

PEAK AND NORTHERN  
FOOTPATHS SOCIETY  
1894-1971

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Annual Report 1970



Courtesy Oldham Evening Chronicle

*The Society's contribution to National Footpath Week, 1970.  
Party on Rochdale Canal Towpath.*

# PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Founded in 1894

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## FOREWORD

WITH several new inspectors and fresh plans for signposting, the Society's position is healthier than it was last year, but more needs to be done and the improvement has come none too soon. Complaints of interference and obstruction are so frequent nowadays that we require a whole corps of inspectors to deal with them. Diversion and closure orders are also far too numerous, but a recent decision of the new Secretary for the Environment encourages the hope that future closures may only be made where there is a very good case for them. European Conservation Year seems to have been a great success; people are much more alive to the importance of preserving the environment, and Government knows that they are. There are welcome signs also that people in many places are rallying to the defence of their local paths.

By the time this Report appears decimalisation will be upon us whether we dislike it or not. The 1970 Annual Meeting authorised an increase of the basic membership subscription from 37½p to 40p, but other rates were left unchanged at their exact decimal equivalents. All these rates are very low in relation to subscription rates generally, and in terms of voluntary service, enthusiasm and work done the Society gives very good value for them. Doubtless, we could do better, but it is helpers rather than more money that we need. If you think you can contribute, whether as a Council member or more actively, please let us know.

John H. O'Dwyer, Secretary

## COMMENTARY

### No Help for Lame Ducks

THE past year has been relatively uneventful, but an increased amount of routine footpaths work has been done, and that after all is what the Society exists to do. Our renewed appeal for inspectors has been much more successful than last year's and we now have several extra helpers—but we still need more.

The spate of petty interferences with rights of way continues, the meanest being the erection of high or otherwise dangerous stiles, seemingly designed to keep out older people, though they have as much right to use paths as the rest of us and often know them better than the younger end. But there are welcome signs that action is arousing reaction, as it usually does. All over the country groups of people, school children, Women's Institutes and so on, are springing to the defence of local paths. Perhaps the most original is the Chiltern Society's Rights of Way Group which plans to deal with "shot-gun farmers" by photographing and tape-recording them with an eye to publication in the local papers. Local groups, pledged to use footpaths and keep them clear are probably the best answer to local aggression.

### Against the Public Interest

Last year we said that the landowners' and farmers' organisations had not abandoned their efforts to secure new legal machinery to effect a massive reduction in the number of footpaths. The main attack failed, but attempts are still being made to achieve the same kind of result through county council action. The Central Landowners' Association has suggested a series of "land usage surveys" in each county to find out how many paths are still used.

In West Sussex the county council has instituted a three-year review of footpaths by a team of officials, and there have been hints that as many as one-third might be closed. The path system is said to be "in a mess" because of its feudal and unplanned origin. Paths "bisecting arable land" seem to be particularly disliked. Recommendations for several parishes have already been made, and though objections by the Ramblers' Association and others have been considered, few changes have resulted.

Here is the answer to the small minority of footpath friends who conceive of "rationalisation" as a reasonable round-table process in which footpath users would participate on equal terms with other interests. It is most unlikely that voluntary bodies would be allowed to participate in any actual decision-taking. Consultation, yes, but that could mean very little.

### **"Footpath Worker"**

For the information in the foregoing paragraph we are indebted to "Footpath Worker," a new quarterly bulletin published by the Ramblers' Association. This should be a very useful medium for the exchange of information from all parts of the country.

Send 25p to the Ramblers' Association, 1 Crawford Mews, York Street, London, W.1., for the first four issues.

### **Signposts**

No successor to Mr. T. Ewart as Signpost Supervisor, has been found, but he has agreed to continue with active assistance from Mr. Seargill, and an expanded signposting programme is being planned.

### **Mr. Arthur Smith**

Our very active Vice-President, Arthur Smith, was knocked down and seriously injured by a car whilst returning from a protracted footpath hearing at Congleton on 3rd December. He has been in hospital for several weeks, but has made good progress and is still as militant as ever in the footpaths' cause. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery. It is largely thanks to his efforts that the successes noted in the next paragraph were achieved.

### **Wildboarclough Paths**

A number of contested paths in the Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough areas came before Quarter Sessions Hearings at Knutsford during the year. On 9th April objections to Macclesfield Forest 18 and 27, from Broughsplace to Torgate and Bottom of the Oven respectively, were withdrawn, and objections to two other paths (34 and 35) at Whitehills Farm were defeated. On 19th October, objections to the path from Broughsplace to Clough Bridge and Dry Knowl were defeated, but the opposition to the section from Dry Knowl to the Clough Road via High Ash Farm, was upheld. This does not mean that you cannot reach the road from Broughsplace; there is a lane which connects with the road. The Society has had a long standing interest in these paths and replaced the footbridge at Broomycroft Head before 1939. We repaired it last year.

## **Mr. Norman Redford**

We are very sorry to have to announce the retirement of Mr. Redford, Chief Inspector and Survey Secretary, on grounds of ill health. In the early days of the 1949 Act and the footpaths survey he organised a voluntary survey in conjunction with the Ramblers' Association, the results of which enabled the Society to repair many omissions from the official survey maps. His work in this field and as an inspector has been most valuable and deserves our best thanks.

## **New Membership Secretary**

Mr. John Needham has taken over from Miss Margaret Fletcher who has resigned after eight years' service for which we are much indebted to her. An entirely new recruiting leaflet has been prepared. Why not get some and hand them to your friends?

## **An Unhelpful Ruling**

The Commons Society's Journal for autumn, 1970, drew attention to an unfortunate legal ruling which largely nullifies the effects of Section 116 of the Highways Act of 1959. The section appears to authorise county and district councils "to initiate and defend legal proceedings for the protection of the rights of the public" in respect of highways, including footpaths. Unfortunately, in a recent case involving Hampshire County Council, Mr. Justice Plowman has ruled that only the Attorney General can maintain an action to enforce a public right, and that his fiat must be obtained. Section 116, apparently, should have included the words "in their own name", though its intention seems clear enough without them. Indeed the ruling makes Section 116 virtually pointless since the Attorney General could proceed without it under other provisions of the law. It is hoped that an early opportunity will be taken to amend the section.

## **Minister Supports Retention of Footpaths**

Following a public inquiry into a proposed footpath closure in Kent the inspector reported that the path was obstructed and little, if at all, used by local people, though organised ramblers and "enthusiastic walkers" used it from time to time. Nevertheless he considered "*that it is important today to preserve all existing public rights of access to the countryside unless there is convincing reason for removing any one.*" The new Secretary of State for the Environment accordingly rejected the extinguishment order. If this welcome policy is followed consistently it should greatly reduce the number of orders for unjustifiable closures.

## **President and Chairman**

Since the death of our last Chairman, Mr. Boulger, Dr. Head has been both President and Chairman, but he now feels that a separate Chairman should be appointed. Council has accordingly nominated Mr. L. Meadowcroft and his name will be submitted to the Annual Meeting for approval.

## **National Footpaths Week: Cown Edge Way**

National Footpaths Week, 1970, was organised by the Ramblers' Association, and we contributed the "Failsworth's Forgotten Footpaths Walk" to the programme (see Mr. Lee's article). The R.A. Manchester Area, signposted and waymarked a sixteen-mile route from Hazel Grove to Mellor and on over Cown Edge to Charlesworth and Gee Cross. This interesting route has been named the Cown Edge Way and it was formally opened on 26th September by Mr. Tom Normanton, M.P. (Cheadle), with Councillor M. Burton (Chairman, Marple U.D.C.) presiding. Mr. Leslie Meadowcroft, our Vice-Chairman and President of Manchester Area, together with Mr Frank Mason, of Mellor, organised the work involved.

## RATIONALISATION OF FOOTPATHS — FOR AND AGAINST

In the course of a paper read to the Oxford Farming Conference, Mr. M. Keen, of the National Farmers' Union, said: the arguments about access revealed an area of controversy and cant. Half the farms of England and Wales had rights of way passing across or alongside their fields. A great many of them were created for another era and for a purpose not remotely connected with the provision of recreational facilities for non-locals. Many had fallen into total disuse.

Although they were no more than marks on a map, they nevertheless had legal status and they remained either a potential threat to the integrity of a farm or an actual nuisance, cost and interference with farming operations when attempts were made to resuscitate them. "I consider," he went on, "our network of rights of way to be among the rare glories of our countryside, but I have never understood why a pattern appropriate to the needs of a bygone century should be the subject of sacred ossification today."

It was wholly shortsighted for the ramblers and others to fight tooth and nail against footpath rationalisation on the grounds that this was a euphemism for closure procedure. All the present system did was to foster mutual antagonism and encourage farmers to disregard the law. ("Times" Report, January 6th, 1971.)

In a letter of reply, Mr. Ian Campbell, Secretary, Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, said:

• Each year throughout the sixties there were over 1,000 footpath closures and diversion orders made, some half of which directly benefited farmland. Changes of route to the benefit of farmer and walker are thus taking place all the time.

But if the present system which allows for consultation, public inquiry and Minister's approval in controversial cases is scrapped in favour of some drawing board "rationalisation" of paths so as to separate farmland and recreational countryside the loss will be incomparable.

The main glory of footpaths is that they pass through the living countryside — arable and pasture fields, woodland, hillside and meadow. Of course there are occasions when we all like to visit country parks or other organised beauty spots. But these are not the real countryside. The urban dweller can learn more about the true countryside and its life by one single walk along four or five miles of a rural footpath than he can by many visits to a recreational area with its carefully laid out paths. In an electorate with an overwhelming urban majority, those who walk our rural paths and understand the countryside are ultimately the farmer's best friends. \*

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## LIBRARY

The library is housed in the Central Library, Manchester. Books will be issued to members, who hold a current ticket, by the staff at the central service counter on the first floor.

A list of books was published in the 1968 Annual Report.

# Another Year of Reckoning

DONALD LEE, our "Closures and Diversions" Secretary, says, in this very personal and critical account that 1970 was "another year of reckoning" for the anti-footpath brigade. By exposing their activities, and with local support and plenty of publicity, we chalked up a 100 per cent success record in fighting ill-conceived schemes designed to shut footpaths.

In this piece I want to deal with some of the more interesting cases completed in 1970. Should you hear of any threat to your favourite path, then please note carefully the methods used so that they can be copied, adapted, or improved to fit the circumstances.

## **Back O' Th' Moss Lane, Heywood**

(Footpath 91 Heywood Corporation) O.S. Ref. 851.114 to 853.113 (2½" Sheet SD81).

Back O' Th' Moss Lane connects the centre of Heywood with a housing estate and is extensively used by local residents if not by ramblers. A portion of the path ran over waste ground owned by Heywood Corporation who thought that if they could do away with it, the land could be sold that much easier. It seems that a private developer was interested in purchase so long as the path was closed, and therefore Heywood Corporation proceeded to apply for extinguishment. We objected, along with the Heywood Civic Society who also take an interest in their local paths.

The "Heywood Advertiser" gave suitable publicity and greatly to their credit Heywood Corporation promptly revised their plans by offering a suitable "pedestrian" diversion acceptable to all parties. Full marks to the Corporation for this—but I hope that next time they won't be quite as quick in putting a builder's requirements before the need of the footpath user.

## **The "Tetrosyl" Paths at Walmsley**

(Footpaths 13 and 14 Bury Corporation) O.S. Ref. 809.137 to 809.142 (Footpath 13) 808.139 to 809.139 (Footpath 14), (2½" Sheet SD81).

Had Sherlock Holmes been a footpath sleuth he might have referred to this as "a singular case".

Bury Corporation have a 1932 Act whereby certain footpath alterations do not have to be advertised in the "London Gazette" (which I scan for the Society three times a week, 15,000 pages in all last year, at a cost to us of £23) although for good measure each proposal does have to be published in four consecutive issues of the "Bury Times".

Now Bury's 1932 Act notices should describe exactly which path it is intended to alter, so that people can see at a glance whereabouts it is and if they are likely to be prejudiced. Also, the number of the path as allotted to the Definitive Footpath Map should be given so that interested strangers like myself know which path is involved. But in May, advertisements appeared informing the public to take notice that application would be made to close two of Bury's paths and these, after a parody of legal jargon, were indicated by red and green lines on a plan to be seen in an architect's office. No map references, no footpath numbers, no place names, no roads, streets or buildings mentioned, no reason for closure given—nothing. Who advised the use of this grossly inadequate notice, without doubt the most useless I have ever seen? "Not us," said the Solicitors, Conn, Goldberg & Co., of Manchester, who were putting forward the application on behalf of their clients, Tetrosyl Limited of Bevis Green Works, Walmsley. "Not us," said the architects, Richard Byrom, Hill & Partners, of Bury, who had drawn up the plans. "Not us," said Bury Corporation. Well, who did? The advertisement may just have been a genuine blunder, and but for the Society the public would have been the losers once again.

When I did make enquiries I found that two paths in the vicinity of Tetrosyl's Mill were down for closure, one of which was a favourite stroll across a couple of fields in the direction of the "local", the Masons Arms, and the other connected that path with Walmsley Old Road. The mill owners gave the reason for closure as "security" and "development"—beautifully vague terms—and assumed that people would be quite willing to walk along the traffic-ridden Walmsley Old Road when the paths were closed. I was satisfied that total closure would be unjustified, for only one-third of one of the paths was needed for factory extensions. I told Tetrosyl's Solicitors that if the application was restricted to this small stretch, perhaps 100 yards long and between two high walls, being useful for courting but little else, then we should not oppose it.

The whole issue was well-aired in the "Bury Times" and I am satisfied that because of the prominence the editor gave it, thousands more had it brought to their notice than would have done had the advertisements been properly detailed in the first case. The factory owner dropped his closure bid for all but the 100 yards section and he would not even have got that much had 300 local residents had their way, most of whom, no doubt, had happy memories of their mis-spent youth up "Courtin' Alley". One outcome is that we ought to be able to rely on plenty of local support should the future of the other portion of this path be threatened again as I have a feeling it might be.

## Rochdale and its Footpaths

Rochdale, like Bury, has its own Act for closing footpaths, the Rochdale Improvement Act of 1872, dating from the days when land ownership was something sacred and the rights of the poorer classes were virtually nil. Under the Act the only notification of closure is by a notice on the path announcing its imminent demise and the only appeal is to Quarter Sessions—always an expensive affair.

Happily, the two cases we had at Rochdale in 1970 illustrate that the Corporation are not heavy-handed in applying the provisions of the Act and, in fact, have recently begun a system of posting "notices of intention" on the paths concerned giving people three weeks in which to make representations before the Act itself is implemented. I put it to the Corporation that it would be much better if the provisions of the Countryside Act, 1968, were used instead because then every alteration would be fully advertised and if the proposals were thought objectionable by the public the Secretary of State could order a public inquiry. Naturally, the Corporation say that their Act is cheaper, quicker and less trouble to apply, all of which I admit—but is it fairer? The Corporation have at least agreed to let the Society have copies of all "notices of intention" so that we can comment, if necessary, before a final decision is taken to close a path. This might be a little more satisfactory to us, but for the benefit of their own residents it would seem reasonable to ask that if the Corporation cannot see their way to using the Countryside Act, then these "notices of intention" be published in the "Rochdale Observer" so that the Corporation can have the benefit of any representations from the general public in helping them to reach a decision. I have written to the Corporation on this point and they have promised to bear it in mind for the future, so here's hoping . . .

In the meantime, here are the two Rochdale cases I dealt with in 1970.

### Castleton

(Footpath 29 Rochdale Corporation) O.S. Ref. 885.099 to 888.097  
(2½" Sheet SD80)

During May, this path which had been diverted only a year before, at considerable cost, in connection with the construction of the M62 Motorway, was proposed to be closed by Rochdale Corporation on the ground that it was not needed. The track was a handy short-cut and link path from Manchester Road, Castleton and around the back of Cherrington Drive, to Thornham New Road and its closure would have forced walkers beside

busy main roads. This would have been comical if it had not been so ironic because the other reason given for closure was on the grounds of personal safety!

On inspection I found that part of the path's surface had been turned over and not reinstated by some contractors laying pipes. Also, a nearby quarry needed some fencing. Both the reinstatement and the fencing could have been done at no cost to the Corporation, so why were they so keen on closure? Rumour had it that the land over which the path ran was needed to construct a private quarry access road. Nearby residents represented by The Castleton Heights Residents' Association, added their weight to the campaign. Of course, the "Rochdale Observer" enjoyed the battle to save the path and their publicity attracted wider attention. To the Corporation's credit they decided that the path was needed after all and so the closure plan was squashed.

### **The Path Over Rochdale Golf Course**

(Bridleway No. E21 Rochdale Corporation) O.S. Ref. 868.133 to 869.134 (2½" Sheet SD81).

In July the Corporation, after having been approached by Rochdale Golf Club, decided to post their "notice of intention" to close a short but very well-used bridleway at Bagslate Moor. Seemingly, the Club had plans to put a golf tee right beside the path. Why they wanted to do this with all the space at their disposal, eluded me. Was it bad planning, bad manners, or were they playing the oldest game of all, path-grabbing? The track was extensively used for pleasure by local people as local rambling clubs were quick to point out. Once again the "Observer" was on hand to record local people's strong feelings on the prospect of the loss of a favourite walk for the sake of golf. The net result was another victory for democracy, and the Corporation threw out the closure. As I was away when this case blew up, our General Secretary, Eric Newton, stepped in to fight for the path, so credit must go to him for this success.

Thus the Corporation in both cases eventually acted in the public's interest, but the paths should never have been considered for closure at all, should they?

Perhaps I should point out—these minor clashes and that 1872 Act notwithstanding—Rochdale Corporation are, in practice, very good where footpaths are concerned. They keep accurate maps and records, deal promptly with my numerous complaints and enquiries and are at the moment implementing an extensive signposting scheme suggested by me.

## **The Buttonhole Path at Shaw**

(Footpath 27 Crompton U.D.C.) O.S. Ref. 945.091 to 949.091  
(2½" Sheet SD90)

Here we had the old, old story of a builder meddling with a path before the very necessary legal safeguards were completed.

The path was a favourite one for people living at Shaw to get to the hamlet of Buttonhole and to the moors via Grains Bar. As soon as the diversion was legally advertised, I went to have a look and found my way blocked by excavations, mud and two partly completed houses. The builders' plan did indicate a diversion of sorts—along a maze of estate roads and changing direction eight times whereas the original path was dead straight.

I suggested to the builders, G.C.T. Construction Co./N.D. Homes, of Blackburn (members of the National House Builders' Registration Council) that they might like to consider a more reasonable pedestrian diversion, more especially since they had "jumped the gun" in destroying the original path. However, they considered their proposals adequate and were not altering their plans.

So once again I told the local paper of the brick wall I was up against—literally—and the "Oldham Chronicle", ever ready for a good footpath story, gave plenty of space to my complaints. There followed a prompt request from the builders for a site meeting to discuss our differences, and after some hard bargaining we agreed on an alternative, completely pedestrian, sign-posted route through the new houses. By way of something extra the builders offered to place a seat in a strategic position by the path, to plant a few trees and to do a little landscaping. Moreover, Mr. Graham, Director of G.C.T., promised to consult the Society wherever any of their future layouts involve diversion of footpaths, so that we can work together on planning an acceptable alternative.

Crompton U.D.C. agreed with our plans and withdrew the original application which had been the source of discontent. There were no objections to the fresh advertisement and the new diversion order was quickly confirmed. A happy ending, because everyone co-operated. Maybe a few other building firms can take note.

## **The Bowaters Path, Disley**

(Footpath 48 Disley R.D.C.) O.S. Ref. 983.847 to 986.848 (2½" Sheet SJ98)

This handy path runs from the A6 road, Disley, near Bowaters' factory and comes out on Lower Greenshaw Lane near

the Peak Forest Canal. Bowaters needed to extend their factory across the path and Disley R.D.C. advertised their intention to close the path completely. This would have entailed a journey of twice the distance for walkers, half of that being along the treacherous A6. From enquiries, I deduced it was quite feasible to divert the path at no inconvenience either to Bowaters or to ramblers so that the major part of the right of way would be preserved. I suggested this to Bowaters and they readily agreed. Why then was complete closure ever proposed?

Both the "Stockport Advertiser" and the "High Peak Reporter" played prominent parts in bringing the closure to general notice and the objections rolled in. The authorities saw the folly of their ways and withdrew the closure proposal, submitting instead one for diversion along the lines I had suggested. But ponder how easily it might have been to lose another valuable path had not the Society intervened.

### **Millfold, Middleton**

(The Society versus Middleton Corporation) O.S. Ref. 871.056 to 872.056 (2½-inch Sheet SD80).

The Millfold campaign was a noisy and novel battle containing many elements of farce. In it, Middleton Corporation attempted to close a track for their own benefit and went to great lengths to get their way.

Millfold leads from Manchester New Road (opposite one entrance to Alkrington Woods, a local beauty spot) first as a made-up street, then as an unsurfaced cart road passing the site of the long-gone hamlet from which the track got its name, to cross the Wince Brook, a tributary of the River Irk, and so on to the back of Middleton. It was used by vehicles until the wooden river bridge became unsafe in 1968 and thereafter the bridge and track were used by pedestrians only.

All the old maps from the First Edition 6" O.S. of 1848 onwards mark the track and by an ironic twist of fate Middleton Corporation themselves decided to put it on their own street map which is distributed with the Official Guide. This map does not have any disclaimer notice. Millfold was not designated on the Definitive Footpath Map because when the last review had been done in 1966 there was hardly any need to make representation for its inclusion as a footpath when to most people it was obviously open as a road. However, as early as February, 1969, I had asked Middleton Corporation for an assurance that Millfold, which was now only useable as a footpath, would eventually be added to the Definitive Footpath Map. I got no reply on this and other footpath matters, so I called on the Corporation in May, 1970. I then learned they were intending

to close the track and build a Highways Depot across it. The Highways Department very conveniently did not consider Millfold to be public and for this reason I was informed that no legal closure notice would appear and accordingly the public could not object.

In July contractors moved in and a fortnight later the path had suffered total destruction as the photograph reproduced clearly shows. The "Middleton Guardian" gave the story prominence because of the obvious dangers to the public and the undercurrent of frustration and resentment there was from residents in the vicinity who had lost their short-cut. For instance, one old man complained that what had previously been a five minute short-cut had turned into a half hour tramp. Another partially blind person used Millfold because it was traffic-free and the first time he took to the main road he had an accident.

In the meantime, I went round collecting evidence of useage from more than 30 people and some of this was in excess of 60 years' use without let or hindrance. I gave this to the Corporation, together with other details to prove our claim, but I was told that even if I was successful in proving a right of way existed, the Corporation might apply to close it anyway.

By the second week in August locked gates had appeared, on the Corporation's instructions. As the paper put it "Round Two For The Corporation." Said the Corporation, "We have a duty to the contractors to protect the site." In Middleton in August, 1970 it seemed possession took precedence over people.

But the obstruction did not last long, a determined local man saw to that. Significantly, it was not replaced. By the 21st August the Corporation, who had been under severe pressure, issued a statement saying that they might possibly provide a fresh path but it would be by courtesy and would be "on sufferance." This condescending attitude only inflamed the situation. I saw Middleton's M.P., Mr Alan Haselhurst, and he promised to have a word with Corporation officials, particularly as I was not receiving any reply to my numerous letters. I got a letter by return which indicated that a sufferance path was only being provided because the Corporation did not accept the evidence that I had submitted that the old track was ever public.

So then I did three things. First, I sought advice from Ian Campbell, LL. B., the Secretary of the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Society, who was both helpful and hopeful. Secondly, I wrote to the "Middleton Guardian" announcing the intention of forming a Footpath Action Group to save the path and also gave the date for a protest walk to be held along the site of the old path. Thirdly, I wrote thanking the M.P. for his

assistance but implied that I was very disappointed with the Corporation's attitude, which would probably lead to action being taken.

Three days before the walk took place the Corporation capitulated. They instructed the contractors to lay a temporary path in time for our walk. They promised that a permanent public footpath would follow in due course and that it would be added to the Footpath Map. We quickly switched the idea of a protest walk to a celebration walk which was a great success.

The battle was over and Millfold had been saved, after a TWENTY-WEEK campaign in the "Middleton Guardian," which I think shows the value of the local Press when it is prepared to campaign for the public's rights.

Incidentally, the Middleton Footpath Group has flourished into a permanent organisation and continues to have further successes. Moreover, we are now co-operating with Middleton Corporation — but that is another story.

### **The Twiss Green — Culcheth Hall Path**

(Footpath 113 Golborne U.D.C.) O.S. Ref. 653.957 to 656.957 (2½" Sheet SJ69).

Footpath 113 was originally a very important route to Culcheth Hall. It had been fragmented due to private housing in the area, but a very pleasant, rural stretch of 300 yards remained as an oasis in an otherwise brick and mortar desert. This ran, for the most part, at the backs of gardens whose houses faced onto Marton Close and Wellfield Road — a mid-60's estate development. For years, it seems, the residents of these houses had pressed Golborne U.D.C. to close the path so that they could incorporate the land into their already large gardens. Eventually, Golborne Council agreed to put forward a closure application on the grounds that the path was not needed and no doubt the residents waited with bated breath until the 28-day period for objections was over, in the hope that no-one would discover their scheme.

On inspection, we (Society member, Brenda Richardson, generally accompanies me on cases in order to take notes of evidence, photographs and act as witness if necessary) found a signposted path in generally good condition, but hardly improved by garden refuse. Our inspection attracted a resident and as soon as he realised I was a serious threat to the cosy scheme, he rounded up some of his neighbours and in minutes we found ourselves in a hornet's nest. Whilst taking the photograph, now reproduced, for future evidence of the rural setting of the path, we were the butt of sarcastic remarks and whilst

Brenda, by profession a solicitor's secretary, was taking verbatim evidence of a sharp exchange between a resident and myself an attempt was made to snatch the notebook out of her hand and destroy what had been written. However, this was unsuccessful and we persevered until I had collected all the details I wanted. Such are the joys of footpath protection.

I lost no time in telling the "Warrington Guardian" of the scheme and the resulting publicity ensured that there were plenty of local objectors, Golborne U.D.C. very sensibly decided to drop the scheme after being satisfied that people had shown a need for the path to remain after all. Moreover, they indicated their intention to clear, improve and signpost the path for the benefit of the public. After that announcement I made arrangements for a "victory" walk over the path to bring together those local people interested in their paths. This, in fact, is just what happened and the Society has now some very active members there who keep us fully in touch with developments.

You might think that the Council's positive attitude would end the bickering, but the land-grabbers had a champion, who, because he regularly contributed a column to the local Press, was able to devote space to an attack on the Society. However, during the adverse publicity new members kept joining us from the Culcheth area—so there's a moral there somewhere.

### **Walks and Talks**

People will use their local paths provided they are signposted, rehabilitated and are encouraged to use them. So, with this in mind, I led several public walks and gave talks to non-rambling organisations during 1970.

For instance, during National Footpath Week, we spotlit Failsworth as an area where the paths were in a disgraceful condition, due to lack of maintenance by the local council. The "Oldham Chronicle" publicised the "Failsworth's Forgotten Footpaths Walk" and the reasons behind it, and we had 80 local people joining in for the exploration. Failsworth U.D.C. manfully took the criticism to heart and made a genuine effort to restore the paths for our walk. We trod on cinders instead of 6in.-deep pools of water; we used a new footbridge instead of taking a 4ft. jump over a stream; we had planks supplied to ease our crossing of the River Medlock over an ancient right of way; and we had a locked gate opened up for the party (the photograph shows us walking the path — and just notice how many youngsters joined us, surely a good sign for the future). Incidentally, you may still find the canal towpath in Failsworth blocked, and if you do wish to use it, you

should request someone from the nearby Town Hall to unlock the gate for you, as the towpath is a legal right of way hereabouts. There are comprehensive plans for redevelopment in the area which will lead to the diversion of the towpath, and so I have decided to turn a blind eye to the blockage for the moment because the council have always readily opened the gate for me.

Then there was the "Irwell Safari" held as a sequel to the "Desecrated Valley" Walk of 1968. This time we followed the Irwell from Prestwich to Bury and drew attention to the neglect of many valley paths. The photograph is a typical example of what I had to do. There was a novel and unexpected twist to this walk. I had arranged the route purposely to cover the canal towpath at Little Lever, over which we successfully prosecuted Trinity Paper Mills in 1969 for illegal obstruction (see last year's report for full details). Whilst walking the path we were met by Mr. D. Lyddon, the Managing Director, who handed out leaflets saying why the path should be closed (see photograph of us discussing the merits). I learned afterwards that the mill owners had asked Little Lever U.D.C. to get the path legally closed, but, not being a planning authority, they had to get Lancashire County Council's agreement. The County, who are amenity conscious, would not give it because the towpath is a high-level walk, giving wide-ranging views and is a definite amenity in an area where footpaths are lean on the ground.

Arising out of the excellent publicity in the "Radcliffe Times" over the "Safari," I had a request from the Radcliffe Local History Society to lead a walk showing local people their own paths. The walk aroused much interest, more especially since the co-leader was a local expert, Ken Howarth, who gave interesting talks on the visible remains adjacent to the footpaths. I did a similar walk for the Prestwich and District Local History Society, another very active group; and also another one with railway expert Harold Bowtell, of the Stephenson Locomotive Society, where we explored the old railways in the Longdendale and Chew Valleys and linked together the old lines by a series of footpaths. Outings like these whereby footpaths are used in conjunction with other interests are of great value in introducing people to walking who may otherwise never think of exploring footpaths.

1970 saw the formation of three very virile footpath groups at Wigan, Milnrow and Middleton, the latter being a committee of P. & N.F.S. members living locally. Born in each case out of adversity where some favourite local path was threatened, after lively meetings at which I spoke, their success in attracting publicity and enthusiastic local support has been very heartening. The signs are that these "grass roots" groups, each covering a small area, will increase in number in 1971.

One development which shows the increasing attention that is being given in educational circles to footpaths in the environment was a talk I gave to students in the Environmental Study Course at Salford University. I dealt with present-day footpath problems and am told that this provoked a favourable response from the students, and I have repeated the talk this year.

In conclusion, may I sincerely thank all the individuals, societies, local authorities, and newspapers, who have listened to us, helped us, and put our point of view forward in order that footpaths can be saved for posterity. We shall continue to need that help in the years ahead, for it looks as though the fight will get dirtier in 1971.

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## **THE MIDDLETON-PENNINE WAY LINK ROUTE INAUGURAL WALK, 11th APRIL, 1971**

This walking route has been planned by the Middleton Footpath Group along existing rights of way and linking Middleton with the Pennine Way at Windy Hill. Eventually, it is hoped to extend the route to the centre of Manchester by footpath all the way as a permanent signposted feature.

The inaugural 16-mile public walk will take place on Easter Sunday, 11th April, 1971. The first six miles from Middleton to Newhey is easy, but the rest is rough and boots should be worn. After reaching Windy Hill, we hope to continue along the Pennine Way, across the new motorway footbridge to the "Roman" road on Blackstone Edge.

The walk starts from Middleton Parish Church (on the hill) at 9-30 a.m. (Buses from Manchester: 121 from Chorlton Street, 59 from Piccadilly Station, 17 or 163 from Cannon Street, all around 8-45 a.m. Alight Middleton and proceed to the parish church, an obvious land mark, about five minutes' walk). There is no catering.

We pass Newhey Station about 1 p.m. and we should finish about 6-30 p.m. at Littleborough. Everyone is welcome on the portion to Newhey, but only experienced walkers for the rest, please.

**D.W.L.**

# REPORT FOR 1970

## Footpaths in Cheshire

**Cheadle and Gatley U.D., FP. 48, Yew Tree Grove to St. Annes Road.** Blocked by collapsed footbridge near the Golf Club House at 844871. New footbridge promised by Council in their 1970 estimates. Now erected.

**Bredbury and Romiley U.D. FP. 32, Greave Farm, Romiley.** 75 yards of the path through the farmyard diverted 70 yards to the N.E.

**Bollington FPs. 38, 45, 48, and 10.** Blocked stile on Tytherington Lane, cleared of obstruction. The succeeding stiles are all negotiable and the undergrowth has been cut away.

## Knutsford Quarter Sessions Hearings

**Macclesfield Forest, FPs. 18 and 27, Torgate to Bottom of the Oven.** Opposition withdrawn. Paths shown on Definitive Map Sh. SJ97SE.

**Macclesfield Forest FPs. 34 and 35. Whitehills Farm.** The case against the paths running through the farm was lost and they are now shown on the above Definitive Map.

**North Rode, FP. 4.** Opposition withdrawn. Path shown on Definitive Map, Sh. SJ86NE.

**Sutton FP. 41.** Ratcliff Bridge S.E. to boundary fence of Ratcliff Wood. Withdrawn by Society. Remainder of path on Definitive Map Sh. SJ96NW.

**Macclesfield Forest FP. 4.** On the N. side of Trent a bank Reservoir and FP. 29, on the N. side of Ridgegate Reservoir. Delete at the provisional stage. The Society had no witnesses.

**Macclesfield Forest FP. 16, Hainclough.** From the A537 in a S. direction for approximately 100 yards. Shown on Definitive Map SJ97SE.

**Bucklow R.D., FP. 11, Parish of Tabley Superior.** Deleted from the Provisional Map.

**Bucklow R.D., FP. 20, Parish of Carrington.** Deleted from the Provisional Map.

**Bridgewater Canal Towing Path.** The right of way is subject to any obstruction which may be caused by the use of the footpath for purposes connected with navigation or maintenance or fishing of the canal and to the right of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., temporarily to stop up in the execution of maintenance.

**Wildboarclough FP. 27.** Macclesfield Forest Parish boundary at Broughsplace 985718 to County Road C406 (982713). Objection withdrawn. Path on Definitive Map SJ97SE.

**Wildboarclough FP. 28.** Gained upper part from FP. 27 to Dryknowl Farm 984713 only. Lost the lower part to Highash Farm. Upper part on Definitive Map.

## Footpaths in Derbyshire

**Stanage Golf Club.** Notice posted in Club House informing players that the path over the course is a public right of way.

**Matlock Golf Club, FP. 3. Chesterfield Road 309612 to Cuckoo-stone Plantation 311629.** After leaving Wright Lane at 310621 it continues in a N. direction via Cuckoostone House and Palethorpe Farm to path No. 1 (Cuckoostone Lane) at the above point. Path on Definitive Map SK36SW.

**Hope FP. 21 Twitchill Farm.** Path diverted to the railway bridge at Mill Lane, to avoid danger to children using the level crossing.

**Taxal Edge.** Whaley Bridge U.D.C. authorised repairs to the ladder stile in February, 1970.

**Goyt Valley.** Further steps added to the ladder stiles by the Forestry Commission, as same were too far apart for elderly persons.

**Toddbrook Reservoir.** The FP. on the N. side can be used as a public path. It is a cul-de-sac and unadopted.

**Buxton M.B. FP. 37.** Alongside the River Wye, Burbage 035722 to 038724. Misleading notice "Private Property" to be removed from the diverted path and a signpost to be erected. Path on Definitive Map Sh.SK07SW.

**Hayfield Parish FP. 12** to be diverted from the W. to the E. side of Highgate Farm.

**New Mills U.D. FP. 170 Rowarth.** New footbridge to be erected over the stream near Brookside Cottage.

**Ashford-in-the-Water FP. 12. 196699.** Path over Hall Orchard to be closed as two paths run through the Parish Playing Fields.

**Bakewell to Over Haddon FP. (212679).** Obstruction by wire removed, gaps left in stone walls and hedge cut back.

**Alport Dale — Alport Farm to Grindle Grain Tor.** No evidence of a FP. ever existing on the W. bank of the River Alport.

**Staveley FP. 22.** Cleared of obstruction.

**Wingerworth FP 39 (378666).** Re-laid with tarmac over a water pipe, in lieu of a footbridge. Path on Definitive Map Sh.SK36.

**Chesterfield M.B.** Diversion of FP. at Westbrook Drive approved by the Minister.

**Eyam to Foolow.** FP. (212767). The beech hedge which obstructed the path has been cut back.

**Win Hill Pike.** The FP. would appear to be a sufferance path with no legal right to the summit. The signpost originally erected by the Society on the point where the Ashopton path crosses carried a plate with the words "Sufferance path to Win Hill Summit, please return by the same route."

**Parkin Clough FP.** Derbyshire C.C. informed the Society that the path from Win Hill Pike to Yorkshire Bridge is not a public right of way. The Ashopton route was diverted down the Clough when the Ladybower Reservoir was being made and we understand that it was used for some twenty years.

**Lose Hill Farm to Hope Church.** New stile on FP. adjacent to the Farm.

**Dronfield FP. 58.** To be closed and an alternative path provided.

**Bamford Golf Course.** Public FP. signs and finger pointers fixed on thorn tree and Shaw Hay Barn.

**Chesterfield R.D. FP. 46 Parish of Barlow.** To be diverted by the National Coal Board between points 353746 and the footbridge at 354746 for approximately 70 yards. The new path will be a few yards to the N. and would run parallel to the existing one.

## **Survey of Rights of Way**

24 Provisional Maps published.

23 taken to Definitive Stage out of a total of 29.

Provisional outstanding:— Ashbourne R.D., Bakewell U.D., Bakewell R.D., Belper R.D., Chapel-in-le-Frith R.D.

Definitive outstanding, as Provisional plus New Mills.

## **Footpaths in Lancashire**

**Ashton-under-Lyne M.B. FP. 55 Knott Hill Reservoir.** The West Pennine Water Board have made the FP. accessible to conform with the route shown on the Definitive Map, i.e. from 960015 to 962017.

**Ashton-under-Lyne M.B. Tongue Bottom Farm FP. 68.** Sh.SD90 (965016 to 964019). Path to be closed and an alternative path from the above point on Mossley Road (A670) to FP. 67 at 963017 provided.

**Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.** Corporation now advise:—

- (a) **FP. 5 Snipe Colliery.** To be added to the statutory map at the next revision.
- (b) **FP. 45 Broadoak Road, to Broadoak Clough.** Obstruction removed from alongside school playing field.
- (c) **FP. 91 Higher Hartshead.** Sh.SD90 (958024). Steps being taken to remove the barbed wire obstruction which replaced a stile.
- (d) **FP. 40 Broadoak Clough.** Tipping obstruction. Path to be cleared by the Cleansing Department.

**Chorley M.B. FP. 16 Lower Healey Farm to The Nab.** Obstruction removed and replaced by stiles (603182).

**Crompton U.D. FP. 27.** Proposed diversion abandoned and a pedestrian way through the estate agreed to.

**Failsworth U.D.** New footbridge across Lord's Brook on FP. 34 and the footbridge across the River Medlock strengthened.

**Kearsley U.D. FP. 21.** Path through Oak Hill Farm improved by laying planks. Obstruction removed.

**Leigh M.B. FPs. 171, 176, 178 and 182.** The Corporation are to improve all paths which are affected by mining subsidence, flooding and tipping.

**Rochdale C.B.** Proposed closure of paths at Castleton (Thornman New Road, to Manchester Road) withdrawn by the Corporation.

**Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley R.D. FPs. 21, 22 and 23** on Whittle Hills 584215. FPs. 21 and 23 to be realigned, shortened and put into decent condition. FP. 22 to be closed.

## Footpaths in Staffordshire

**Alsagar U.D. FP. 25.** A new road runs parallel to the FP. which is not pleasant for walking and is to be closed.

**Hartington to Sheen FP.** Obstruction removed from the stile at 120610. Stile on the opposite side of the field cleared of barbed wire.

**Longnor FPs.** We were informed that the River Trent Board were recording the number of ramblers, etc., who were using the footpaths alongside the River Manifold. We understand that the area most likely to be flooded is approximately two miles south of Longnor and that up to six FPs. and one bridle road could be lost. We urge as many ramblers as possible to use the paths.

**Wetton Mill FP. 13.** The owner of the campers' field, Mrs. Grinsey, of Wetton Mill Farm, wishes she could see more of the genuine rambler who would walk the paths of the area. The words on the gate "Campers only" was a case of mis-wording on her part. Path on Definitive Map.

## Footpath in Yorkshire (W.R.)

**Hebden Royd U.D. FP. 118. Cragg Vale to Higher House.** All obstructions and misleading sign removed.

## Footpath Inspection

Our thanks are due to all those who have in a voluntary capacity and in many ways helped to keep the above footpaths open for the benefit of the public in general, and also to the many Authorities who have co-operated with us to make the objects possible.

Many complaints have been received during the year, investigated and considered by your Council, but only in those cases where final and factual information is available are particulars given. Numerous matters not mentioned are under consideration and will be referred to in future Reports. If urgent information is required it may be obtained from your representative on the Council who is supplied with a copy of the minutes of each meeting. There are approximately ten meetings per year.

The Society is also represented by the General Secretary at regular meetings in Buxton, Chester and Matlock, the Voluntary Joint Committee for the Peak National Park, The Rural Committee of the Cheshire Community Council and the Countryside Standing Conference Conservation Advisory Group of the Derbyshire C.C. respectively.

## FOOTPATH INSPECTORS REQUIRED

The Footpaths' Society needs additional Inspectors to cover its operational area in the counties of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire and the West Riding and invites applications from any members willing to act. They may suggest their own area of operation in the first place, but it may have to be modified to avoid overlapping. The area may be a part of one of the areas A-Y set out in the following pages. An outline of the duties is given below, and the Society will reimburse Inspectors for all reasonable travelling expenses incurred in the work.

### Duties of Inspectors

The primary duty of an Inspector is to investigate footpath complaints made to the secretary and to take appropriate action. Time permitting, he should also inspect the paths in his area.

Complaints may arise from misleading notices, deliberate obstruction or removal of stiles, disappearance of footbridges, locking of gates, blocking of paths by undergrowth or overgrowth, ploughing without reinstatement, or personal intimidation by landowners, tenants, uncontrolled dogs, bulls, etc. All of these call for positive action on our part.

On receipt of a complaint the Inspector should first visit the path in question and establish the facts. Complainants sometimes encounter obstructions because they are not on the path. For this purpose, 2½-inch maps are essential and the Society will provide them. It is also desirable, but by no means essential, to consult the official "definitive map" of footpaths (if there is one) at the Local Council Office. Inclusion of a footpath in such a map is conclusive evidence that it is a right of way, *but the opposite is not true*. An omitted path may still be public, though it will be much harder to prove that it is. It is useful to be able to refer to a definitive map and quote the official F.P. Number, but inability to do so need not deter an Inspector from following up a complaint.

If the complaint is confirmed, a tactful approach to the owner may help in some cases, but it is best to avoid involvement in disputes. It is unwise to remove an obstruction unless you are quite sure the path is public, and then only so much of it as is necessary for *you* to get through.

Having fully ascertained the facts, Inspectors should report to the Secretary, who will then write to the appropriate local authority. Inspectors should also attend the Society's Council Meetings and submit *brief factual reports on their work*. They will be supplied with a copy of a recently issued booklet on the "Law of Footpaths."

Offers of help should be addressed to the Society's Secretary.

## SIGNPOST GIFT YEAR, 1971

No doubt, members are aware that the Cheshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire County Councils provide many signposts on public rights of way, mainly on the highways where a footpath or bridleway leaves a metalled road. The Society is concerned that the footpaths, in the above counties, should be signposted at each end for the benefit of the rambler and public, some on the highway and others far from the highway; the latter is most important where the counties do not provide signposts.

The Society is now in a position to offer to its members, at a most reasonable price, a sign and post for a total cost of only £3.25. Other expenses incurred and future costs would be covered by the Society. The sign is 18 inches long and 4½ inches wide.

A list of suggested sites for the signposts is shown overleaf. If members wish to donate a signpost, please fill in the form provided and forward to the Honorary Secretary.

May I thank all members who show their generosity by giving a signpost.

T. EWART, Signpost Supervisor.

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Name .....

Address .....

Grid Ref. .... No. on list shown .....

Cheque/Money Order, please make payable to the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society.

## SIGNPOSTS

(Suggested Sites).

### Cheshire. Grid Ref.

1	677 855	High Legh 22 at plantation. Footpath from the A50 road to Lymm Dams.
2	676 823	South of Crowley Hall footpath to Back Lane, Arley.
3	773 823	Mobberley 70 near to Kellhouse Farm, footpath to Ashley Road.
4	889 691	Gawsworth 10 south of society's signpost No. 149 at roadside west of Gawsworth Church, footpath to Rodegreen.
5	890 667	North Rode 5 north of North Rode Church, footpath to Rodegreen and Gawsworth.
6	861 720	Position at roadside, footpath to B5392 between Henbury and Siddington (Henbury 4).
7	862 714	South of Hazelwall Farm (Siddington 18), footpath to Fanshawe and Redesmere.
8	863 788	(Wilmslow) between footpaths at a junction, footpath to Faulker's Farm and A538.
9	975 790	Position at Charles Head and B5089 road, footpath to Kettleshulme.
10	983 794	At Reeds Bridge, footpath to Charles Head and B5089 road.
11	972 807	Lyme Handley 23/24, footpath to West Parkgate.
12	981 765	Junction footpaths at Todd Brook (Jenkins Chapel). Footbridge required at this position. Rainow 6 Rainow and Blue Boar Farm.
13	976 763	Rainow 77. At roadside North of Buxterstoops Farm, footpath to Rainow.
14	959 831	Lyme Handley (junction of FP's 1, 5, 18 and 20). Footpath to enter Lyme Park, east of Plattwood Farm and close to cattle grid.
15	946 832	Poynton junction of footpaths 22 and 23, east of Macclesfield Canal, footpath to Hilltop Farm.
16	765 841	Ashley 3 at roadside WSW of Ashley station, footpath to Hale.
17	675 847	High Legh 16 at roadside A50 road, footpath to Lymm.
18	979 768	Rainow 8 close to lane Todd Brook. North of Burton's Farm, footpath to join Noll.
19	957 763	Rainow 77, footpath to Jenkins Chapel and Kettleshulme other end of No. 13.
20	956 860	Marple U.D.C. 194 near to Cawkeswell Field Farm, footpath to Wybersley Road.

### Derbyshire.

21	997 820	From the Whaley old road (close to a plantation to replace a previous signpost of the society's).
22	982 828	On roadside north of Bolder Hall (Higher Disley), footpath to Disley.

### Lancashire.

23	150 773	Tottington 35 A676 east of Loe Bank Farm, footpath to Tottington.
24	139 777	Tottington 35, footpath to A676 and Loe Bank.
25	923 176	Wardle, footpath to Rough Hill.
26	916 197	Footpath to Moorgate Farm.

## FOOTPATH WALKING SCHEME

Mid-week Walks arranged by the Manchester Area of the R.A. continued to have good support in 1970, and further rambles are planned as follows:

1971.

April 14	Disley	...	...	...	...	09.45 train	Piccadilly Station
May 12	Marple	...	...	...	...	09.45 train	Piccadilly Station
June 16	Bolton	...	...	...	...	10.00 bus	Salford Bus Station
July 14	Glossop	...	...	...	...	10.15 train	Piccadilly Station
Aug. 11	Alderley Edge	...	...	...	...	09.51 train	Piccadilly Station
Sept. 15	Whaley Bridge	...	...	...	...	09.45 train	Piccadilly Station
Oct. 13	Greenfield	...	...	...	...	10.00 bus	Lever Street

Times should be checked. They may have been altered. The walks are of moderate nature and little-used paths traversed.

R.A. members continue to survey paths and report obstructions.

The idea of local footpath groups is a good one and needs to be encouraged. In this way local authorities can easily be contacted, and in many cases difficulties resolved much more quickly. The Footpath Inspection Secretary of the Manchester Area welcomes the idea and is willing to assist in the fostering of these schemes.

Please note the October 13th ramble is in the Slackcote Valley area of Saddleworth, and many of the paths likely to be lost by the proposed reservoir scheme are to be used.

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## MEMBERSHIP

This Society needs a greatly-increased membership if it is to continue to have an effective voice in footpath matters. Numbers mean influence. It must find more recruits to that small body of dedicated men and women who carry this Society on their shoulders, I mean, of course, our Footpath Inspectors; without whom we would be lost. The only way to get these recruits is by increased membership. This all sounds very impudent from a new Membership Secretary, but I have sat in Council for several years and though I have rarely spoken, I certainly have not missed much. I have watched, and listened, and wondered: "What would happen if so-and-so dropped by the wayside?" Lastly, we are an ageing Society. How many young people do I see in Council? How many have we as members? We need numbers, members of all ages, though it would be nice to see some young people about our Society, so just see if you cannot recruit one new member this year and give the Membership Secretary a hell of a time for his nerve.

JOHN NEEDHAM.

## ANNUAL DINNER

A record number of guests were present on the occasion of our eighth event, and the popularity of this function appears to be increasing each year. Apart from the excellent meal and service, the relaxed atmosphere away from the committee room, and the being amongst friends imparts a feeling of well-being with all concerned.

Our two guests, Theo. S. Burrell, Director of the Peak Park Planning Board, and Ian Campbell, Secretary of the Commons Society, gave two well-delivered speeches, and much food for thought was forthcoming from these well-informed speakers.

It will be with regret that after our ninth event we shall have to look for a new rendezvous, as we understand that the Albion site is to be redeveloped.

Details of this year's event will be found below.

## NINTH ANNUAL DINNER

ALBION HOTEL, MARKET STREET, MANCHESTER,

FRIDAY, 16th APRIL, 1971.



Speakers: John Cripps, Esq., Chairman, Countryside Commission  
Derek Woodcock, "Outsiders" Radio, Manchester.

## Donations from Local Authorities

We are pleased to report that the following local authorities have contributed to our funds.

**County Council:** Derbyshire.

**County Borough:** Oldham.

**Municipal Borough:** Bacup.

**Urban District Councils:** Bowden; Dronfield; Hazel Grove and Bramhall; Marple; Penistone.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1970

### MEMBERSHIP

		1969	1970
Ordinary	...	336	340
Ten-year	...	47	65
Husband/Wife	...	188	198
Junior	...	6	8
Life	...	4	4
Affiliated Bodies	...	91	97
Local Authorities	...	7	7

During the year there has been a certain amount of transfer from one class of membership to another involving the Ordinary, Ten-Year and Husband/Wife categories which makes the above figures somewhat confused. Suffice it to say that overall we have an increase of 36, which is a continuing step in the right direction.

### FINANCE

Total income for the year shows an increase from all sources, which allied to a decrease in expenditure has produced an increased surplus, higher than for some time, although no legacies were forthcoming as was the case last year.

The income from members, societies and local authorities at £408 again did not cover expenditure which could only be rectified by a substantial increase in membership.

As in previous years the Special Funds showed a deficit on the year's working.

With a view to improving the income of the Society from other sources the Portfolio of Investments held is under review and recommendations to Council will be made from time to time, with regard to the disposal and acquisition of such investments.

### IN MEMORIAM

The following donation has been received in memory of a late member:—

**Received from:**  
Miss E. M. Meadowcroft.

**In memory of:**  
Mr. Herbert Meadowcroft.

**THE PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1970**

## INVESTMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1970

1969	1969
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5,034 5 4 Balance brought forward from 1969 .....	5,131 7 10
97 2 6 Investments made during year .....	— — —
 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>	 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>
<u>£5,131 7 10</u>	<u>£5,131 7 10</u>
	<u>£5,131 7 10</u>

## GENERAL EXPENSE RESERVE ACCOUNT AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1970

1969	1969
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,021 9 9 Balance brought forward from 1969 .....	770 18 2
461 4 10 Surplus from Income and Expenditure Account .....	652 9 2
 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>	 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>
<u>£1,482 14 7</u>	<u>£1,423 7 4</u>
	<u>£1,482 14 7</u>
	<u>£1,423 7 4</u>

## DEFENCE FUND AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1970

1969	1969
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,518 17 9 Balance brought forward from 1969 .....	2,000 0 0
5 10 2 Donations received during year .....	7 17 0
Transfer from General Expense Reserve .....	— — —
549 5 1 Account .....	— — —
 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>	 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"/>
<u>£2,073 13 0</u>	<u>£2,007 17 0</u>
	<u>£2,073 13 0</u>
	<u>£2,007 17 0</u>

## SURVEY ACCOUNT AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1970

1969			1969		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
149	11	4	Balance brought forward from 1969 .....	200	0
11	9	3	Donations received during year .....	12	10
65	8	10	Transfer from General Expense Reserve	6	
			—	—	—
	226	9	5	212	10
			6		
				226	9
					5
					10
					6

## SIGNPOST ACCOUNT AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1970

1969			1969		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
365	8	4	Balance brought forward from 1969 .....	317	7
12	4	6	Donations received during year .....	18	7
			10	10	0
	377	12	10	335	15
			4		
				377	12
					10
					15
					4

## EDWIN ROYCE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE GRANT FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

1969			1969		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
91	2	3	Balance brought forward from 1969 .....	91	2
			3		
	91	2	3	91	2
			3		
					3

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1970**

1969			1969						
f	s.	d.	f	s.	d.	f	s.	d.	
2	3	6	Cash in hand .....	15	11	4	2,000	0	0
—	—	—	Petty Cash .....	—	—	—	317	7	10
66	1	2	Cash at Bank .....	355	11	0	200	0	0
8,498	11	5	Deposits and Investments .....	8,676	8	7	770	18	2
—	—	—	Accrued .....	116	14	8	91	2	3

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY.

I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of my Audit. In my opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from my examination of those books. I have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account which are in agreement with the books of Account. In my opinion and to the best of my information and according to the explanations given to me the said Accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Society as at 31st October, 1970, and the Income and Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view of the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

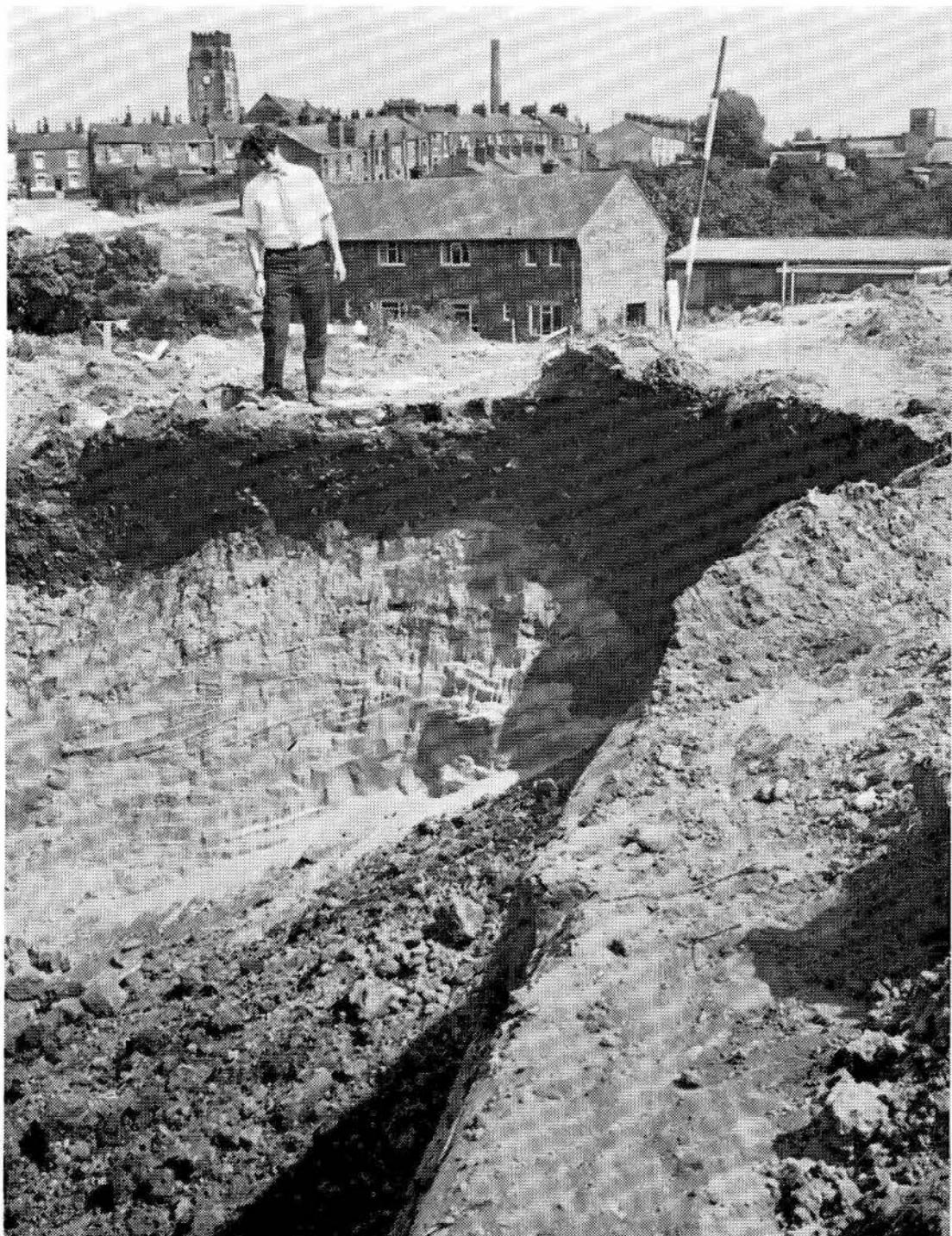
London, 11th February, 1971.

A. IRVING, Auditor.

## LIST OF AFFILIATED BODIES, 1970

Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Pres. Society.  
Altrincham and District Natural History Society.  
Barnsley District Footpaths Society.  
Barnsley Mountaineering Club.  
Boy Scouts' Association, S.E. Lancs.  
3rd Altrincham Grammar School Scout Group.  
Hazel Grove, Bramhall and District Boy Scouts' Association.  
Bramhall Ratepayers' Association.  
British Naturalists' Association Manchester Branch.  
Buxton Field Club.  
Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland, Lancs. and Cheshire Assoc.  
Camping Club of Great Britain and Ireland, London.  
Camping Club of G.B. and I. North West Region.  
Cheadle Heath and District Residents' Association.  
Cheshire County Federation of Ratepayers and Kindred Associations.  
C.E. Holiday Homes, Liverpool Section.  
C.E. Holiday Homes, Manchester Section.  
C.E. Holiday Homes, Sheffield Group.  
C.E. Holiday Homes, Stockport Group.  
C.E. Holiday Homes Ltd., Warrington.  
The C.H.A. Manchester.  
The C.H.A. Altrincham and District Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. and H.F. Ashton-u-Lyne and District Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Barnsley Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Bury and District Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. and H.F. Buxton Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Eccles Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Leicester Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Leigh and District Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Manchester 'C' Section Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Manchester 'D' Section Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Mansfield Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Oldham Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Rochdale Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Sheffield 'A' Section Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Sheffield 'B' Section Rambling Club.  
The C.H.A. Stockport Rambling Club.  
College of Adult Education Rambling Club.  
The Crescent Ramblers, Northwich.  
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society, Derby.  
Derbyshire Pennine Club, Sheffield.  
The Disley Society.  
Good Companions Rambling Club, Sheffield.  
Halcyon Rambling Club, Sheffield.  
Hanliensian Rambling Club, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Hazel Grove Townswomen's Guild.  
Holiday Fellowship Ltd., London.  
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.  
Kindred Spirits Walking Society, Dob Cross.  
L.I.M.D.O. Staff of AEI Ltd.  
Longdendale Amenity Society.

Macclesfield and District Field Club.  
Macclesfield Rambling Club.  
Manchester Associates Rambling Club.  
Manchester & District Blind Rambling Club.  
Manchester Fellowship (Ramblers Section).  
Manchester Pedestrian Club.  
Manchester Rambling Club.  
Marple District Rambling Club.  
Marple Residents' Association.  
Mid-Cheshire Footpaths Society.  
Moor and Mountain Club.  
Mossley Civic Trust.  
North Western Naturalists' Union, Manchester.  
Peak Wardens' Association.  
Pedestrians Society for Road Safety.  
Ramblers' Association, Derbyshire Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Liverpool Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Manchester Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Nottingham Area.  
Ramblers' Association, Sheffield and District Area.  
Rucksack Club.  
Saddleworth Civic Trust.  
Sale and District Social Rambling Club.  
Sheffield Clarion Ramblers.  
Sheffield Rambling Club.  
Sheffield Co-operative Rambling Club.  
Spires Rambling Club.  
Stockport Field Club.  
St. Mary's Disley Church, Women's Fellowship.  
Sutton-in-Ashfield and District Rambling Club.  
Thelwall Owner-Occupiers' Association.  
The Knutsford Society.  
United Field Naturalist Society.  
Wayfarers Rambling Club, Manchester.  
Wayfarers Rambling Club, Nottinghamshire.  
Whaley Bridge Amenity Society.  
W.E.A. Stockport Rambling Club.  
Y.H.A. Longton Group.  
Y.H.A. Sheffield Sub-Section.  
Y.H.A. Stockport Area.  
Y.M.C.A. Manchester Mountaineering Club.



Courtesy Middleton Guardian.

*Millfold. This is what happened to the footpath.*