Cheshire. Each year he obtained many members of the Society.

It has been decided that one of the signposts to be erected in the Macclesfield Rural District shall be dedicated to his memory.

**Mr. W. Howarth.** During September, Mr. W. Howarth, who represented the United Field Naturalists on the Council, died suddenly. He regularly attended Council meetings and was able on many occasions, to give valuable assistance.

## MOTOR VEHICLES ON FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAYS

Section 18 of the Road Traffic Act, 1960, which came into force on the 1st of September last year, states that it is an offence to drive a motor vehicle on to a footpath or bridleway, or on to any common land, moorlands or any land that is not part of a road. Scooters, as far as this Act is concerned, are motor vehicles. Section 17 of the Act states that no motor cycle trials can take place over footpaths or bridleways without the consent of the Highway Authority. Before giving their permission the authority should be satisfied that written consent has been obtained from all the owners and occupiers of all the land over which any footpath or bridleway to be used, runs. The Highway Authority when giving permission may lay down any conditions they consider desirable.

Reports were received that during motor cycle trials held last October, the surface of the Hollins Cross track from Edale down into Castleton was churned up. The Society deplores the fact that trials should be permitted over footpaths within the Peak District National Park area. We therefore welcome the decision of the Chesterfield Rural District Council to oppose future applications for trials within their area, and we have suggested to the other rural districts within the Park area that they should do likewise. The Society considers that if trials are held, one of the conditions laid down should be that the promoters should after the trials restore the surfaces of any footpaths or bridleways used to their former condition. We are endeavouring to obtain an agreement on this subject with the Derbyshire County Council.

The Society complained to the Lancashire County Council that motor cyclists were using footpaths in the Rivington Pike area. Mr. Dickinson pointed out the footpaths in question to a police officer..

The Society objects to the use of footpaths and bridleways by motor vehicles mainly because of the damage caused to the surfaces of the tracks. Vehicles also constitute a danger to the users of the paths and destroy the quiet of the countryside.

If members see a motor vehicle on any footpath or bridleway they are asked to make a note of the exact time and place and (most important) the registration number and report the matter to us.

## OVERHEAD SUPER GRID LINES

During the year the Minister of Power made known his decision concerning the objections of the Society, and certain other amenity bodies and local authorities, to the erection of

Super-grid power lines from

Littleborough to Stalybridge;

Stuart Street, Manchester, to Stalybridge;

Stalybridge to Stockport.

The Minister decided that the Littleborough-Stalybridge line should be constructed along the proposed route except near Bishop's Park, where it is to be placed further to the west, so as to preserve the view looking east.

The line from Stalybridge to Stuart Street is to be constructed along an alternative route put forward by the Local Planning Authorities. This should have a less damaging effect on the Medlock Valley, particularly in the Daisy Nook area, than the original route proposed by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The Minister decided that the Stalybridge-Stockport line should follow the route proposed.

---

## FOOTPATHS INSPECTORS

The areas now covered by the Society's inspectors are 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. Estill's area in the north running south to the end of the Society's area.

**Mr. H. Dickinson, Lhotse, Burgh Lane, Chorley**, has charge of an area in Lancashire including Chorley R.D.C. and the area eastward (including Bolton).

**Mr. G. R. Estill, 23 Ambleside Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester**, covers the Lymm, Sale, Altrincham, Bowdon, Partington, Carrington, Warburton and Dunham Massey districts.

**Mr. T. Ewart, 129 Old Hall Lane, Fallowfield, Manchester 14**, has charge of Derbyshire and Cheshire south of the Romiley-Hathersage railway line and east of the Macclesfield Canal.

**Mr. M. Keane**, 12 Beckett Street, Manchester 18, covers North Derbyshire (Chapel R.D.C.), Tintwistle, Longendale, Saddleworth, and the adjoining areas north of Romiley—Hathersage railway line.

**Mr. A. E. Nash**, 130 Northwich Road, Weaverham, near 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 westward to the end of our area, and going southwards from Warrington.

**Mr. H. Stott**, 2 Dunsters Avenue, Brandlesholme Road, Bury; has charge of Lancashire north and west of the River Tame to Mr. Dickinson's area, commencing south of Bolton.

**Mr. C. Sanderson**, 59 Long Henry Row, Sheffield 2, covers the southern part of the following area—the River Derwent to the Woodhead Road—Flouch Inn, Pennistone—Barnsley—Doncaster—Bawtry—Worksop and, within Derbyshire, the Rural Districts of Clown and Chesterfield.

**Mr. F. Travers**, 12 Fairfax Road, Sheffield 2, is responsible for the northern portion of the above area.

#### FOOTPATHS IN DERBYSHIRE

##### FOOTPATHS AT ABNEY

The Society noted with satisfaction that several disputed footpaths had been included on the Draft Map of Abney, and we were not surprised when some of them were challenged by the landowner. A sketch map in this report shows the footpaths in question.

To support the retention of these footpaths on the Draft Map the Society sent the following evidence to the County Council.

##### Abney 8 — From Stoke Ford to Abney Village.

Many old maps, including Greenwood's map of Derbyshire (dated 1825) and Glover's map of 1833, show Abney to be on a cross roads, one of the tracks leading from the Sir William Road to Stoke Ford and then along the line of Abney 8 to the village. This track is shown on the first Ordnance Survey Map dated 1840. On the Tithe Award Plan, dated 1848, the track is shown, and is indicated as leading to "Highlow Mill," which was situated a few yards downstream from Stoke Ford. In the Fairbanks papers in the Sheffield City Reference Library there is an Estate Plan of

Highlow—known as the Archer Plan—dated 1799. On this plan the track is shown at Stoke Ford crossing the two streams and marked with the words “from Abney.”

Many years ago the Society obtained statements from old people to prove that the way had been continuously used, despite the “No Road” notices, from about 1919. Prior to this, the route was free from notices and obstructions.

**Abney 9** — The Society does not consider this a public right of way. The road from which it leads was constructed after 1849.

**Abney 10** — The late G. H. B. Ward always maintained that this was a section of the Hathersage-Bradwell bridleway. The “Archer Plan,” referred to previously, shows a bridleway from Highlow Hall passing north of the Oaks and marked “Bridleway from Abney.” The Ordnance Survey Map of 1840 shows this way dividing—one section going to Abney and the other going across the moor to Burton Bole.

**Abney 11** — All the maps previously referred to show the road from Abney along the line of Abney 11. The present road was constructed after 1849. An extensive search has failed to reveal evidence that the original route was closed or diverted.

**Abney 12** — The line of this path in Offerton parish is visible on the ground for part of the way, and there is a stone stile with three steps at the boundary of the parish.

**Abney 14** — This is the section of the right of way described in the Eyam Enclosure Award, 1803, as “Edge Road” in the parish of Abney.

In view of the evidence put forward, it is hoped that the objections to some of the other paths will be withdrawn, in addition to Abney 8 and 14.

On the 25th August, 1961, one of the Footpaths Inspectors will lead a public ramble including some of these paths.

#### PROPOSED ERRWOOD RESERVOIR, GOYT VALLEY

The Society has met representatives of the Stockport Corporation about the proposed Errwood Reservoir, to be constructed in the Goft Valley. The footpaths to be closed and the alternative rights of way follow closely the plan agreed prior to the construction of the Fernilee Reservoir. We are pressing the Corporation to create a right of way along the east side of the present and the proposed reservoirs.

The Stockport Corporation are willing to dismantle the Goyt Bridge, number the stones, and have them transported to another site provided money can be found for its reconstruction.

#### **FOOTPATH CLOSURES, R.A.F. STATION, HARPUR HILL, Nr. BUXTON.**

With the lapsing of the Defence Regulations, the Air Ministry applied for an order to close all footpaths on the R.A.F. Station at Harpur Hill. At the suggestion of the Derbyshire County Council the order was restricted to five years.

The Society opposed the order on the grounds that there should be satisfactory alternative routes around the camp to give the public better access to the Dowel Dale area from Buxton Road.

The County Council considered that the public were already using routes around the perimeter of the camp. After discussions with the Council, the Society withdrew its objections in view of the fact that the order is only temporary.

The order came into force in January, 1961, and lapses in December, 1965, when all the footpaths within the camp will again be open to the public.

---

**Footpath in Millers Dale.**—We are in correspondence with the Derbyshire County Council about flooding of the waterside footpath at Water-cum-Jolly in Millers Dale as a result of the raising of a mill dam. The millowners claim that the right of way is only permissive.

**Footbridge at Rowarth.**—The Society has requested the New Mills Urban District Council to replace the footbridge over the stream near the Post Office at Rowarth.

Obstructions have been removed from footpaths at Turncliff Farm, **Buxton** and in **Taxal**. In the latter case a misleading notice still remains.

A "Beware of the Bull" sign has been removed from a footpath near **Owler Bar**.

## FOOTPATHS IN CHESHIRE

### Proposed Closure of Footpaths on Peckforton Hills, near Nantwich

The Society, along with the Commons Society and the Ramblers' Association, objected to draft orders made, at the request of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board, by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and the Nantwich Rural District Council, to close two footpaths in the Peckforton Hills area. A public enquiry was held at Bulkeley.

The inspector presiding at the inquiry refused to hear evidence from the Water Board as to the possibility of water pollution, and ruled that as the orders were made under the National Parks Act, 1949, he could only accept evidence as to whether the footpaths were needed for public use.

The Water Board quoted statistics to prove that only 3.26 persons used the footpaths per day and argued that there was an alternative route only 10% longer. They stated that the footpaths were not required, as they were only used for pleasure.

The case of the Society and the Ramblers' Association was that the footpaths were an important means of access to a local beauty spot. To support this the Society had drawn up a petition signed by over 400 people which stated that they had used the footpaths regularly. The footpaths were part of a pleasant round that took the walker along the top of the Peckforton Hills, and the alternative route quoted by the Water Board was longer and less pleasant, as sections of it were over motor roads.

The Minister decided not to confirm the orders.

This decision is very important. It would appear to imply that under Section 43 of the National Parks Act, it cannot be established that a path is "not needed for public use" on the grounds that it is only used for pleasure or by a few people daily, and that an alternative route along a road is available.

**Plattwood Farm.**—The owner is still unwilling to admit that the track from Middlecale Farm to Plattwood Farm is a right of way. The Macclesfield Rural District Council contemplated taking legal action to free the track from obstruction and the Society collected evidence to support such action, but the Rural District Council considered that the County Council's determination not to take any action over disputed footpaths until after the publication of the Definitive Map, would prejudice this case.

The Society complained that a fence had been erected obstructing the footpath near Elmerhurst Cottage.

**Footbridges.**—The Society is pleased that the County Council have replaced a bridge which was destroyed by youths at The Pool, **Cuddington**, by a substantial concrete structure.

A bridge over the Bollin near **Hale** has been repaired by the Urban District Council.

The County Council has agreed to repair a bridge over Birkin Brook, **Mobberley**.

**Cheadle.**—At a meeting between the Society and the Clerk of Cheadle and Gatley Urban District Council, concern was expressed at the number of footpaths that are being closed illegally by the building of houses before Closure or Diversion Orders have been obtained from the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The Clerk promised to take steps that would prevent this happening in the future.

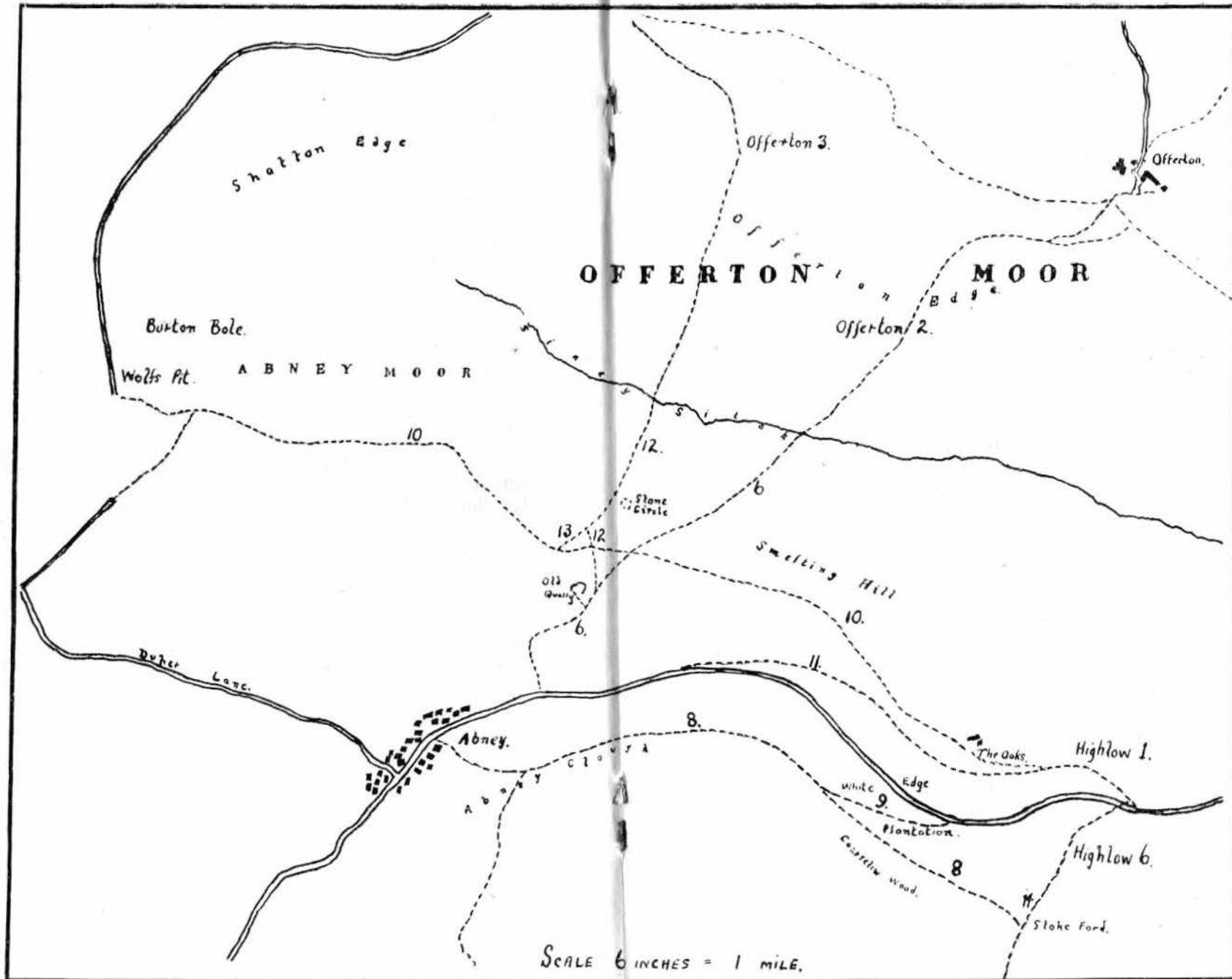
He stated that his Council were anxious to preserve some of the amenities of the area. They intended to increase the Green Belt and the Open Spaces planned for the district, and they proposed that there should be a right of way through them across the Urban District. This right of way was to be from Gatley Hill in the north-west to Bruntwood and Bradshaw Hall and then through the Green Belt in the Stanley Road area to Handforth. New footpaths would be created where necessary. It was also the intention of the Council to preserve rights of way along the Ladybrook and Mickerbrook.

From the plans for house building and a clay pit that the Society knows have already been approved, it would appear that the open space by Mickerbrook will be almost confined to the banks of the brook. Nevertheless, in an area where house development seems to be inevitable, the Society welcomes the Council's plan.

#### DEVELOPMENT AT HATTERSLEY, HYDE.

The Society approached the Manchester Corporation in connection with an order that was to be made to close footpaths in Hattersley as a result of a housing estate to be built by the Corporation. The Corporation assured the Society that the nature of the development was such that access through the area by estate roads would be adequate, and from the amenity point of view Pudding Lane would be preserved as a footpath.

The Society then withdrew its objection to the Order.



## GREEN BELT DEVELOPMENT, MARPLE.

The Society supported the Cheshire County Council at an inquiry at Marple in connection with proposed development in the Green Belt. Mr. A. Smith appeared as a witness for us.

A developer had applied for permission to build houses on a 10-acre site near Windlehurst Road, Marple, inside the Green Belt, and Cheshire County Council had refused to give planning permission. The developer, who had the support of Marple Urban District Council, had appealed to the Minister of Housing against the decision.

The Minister refused to alter the decision.

## GREEN BELT DEVELOPMENT — DISLEY

The Society offered to support the Cheshire County Council and Disley Rural District Council at an inquiry that was to be held to hear an appeal by a developer who had been refused permission to build houses in the Green Belt at Disley.

The inquiry has been postponed.

**Ploughed Footpaths.**—As a result of a complaint from the Society about the increased number of ploughed footpaths, the Clerk to the County Council approached the County Branch of the National Farmers' Union. A note appeared in the N.F.U.'s "News Service" explaining the farmer's legal obligation to restore footpaths after ploughing.

We are considering making a similar approach to other counties.

**Whitegate Common.**—The Forestry Commission threatened to prosecute a member of the public for cutting wire on a footpath in this area, but after the intervention of the Society the charge was not proceeded with.

A meeting was held between the Winsford Rural District Council, the Forestry Commission and the Society about this right of way and others in the Petty Pool area. As a result of the evidence supplied by the Society, Winsford Rural District Council decided to take legal action against the Forestry Commission for obstructing the footpath.

Mr. Nash obtained evidence and several witnesses who were prepared to appear in court to support the Council, but so far, due to pressure of other work, the Council has not proceeded with the case.

**Delamere Forest.**—Mr. Nash secured over 400 signatures to a petition to protest against an application for planning permission to open up a gravel pit in Delamere Forest. The application was withdrawn.

**Obstructed Footpaths and Stiles.**—As a result of representations by the Society, a stile which had been removed near the Tigress Head, **Norley**, was reconstructed.

Two stiles have been constructed on the footpath from Whitehouse Farm to Smoker Brook, **Plumley**.

A hurdle stile has now been provided in the new fence, built during the construction of the **Brereton** by-pass, opposite the Bear's Paws Inn, Brereton.

The Society has requested that ladder stiles on the footpaths leading to Needham's Farm, Salterford Lane and near Blackillgate Farm, **Kettleshulme**, should be repaired.

The Society has urged the removal of obstructions from the following footpaths:—

By the River Bollin at **Ringway**.

Near Flittogate Farm, **Tabley Inferior**.

From Tabley Grange to **Pickmere**.

From Agden Bridge to Burford Lane, **Lymm**.

From Heatley to Carr Green, **Lymm**.

From Heatley to Dunham (along the north bank of River Bollin).

A short cut to Heatley Station, **Lymm**.

At Wincle Grange, **Wincle**.

## FOOTPATHS IN LANCASHIRE

**Hacking Ferry.**—We welcome the news that the Lancashire County Council have agreed to provide a footbridge across the River Ribble in place of the abandoned Hacking Boat.

It has not yet been decided to provide a bridge over the River Calder.

**Proposed Extension of Quarries at Chatburn.**—The Society supported the Lancashire Branch of the C.P.R.E. in its objection to the Ribble Cement Company's scheme to extend their quarries at Chatburn which had been approved by the Lancashire County Council. The Minister decided that the area should be reduced and has excluded all the lower land stretching to the riverside

footpath. He has also excluded a fine clump of beech trees above the village and a belt of trees, at least 100 feet wide, must be planted within the next three years.

The Society has complained about an obstruction on a footpath at Owd Betts, in the **Cheeseden Brook** area.

The Society has requested the County Council to repair a footpath in **Anderton**, Chorley Rural District, that has been closed, as it is considered to be in a dangerous condition.

### FOOTPATHS IN THE WEST RIDING

**Footpath at Mexborough.**—The Society complained about the flooding of a footpath through subsidence at Mexborough. The footpath is to be diverted along an embankment by the river to avoid the flooded area.

### DIVERSION AND CLOSURE ORDERS

During the year over forty Diversion and Closure Orders mainly brought about by housing development, were received by the Society. Each Order is thoroughly investigated by the Footpath Inspectors and if not reasonable an effort is made to amend the plan or, if necessary, an objection is sent to the Minister, who may then hold a public inquiry. Though just a routine matter, this work has taken up much of the time of the Society's officers. Some of these cases are mentioned elsewhere in this Report. Members are asked to keep a look-out for notices of such orders in their local press and pass to the Secretary.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1960

### MEMBERSHIP

The increase which occurred during 1959 has not been maintained this year at the same rate, but there has been a slight movement upwards as indicated in the following figures:

			Increase	Decrease
Ordinary Members .....	423	460	-	37
Husband/Wife Membership .....	64	39	25	-
Junior Members .....	7	2	5	-
Affiliated Clubs and Societies....	79	66	13	-

There has been a significant transfer of ordinary members to the "Husband/Wife" category which has had the effect of reducing the total of "Ordinary" members, but only increasing the figure of "Husband/Wife" members by half the number of those who have transferred. Allowing for this fact there is in effect no fall in the total membership as the figures might suggest.

The total membership now stands at 494 members, 558 if Husband/Wife members are taken as two members, and 79 Societies which means that there is a slight increase continuing, but do not forget that elusive 1,000 still hoped for.

### FINANCE

For the fourth consecutive year a surplus of income over expenditure is recorded, amounting to £65 against £181 for the previous year. The total surplus over the last four years is now £388, but of this £273 has been distributed between the Signpost and Survey Accounts to provide much wanted funds to enable the increasingly heavy work to be continued without abatement in these two departments of the Society's work. It has also been possible to close the P.M. Oliver Memorial Fund by applying to that fund some of the above surplus.

As in the previous year a large discrepancy is apparent between the income provided by the membership and that from other sources. Of a total income of £513 only £267 came from the subscriptions of the membership and Societies, the remainder being made up of grants by Local Authorities, which have risen from £30 for last year to £143 this year, and interest.

Once again the cost of running the Society at £448 has increased and far outstripped the income from subscriptions at £267.

The Members and Societies, as in the past, have made a most

generous contribution to the funds, but in order to ensure a well founded Society the number of members must be doubled in the near future, as at present we are relying solely on bequests and grants for the financing of the other sections of the Society's work such as the Footpath Survey, Signpost Erection and Maintenance, and the Defence Fund. This year we have again been most fortunate in having received three bequests, each of £100, from late members, viz., P. S. Edwards, A. Triffitt and F. M. Duncalf. These sums have enabled your Council to avoid drawing on the normal income of the Society which has resulted in the satisfactory position in which the Special Funds find themselves at the beginning of a new year of increasing activity as visualised in the preceding "Report."

#### **P.M. Oliver Memorial Fund.**

The deficit on this fund which has been temporarily financed by the Defence Fund has now been liquidated by the transfer of £48 from the surplus on the General Expense Reserve Account. The fund is therefore closed.

#### **Harold Jones Memorial Fund.**

This fund has received donations amounting to £4 5s. 0d. to bring the total to date to £21 15s. 6d.

#### **Conclusion.**

The Council extends its thanks to all those who have so generously given their financial support over the past years and trusts that it may look forward to a continuance of this support in the future.

#### **Membership and Affiliation.**

The minimum annual subscription rates, due on 1st January, are as follows:

	s. d.
Ordinary membership for individuals .....	5 0
Junior membership for those under 18 years of age .....	2 6
Husband/Wife membership .....	7 6
Affiliation for clubs and societies .....	10 6

Subscriptions, Affiliation Fees and Donations to the Survey, Signpost and Defence Funds are now due and may be sent to the Membership Secretary, Miss B. Rowland, 14 Woodleigh Street, Balckley, Manchester, 9.

## DONATIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Society is most grateful to the following Local Authorities who, in response to a special appeal, contributed £143.

Alfreton	Longendale
Ashton-under-Lyne	Macclesfield
Barnsley	Manchester
Bolsover (annual)	Mansfield
Bolton	Matlock
Buxton	New Mills
Chadderton	Oldham
Chesterfield	Sale
Derby	Salford
Dronfield (annual)	Stalybridge
Eccles (annual)	Stockport
Glossop	Stoke-on-Trent
Hale	Todmorden
Huddersfield	Warrington (annual)
Kirkby-in-Ashfield	Wath on Dearne
Leigh	Wortley

## AFFILIATED RAMBLING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES, 1960

Accrington Naturalists' Antiquarians' Society.
Altrincham and District Rambling Club.
Altrincham and District Natural History Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne C.H.A. and H.F. Club.
Barnsley Mountaineering Club.
Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Boy Scouts' Association, S.E. Lancs.
Boy Scouts 3rd Altrincham Group.
Bradford C.H.A. Club.
British Naturalists' Association, Manchester & District Branch.
Bury & District C.H.A. Club.
Buxton H.F. and C.H.A. Club.
Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland, N.W. Region.
Chorley and District Rambling Club.
C. E. Holiday Homes Ltd.
College of Adult Education Rambling Club.
Comradeship of the C.E. Holiday Homes, Manchester Section.
Comradeship of the C.E. Holiday Homes, Stockport Group.
C.H.A., Birch Heys.
Crescent Ramblers.
Derby C.H.A. and H.F. Club.
Derbyshire Pennine Club.
Eastwood Rambling Club.
Eccles C.H.A. Rambling Club.
F.H.A. Manchester Rambling Club.
Good Companions Rambling Club.
Goyt and District Boy Scouts' Local Association.
Hanliensian Rambling Club.

High Lane Residents.  
Holiday Fellowship Lt.  
H.F. Bolton Group.  
H.F. Bury Group.  
H.F. Manchester Group.  
H. F. Oldham and District.  
H.F. Rochdale Group.  
H.F. Sheffield Group.  
Leigh and District C.H.A. Club.  
Macclesfield and District Field Club.  
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.  
Manchester Associates Rambling Club.  
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club, Section C.  
Manchester Rambling Club for the Blind.  
Manchester Fellowship.  
Manchester Pedestrians' Club.  
Manchester Rambling Club.  
Manchester and Stockport Catholic Rambling Club.  
Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.  
Marple Residents' Association.  
Melandra Field Club.  
Metro-Vickers Staff Motor Drawing Office.  
Moor and Mountain Club.  
North Western Naturalists' Union.  
Oldham C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
Ramblers' Association, Liverpool and North Wales Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Derbyshire Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Manchester Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Nottingham Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Sheffield Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Nottingham Area.  
Ramblers' Association, West Riding Area.  
Rochdale C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
Rucksack Club.  
Sheffield Clarion Ramblers.  
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.  
Sheffield C.H.A. Club Section A.  
Sheffield Rambling Club.  
Spires Rambling Club.  
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.  
Stockport Corporation Transport Club.  
Stockport Field Club.  
Stockport W.E.A. Rambling Club.  
Stoke-on-Trent H.F. Club Section D.  
Sutton-in-Ashfield and District Club.  
207 Rambling Club.  
United Field Naturalists.  
W.T.A. Ltd.  
Y.H.A. Ashton-under-Lyne Area Group.  
Y.H.A. Manchester and District Regional Group.  
Y.H.A. Manchester and Salford Sub-Regional Group.  
Y.H.A. Manchester Sub-Regional City Area Group.  
Y.H.A. North Midlands Regional Group.  
Y.H.A. Prestwich Area Group.  
Y.H.A. Sheffield Sub-Regional Group.  
Y.H.A. Stockport Area Group.

# The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960

(This Account is a record of the day to day financing of the Society, providing surplus funds, if any, for transfer to the General Expense Reserve Account.)

1959				1959			
£	s.	d.	TO EXPENDITURE:—	£	s.	d.	BY INCOME:—
<b>Annual Report:</b>							
34	5	2	Printing	41	5	6	Subscriptions:—
(Less Advt.	£14	14/0)	.....	13	5	10	Paid in Advance for 1960 as per
6	13	0	Distribution	54	11	4	1959 Statement ..... 3 0 6
14	12	6	Hire of Rooms	20	15	0	145 16 5 423 Ordinary Members ..... 131 8 6
29	15	3	Printing and Stationery	55	15	9	5 0 7 Junior Members ..... 17 6
5	14	0	Insurance Premiums	5	14	3	20 1 0 64 Husband/Wife Members ..... 32 13 0
Subscription to Commons, Open							
Spices & Footpaths Preservation	8	8	9	Donations ..... 7 3 6			
2	2	0	Society	2	2	0	30 5 0 Grants from 34 Local Authorities ..... 140 12 6
Affiliation to Four Branches of				155 3 3 Transfer of Hallamshire Society			
the C.P.R.E.	1	1	2	Funds ..... - - -			
			2 12 6				147 16 0
3	5	5	Advertising	4	14	6	53 14 0 Interest on Deposits ..... 61 11 11
-	-	-	Sundry Expenses	9	15	0	28 12 3 Interest on P. M. Oliver Trust Fund ..... 31 12 11
14	14	0	Cost of Annual General Meeting	1	13	0	
30	0	0	Honorariums: Secretary	15	8	6	
100	0	0	Footpaths Inspectors (8)	30	0	0	93 4 10
12	10	0	Signpost Inspector	100	0	0	7 7 6
5	5	0	Treasurer	12	10	0	
			5	5	0		
4	4	0	Travelling Expenses: Secretary	147	15	0	
22	18	5	Footpaths Inspectors (8)	5	17	9	
-	-	-	Signposts Inspector	18	6	4	
2	2	10	Other Officials	-	-	-	
			4	16	10		
36	8	3	Postages and Telephones	29	0	11	
16	8	8	Cheque Books	49	10	11	
1	1	0	Bank Charges	8	4		
			3	12	0		
8	15	5	Maps and Plans	4	0	4	
-	-	-	Library	12	14	0	
3	0	6	Subscriptions Paid in Advance for	29	15	0	
			1961	7	7	6	
339	4	5					
				448	11	0	
178	6	0	Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure				
			Carried to the General Expense Reserve A/c.	63	10	4	
517	10	5		£512	1	4	
				517	10	5	£512 1 4

GENERAL EXPENSE RESERVE ACCOUNT AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

(This Account receives the Surplus or Deficit from the Income and Expenditure Account while providing additional sums for the support of the Defence, Survey, and Signpost Accounts.)

1959						£ s. d.			Transfer made to:—			£ s. d.			
						£ s. d.			P. M. Oliver Memorial Fund			47 17 5			
						£ s. d.			Signpost Account			75 0 0			
						£ s. d.			Survey Account			150 0 0			
137	16	11	Balance brought forward from 1959 .....			316	2	11							272 17 5
178	6	0	Surplus brought forward from Income and Expenditure Account for 1960 .....			65	10	4							106 15 10
						316	2	11	Balance carried forward to 1961 .....						£379 13 3
						316	2	11							£379 13 3

DEFENCE FUND AS AT DECEMBER 31st 1960

(The purpose of this Fund is to finance any legal actions which the Society may find itself obliged to undertake or defend, possibly at short notice, and to defray the costs thereof if necessary).

1959			1959		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1286 11 7	Balance brought forward from 1959 .....	1307 16 1	1307 16 1	Balance carried forward to 1961 .....	1469 18 9
7 17 0	Add Donations received during year (32) ...	13 2 3			
13 7 6	Repayment of Loan to P. M. Oliver Memorial Fund .....	49 0 5			
- - -	P. S. Edwards Legacy .....	100 0 0			
1307 16 1		£1.469 18 9	1307 16 1		£1.469 18 9

SIGNPOST ACCOUNT AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

(The purpose of this Account is to finance the provision and erection of new signposts and their consequent maintenance and replacement)

1959			1959			1959			
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
47	12	3	Balance brought forward from 1959 .....	12	18	1	72	10	2
37	16	0	Add Donations received during year (59) ...	64	15	0	12	18	1
-	-	-	Add F. M. Duncalf Legacy .....	100	0	0	Balance carried forward to 1961 .....	261	14
-	-	-	Add A. Trifitt Legacy .....	100	0	0			8
-	-	-	Add Transfer from the General Expense Reserve Account .....	75	0	0			
85	8	3		£352	11	1	85	8	3
				£	352	11	£	352	11

### SURVEY ACCOUNT AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

(This Account finances the work of the Society in connection with the Survey under the National Parks Act, 1949).

1959			1959			
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
35	4	11	Balance brought forward from 1959 .....	1	16	4
5	2	0	Add Donations received during year (24) ...	10	5	3
-	-	-	Add Transfer from the General Expense Reserve Account .....	150	0	0
40	6	11		£162	1	7
				40	6	11
						£162 1 7

### P. M. OLIVER MEMORIAL FUND AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

1959			1959			
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
-	-	-	Balance brought forward from 1959 .....	-	-	
13	7	6	Donations received during year (2) .....	1	5	0
-	-	-	Add Transfer from the General Expenses Reserve Account .....	47	17	5
13	7	6		£49	0	5
				13	7	6
						£49 0 5

### HAROLD JONES MEMORIAL FUND AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

1959			1959			
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
-	-	-	Balance brought forward from 1959 .....	17	10	6
17	10	6	Donations received during year (5) .....	4	5	0
17	10	6		£21	15	6
				17	10	6
						£21 15 6

EDWIN ROYCE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE GRANT FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES ACCOUNT  
AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

1959			1959			1959						
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
91	2	3	91	2	3	91	2	3				
			Balance brought forward from 1959 .....	£	91	2	3	Balance carried forward to 1961 .....	£	91	2	3
				£	91	2	3		£	91	2	3

BALANCE SHEET AT DECEMBER 31st, 1960

1959			1959			1959					
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
74	8	8	1307	16	1	1469	18	9			
4	1	10	12	18	1	261	14	8			
231	19	2	1	16	4	96	5	1			
1439	17	0	316	2	11	106	15	10			
			91	2	3	Edwin Royce Memorial Committee Grant ...	91	2	3		
			17	10	6	Harold Jones Memorial Fund .....	21	15	6		
			3	0	6	Subscriptions Paid in Advance for 1961 .....	7	7	6		
1750	6	8	1750	6	8		£2,054	19	7		
				£	2,054	19	7		£2,054	19	7

Audited and certified correct, FRANK WALLWORK, Hon. Auditor, 17th February, 1961.