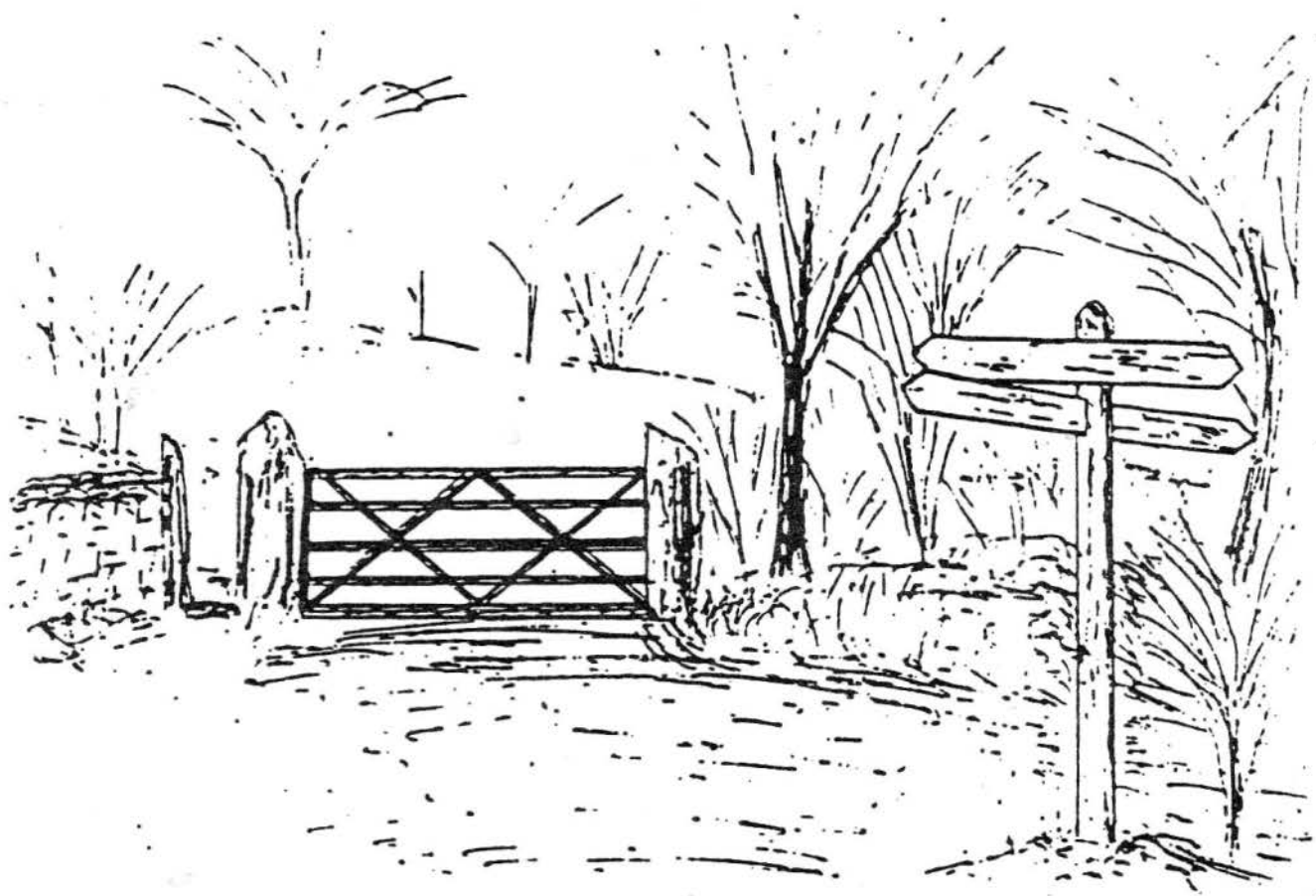


Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



ANNUAL REPORT
1983

PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Founded in 1894; Manchester Association Founded 1826

President:

F S H Head, Ph.D., D.Sc.

Vice Presidents:

D T Berwick
G S Cooper

P Daley
Mrs E Evison

T Ewart
E A W Newton

Officers and Council Members:

L G Meadowcroft (Chairman)

J F Houfe (Vice Chairman)

Hon. General Secretary:

D Taylor
15 Parkfield Drive, Tyldesley, Manchester M29 8NR. 061-790 4383

Hon. Treasurer:

S Shaw
10 Alstone Road, Stockport SK4 5AH. 061-432 6097

Membership Secretary:

T Whittaker
51 Queensway, Heald Green, Cheshire SK8 3ET. 061-437 1226

Closure & Diversions Secretary:

D W Lee
7 Mossway, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester M24 1WR. 061-653 4560

Signpost Supervisor:

Footpath Inspection Scheme Secretary:

Auditor:

E McCormick

Archivist:

-

Council:

Mrs L Barton
A Bennett MP
W Brookfield
Mrs E Daley JP

N Edwards
Miss R Irlam
Mrs E Johnson

D Mace
J Ogden
C R Peers

FOREWORD THEN AND NOW

Fifty years ago the Society was awaiting the outcome of the 1932 Rights of Way Act which had recently come into force and whose first fruits had seemed rather bitter. In retrospect, nothing very catastrophic appears to have followed, and the Act did establish the important principle that twenty years uninterrupted use is sufficient to establish a legal right of way. In those far-off days there were no public inquiries and court cases were almost as infrequent. The Society relied on persuasion, occasionally laced with threats and legalistic bluffing. So it was to remain until after the end of the Second World War, and the upheaval provoked by the passing of the 1949 National Parks Act, whose novel footpaths provisions were viewed with some disquiet by the Society's Officers.

There followed a lengthy and seemingly never ending process of surveys and draft and provisional maps leading up to the final definitive maps in which the Society was heavily involved. Some authorities sheltered behind this process and refused to deal with footpath complaints until their maps were published. Under the terms of the 1949 Act they should have been completed within five years, but it was not until 1962 that Lancashire became the first of our counties to produce its map and we had to wait until 1977 for Derbyshire to publish the last.

By 1965 however we were complaining of a "wave of obstructions and petty interferences with footpaths". In the fifties you might meet one or two in a year's rambling; now they were commonplace and in the following year the White Paper on Leisure in the Countryside confronted us with the threat of "rationalisation". Providentially, or perhaps in consequence, our redoubtable Diversion and Closure Secretary, who has done so much to combat these menaces, arrived on the scene at about the same time. Public inquiries to settle footpath problems became the order of the day together with occasional proceedings in magistrates' courts and the Society saved a great many paths.

Today we await the consequences of the Wildlife Act, coupled with those of the disastrous judgment in the Chequers diversion case, referred to in the Commentary. Last year we appealed for volunteers to deal with the new Definitive Map Orders and we are glad to say that several people, including some of our Inspectors, have offered their services. Thanks to a generous grant from the Sports Council we shall be able to arrange a training course for them, and though the expected rush of DMOs has been slow to develop, we shall certainly need their services in the near future. The general backlash against countryside recreation (of which the Government's vetoing of the purchase of Big Moor by the Peak Park Board, and the Countryside Commission's decision not to promote any more long-distance paths are recent examples) will confront us with many difficulties in the years ahead. Much will depend on the Society's ability to defend footpaths over the next few years.

FRANK HEAD

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1983

It is my pleasure to present for your consideration, my report for the year ended 31st December 1983.

Obstructions & Clearances

The year has once again produced its usual crop of obstructed paths and negotiations to have them re-opened have taken place with almost all local authorities in the area we cover. Statistics show that during the year some 213 paths were reported to be obstructed in some way and 66 were reported as being clear, having previously been obstructed. When considering the merits of the various councils I think that once again I would place Derbyshire CC at the top of my league as the most co-operative council of the year with Staffordshire CC again occupying a place at the bottom (what a pity there is no chance of relegation). Between these two authorities there range the fairly good to the almost hopeless. One authority, Wigan MBC whom I must rate pretty low in my league table, did however prosecute a farmer for obstructing a public footpath (Leigh 241) and won the day, but alas the fine imposed by the Magistrates was a mere £30 plus £30 costs. Little wonder therefore that Councils are not wildly enthusiastic about prosecuting those who break the law. The actual cost to the authority of bringing the case to court must have been at least 10 times £30. On the brighter side of things, the number of clearances during the year has been quite exceptional, I cannot recall a year when we have managed to have so many blocked paths re-opened. I think this deserves to be recognised and so I have had all the clearances marked with an asterisk in the Footpath Report for 1983.

I have been trying to analyse our successes in an attempt to recognise a common factor, but none is apparent. I can therefore merely advance two of my own theories (a) that persistence has at last paid off, for I send out hundreds of reminder cards each year, making it clear to local authorities that the Society is not prepared to be ignored and (b) this year, more than in previous years, Inspectors and Members have actually informed me when paths have been cleared. This is valuable information and it enables me to close files and concentrate my efforts on the paths which remain obstructed.

Ploughing

I mentioned in my report last year how important it was to have at least one ploughing and non-reinstatement case lodged with each local authority. During the year we made good progress in that respect to the extent that some 20 cases were duly reported. Once again there is a very real reluctance on the part of Councils to prosecute in these cases. The reasons for this are that (a) it causes them a lot of work and (b) they don't like to offend farmers and landowners or indeed ourselves so they take up the uncomfortable position of "sitting on the fence". I suppose therefore that it depends on who pushes them the hardest as to which side of the fence they eventually fall on. Please be assured that I will continue to push very hard indeed. In the meantime please continue to let me have full reports of any path which is ploughed and not reinstated within 14 days.

Local & District Plans

One of the more time consuming of my tasks on behalf of the Society is to receive, consider and make comments on the many local & district plans which appear regularly on my desk. This year we have dealt with ten, namely:-

- Staveley & Brimington Local Plan
- North East Derbyshire Green Belt Plan
- Rudyard Lake Area - District Plan
- Swinton Local Plan
- Mersey Valley Plan
- Croal / Irwell Valley Plan
- Monton, Claremont & Seedley Local Plan

Heavy Wollen District Plan
Chesterfield Local Plan
Kersal & Pendleton Local Plan

I have to say that I am indebted to other Officers and Inspectors of the Society who have kindly helped me by studying some of the Plans and letting me have their observations. I often wonder if the time and effort involved in studying and formally lodging our comments on these Plans is really worthwhile. It is not very often that we see any evidence that our observations have resulted in any sort of amendment, but I suppose we must continue to show our interest.

Special Problems in Staffordshire

I mentioned earlier that it was my considered opinion that Staffordshire County Council came at the bottom of my league of Local Authorities and I make no excuse for mentioning it again and quoting a particular instance. Since April 1980, I have been drawing the attention of the County Council to two badly obstructed footpaths in the Parish of Grindon, path nos 18 and 40. On the former, 4 out of 6 stiles were either obstructed or were non-existent and on the latter 7 out of 16 stiles were similarly affected. I have been pressing for action over the years until in May 1983, the Highways Department advised "the footpaths were clear of obstruction at the last inspection" we were delighted, until our Inspector, making a quick re-check of the situation reported "very little change". This type of devious dealing we cannot accept and so we have decided to submit a case to the Commissioner for Local Administration, the Ombudsman, for we believe there has been maladministration by the Council.

The Society's Slide Lecture

It has been my privilege during the year to present the Society's slide lecture at meetings of three of our affiliated societies. In so doing I would like to say how very much I appreciated the welcome I received on each of these occasions, it was a real pleasure to meet kindred spirits with a very real interest in and concern for public footpaths. My visits resulted in several donations to Society funds and perhaps more important, a number of new members enrolled. If you are interested in my bringing the lecture along to your meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The National Trust

On several occasions over the last few years, the Society has found itself expressing concern at the attitude of the National Trust towards public rights of way and we have felt that there has certainly been a lack of awareness and concern by the Trust. I am pleased to be able to record therefore that your Officers have recently met with the National Trust Land Agent for the area as a result of which we were able to have a frank exchange of views. I believe that as a result of that meeting we shall in the future at least have consultation rather than confrontation.

Conclusion

In conclusion may I take the opportunity to thank the Society's Officers and Footpath Inspectors for their help and assistance during the year. We are indeed fortunate in having a very good team at the moment which, during the coming year, we hope to strengthen by the appointment of one or more Definitive Map Officers.

DEREK TAYLOR
GENERAL SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1983

Affiliated Societies

There were 91 societies affiliated at 31st January 1984 compared with 85 in the previous year - a net increase of 6.

Annual Members

Individual members total 366, including 91 married couples, and this is an increase of 26 over last year. There has been a heartening number of new members during 1983, but again 33 members have not renewed yet despite a written reminder.

Ten Year Members

We now have 226 members including 37 married couples paying the fee of £12.50 (£18 for married couples) for 10 year membership, an increase of 39. A number of our annual members have realised the financial saving and hedge against inflation of this type of membership and changed over in 1983.

Total Membership

The Society now has 9 Life Members including 3 married couples and the current total membership stands at 601, a net increase of 69. Once again both members and clubs have been very generous in making substantial donations to the Society funds and we are most grateful to these kind friends.

TED WHITTAKER

COMMENTARY

Diversion Orders

Last year the RAs Footpath Worker reviewed 18 Closure Order cases and this year they have dealt with 27 diversion cases made under HA80 S.119 or HA59 S.111. Such Orders may only be issued if a Council is satisfied that a diversion is expedient for securing efficient use of the land, or for providing a shorter or more commodious path. The Order must not change the termination point of a path unless it is on a highway and it is moved to another point on it substantially as convenient to the public. Before confirming an Order the SOS must be satisfied that the diversion is expedient for the reasons stated in it and will also not be substantially less convenient to the public. He must also take account of its effect on the lands over which the path and the diversion run and on the public enjoyment of the path as a whole.

Of the 27 Orders reviewed 15 were confirmed and 12 rejected. Eleven Orders were confirmed out of 20 dealt with by public inquiries and 4 out of 7 dealt with by written representation. If it is held that a diversion will not secure efficient use of the land, or provide a more commodious or shorter path the Order must fail, but if it passes these tests then it must also pass those for convenience, public enjoyment, and effect on the land.

Not surprisingly, most of the Orders (22) were allegedly made to secure efficient use of land and only five failed on that ground. Of the accepted 17 only two were then rejected as being less convenient to the public. The general impression given by the decisions in these cases is that the officials are ready enough to listen to all sorts of trivial claims relative to efficiency, but much harder to persuade of inconvenience to the public. The reasons given and accepted for seeking diversions were often unconvincing in the extreme, and indeed it seems that almost anything will do for some sections of the DOE, though not all. In several cases securing efficient use was taken to mean more efficient use - a much easier test.

Part of Repton 35, which crosses a field diagonally, was diverted merely because the owner was concerned at possible conflicts between walkers and animals, and felt he could not use the field freely for grazing, though (like countless others) it had been so used for many years. At Duntisbourne Abbots (Cotswolds) where a garden had been made over a FP, the Inspector accepted that diversion would secure efficiency in the garden. At Kibworth Beauchamp (Leics) a path was diverted from a field used for training horses to a roadside footway because walkers' dogs were alleged to interfere with the grazing of horses, and stilts for jumping could not be erected over the path. The local RA and Footpaths Society accepted the diversion and the SOS claimed that re-routing over a tarmac pavement would not significantly affect public enjoyment. At Mottram St Andrews, however, a path over land newly used for horse training was diverted into open fields containing stilts. After noting that there was strong public feeling against the diversion because of several disadvantages, the Inspector nevertheless concluded that it should go ahead because public access was not compatible with the handling of race horses.

Most surprising, perhaps, was a case at Angmering where West Sussex County Council proposed a diversion mainly because a path was too well used! According to them as many as fifty walkers an hour passed near a house at weekends which interfered with the owner's privacy and prevented him from keeping free range hens and a guard dog. As in several other cases the Chequers judgment was cited to justify a wide interpretation of the words "efficient use". At Ludgershall (Wilts) a lengthy diversion was approved by the SOS to discourage trespassing and vandalism, but he turned down two other Orders based on "efficient use" at Sutton cum Duckmanton (Derbyshire) and North Mimms (Herts), perhaps because no evidence of efficiency was produced. He also rejected a diversion at Cookham (Berks) proposed, oddly enough, by a local RA Group because the path has been ploughed regularly without reinstatement. More encouragingly, a diversion at Wheathamstead (Herts) was turned down by the SOS largely on amenity grounds, because attractive views would be lost and the enjoyment of the public seriously affected. At Barnston (Essex) he rejected his Inspector's recommended diversion to secure privacy for a house and enable its owner to keep a horse and some goats for domestic purposes.

Of course, as we pointed out last year, the actual decisions are taken by regional officers of the DOE, some of whom are sounder on law and more sympathetic to public rights than others. Hence a number of seemingly inconsistent decisions by "the SOS".

Chequers Chickens Come Home to Roost

It is clear from the cases considered in the previous section that a much wider interpretation is now being placed upon the words "efficient use of land" than formerly, and that this is a result of the Queen's Bench judgment in respect of the diversion of a footpath at Chequers, a mansion reserved for the use of British Prime Ministers. The SOS, DOE had confirmed a diversion order made by the local authority on the ground that visitors to Chequers might be shot by a gunman using the path, which was only 450 yards from the house. Had this decision been quietly accepted as a very special case, no more might have been heard of it, but ill-advised and determined opposition, pursued against counsel's advice, led to an appeal to the courts and a legal interpretation of HA59 S.111 which has made opposition to diversion orders much more difficult. The section permits of diversion to secure "efficient use of land" crossed by a FP, or "other land held therewith", and this had always been taken to refer to agricultural uses, etc. Not so; the judge held that Chequers Court was "other land" and because it was intended to provide a haven of "peace and quiet" for Prime Ministers, reducing the risk of terrorism would ensure that it was "put to the best possible and most advantageous use". The appeal was therefore dismissed. The judge sympathised with the appellant's fear that this judgment would be the "thin end of the wedge for all sorts of other applications", and would "spell disaster for those who have at heart the preservation of rights of way in the countryside". He said he would deprecate its being used in this way - but of course that it just what is happening. It would surely have been wiser not to court disaster by invoking the courts.

Fred Darwin

We are sorry to have to report that our energetic friend, Fred, has had to retire from organising the mid-week walks because of severe hip trouble. We hope that his recent operation will restore him to complete mobility.

Staffordshire County Bill

The County Council promoted a Bill which would have empowered them to forbid walking on grass verges and establish a closure procedure for Stoke-on-Trent to which objection could only be made by appeal to the Crown Court. We supported the RA in a petition which resulted in satisfactory amendments to the Bill.

Farewell Greater Manchester ?

Members will know that the Government is hoping to abolish the six Metropolitan County Councils as well as the GLC, and to transfer their functions to the District Councils and a number of Joint Boards. The Society's council thinks that this proposal would adversely affect our work. In particular, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire have been much more helpful in FP matters than most of the District Councils which would take over highway (including FP and BW) functions from them. Amongst others, South Yorkshire's highly successful "Adopt a Path" scheme would be endangered. There are doubts as to the ability of the Districts to cope with the legal intricacies concerning definitive maps or to give the maps sufficient priority and financial resources. They are also likely to take a more parochial view of planning matters and to put up less resistance to encroachments into the green belts.

The provision of recreation and transport facilities in the countryside, which the GMC and the two Yorkshire Metropolitan Counties have done much to promote, would suffer considerably and there is also a long term danger that the Shire Counties would follow the Metropolitans into oblivion, with serious consequences for the National Parks which would fall into the hands of the Districts. At least one local Conservative MP has already advocated the abolition of all counties. The Society's Council has therefore decided to oppose the abolition of the Metropolitan Counties and urges its members to write accordingly to their MPs.

Publicity

Several slide transparency lectures have been given to various organisations by our Chairman and Secretary and have resulted in donations to the Society's funds. The lecture is being constantly updated and increased in size and suitable colour slides are always welcome from members.

Disposal of Surplus Funds

Over the years our funds have benefited considerably from the generosity of former members, and if you are one of the fortunate people with surplus money to leave behind you, we should like to draw your attention to the Form of Bequest at the end of this report.

Exhibition

The Society's display has been increased by the addition of two further screens and these have been exhibited at Williams and Glyn's Bank, Hazel Grove, and the Volunteer Shop, Lower Hillgate, Stockport. Further sites are being sought, and members are invited to assist in this work. We are indebted to Mrs Betty North for the effort she has made in producing this display.

F H

MID WEEK WALKS - SUMMER 1984

These walks are of moderate grade and are in connection with footpath survey work. Please carry secateurs, if available, for use if necessary.

APRIL

- 11 Leader Myra Gregory. Entwistle circular. 09.55 train from Victoria. (L)
25 Leader Elsie Johnson. Dinting circular. 10.00 train from Piccadilly. (L)

MAY

- 9 Leader Don Cummings. Alderley Edge circular. 10.03 train from Piccadilly.
23 Leader Kay Wells. 09.55 train from Victoria, alight Darwen, book Blackburn return.

JUNE

- 13 Leaders Val Blackshaw and Bess Ingham. Norden circular. 10.13 No. 167 bus from Arndale Bus Station. (L)
27 Leader Fred Travis. Etherow and Longdendale. 09.33 No. 210 bus Piccadilly to Gee Cross (Apethorn Lane). (L)

JULY

- 11 Leader Richard Ingle. Hathersage circular. 09.55 train from Piccadilly, book Peak Wayfarer ticket.
25 Leader Les Meadowcroft. Chelford circular. 09.33 train from Piccadilly. (L)

AUGUST

- 8 Leader Harold Hulme. Disley circular. 10.13 train from Piccadilly.
22 Leader Harold Brimelow. Altrincham to Heald Green. 09.30 No. 263 bus from Piccadilly. (L)

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Leader Ted Jessop. Greenfield. 10.01 No. 180 bus from Stevenson Square to Clarence Hotel, Greenfield. (L)
26 Leader Harry Berry. Rose Hill circular. 09.50 train from Piccadilly to Rose Hill (Marple).

(L) indicates that leader joins party en route.

ARCHIVES RESEARCH AND SIGNPOSTS

Work is proceeding steadily on the listing of the Society's documents and plans, and we have recently entered the stage of dealing with post-war documentation, with one or two exceptions. Tribute must be paid to those members of the team who regularly attend each Monday and give freely of their time. Without them we should not have reached the present stage of advancement, and we shall fairly soon have a record of most paths that have come to the Society's attention.

Continual progress is recorded by a diligent lady member in classifying our signposts and bridges together with identifiable cross-references. By courtesy of the Secretary of the Derbyshire Footpaths Society we have had our original signpost record book rebound, and it is now good for many more years of service.

During the year we have received gifts of a new carpet, a cabinet, and some electrical assistance, whilst another member treated the archives team to a little Christmas cheer.

Two signposts have been donated during the year, a commemorative post on Chinley Churn, above Birch Vale (GR 030863) and a memorial post near Lee House, Upper Booth, Edale (GR 115843). The memorial post to Sgt. Hart, RAF has also been replaced at Lower Cliff Farm, Lyme Handley (GR 982804) together with the original plaque. Twenty-five posts have received major overhauls or replacements, two previously renovated posts have had further repairs and two more have been inspected for major refurbishment.

A further memorial post is under preparation for a future site in the Dane Bridge area, whilst two other memorial posts have had their plaques re-lettered. Much manual labour has been involved, and we are grateful to all. A grant towards defraying half the cost of Ordnance Survey royalties and VAT has been received from the Thomas Lockerby Fund, and this is appreciatively acknowledged. We shall be pleased to receive information of any of The Society's signs which have not been recently overhauled. Please give Location, Grid Reference and Post Number.

Signpost Maintenance - Work Completed

Number	Grid Reference	Site
50	192986	Mickleden Edge
51	198006	Little Brookhouse
52	197015	Nr. Flouch Inn
54	015890	Long Lee Farm, Rowarth
71	140897	Nr. Heyridge Farm
74	186885	Nr. Grindle Clough
78	225781	Sir William Road
89	031883	Above Little Hayfield
93	163843	SE of Lose Hill Farm
99	212795	Stoke Ford
Simmons Commemorative Post		
	035863	Chinley Churn above Birch Vale
104	989698	Clough House, Wildboarclough
109	979820	Nr. Dissop Head
110	028891	Nr. Blackshaw Farm, Little Hayfield
115	982804	Lower Cliff Farm
127	676156	North of Wright's Arms, Belmont
129	702179	On Darwen Road
154	954.5.805.2	At Keeper's Cottage
155	955806.2	North of Keeper's Cottage
164	932895	Waterside Farm, Otterspool
166	991865	Shaw's Farm, Cobden Edge
181	974813	Bowstonegate
188	035723	Berryclough, Old Macclesfield Road
189	974758	Lamaload Reservoir
192	144508	Isaac Walton Farm
193	194884	Below Derwent Edge
Schofield Memorial Post		
	097855	Nr. Lee House, Edale

Post No 164 has since been re-vandalised.

L G M

FOOTPATH REPORT 1983

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- Adlington Non-definitive Allegations of an obstruction by person. Landowner maintains that path is not public. Local people say it has been used for "many" years. Any person having used this path should contact the Secretary, quoting Ref 83/993. Path is from Sugar Lane at Clark Green 93057929 to 93187943 shown as a dotted line and then a track on O.S. 1 : 25,000 SJ 87/97.
- * Adlington 26 (Macclesfield BC) Remedial work carried out to the stile and in the surrounding area 915793. Path now clear but confusing on the ground.
- Adlington 27 (Macclesfield BC) Path obstructed by fencing where it passes under the railway at 928799. Local authority are dealing.
- * Alderley Edge 49 (Cheshire CC) Path previously reported as being "under water" even in the best of weather. Now appears to be clear but is certainly low lying. 853792 to 858792.
- Appleton 19, 20 & 25 (Warrington BC) Signposts missing and several barbed wire fences in evidence. Reported to local authority.
- * Ashley 13 & 14 (Cheshire CC) The County Council advise that these paths are now clear and this is confirmed by our Inspector.
- Ashley 15 (Cheshire CC) Obstructed at three points between 794828 and 794838. Cheshire are dealing.
- * Ashton-by-Budworth 6 / Tabley Superior 10 (Cheshire CC) Two stiles and a very satisfactory bridge have been erected on the line of path which is now in good condition throughout 706806.
- * Bosley 2 (Cheshire CC) Council signpost now firmly re-erected on the A523 at 918655.
- Bosley 10 / Gawsworth 26 (Cheshire CC) Path obstructed by a barbed wire fence on the parish boundary 927681. Reported to Cheshire Highways.
- Chorley 6, 18 & 21 (Cheshire CC) Dangerous stiles, barbed wire obstructions and ploughed out paths are all evident in this area. Full details passed to Cheshire CC.
- Cranage 3 (Cheshire CC) Path closed by owner of a newly built house as path line runs through the garden. 761688 to 757678. Cheshire are to provide a stile kit which the owner has agreed to accept and erect.
- * Gawsworth 10 (Cheshire CC) Step stile satisfactorily rebuilt at 889696, all stiles now in good order.
- Great Warford 5 (Cheshire CC) Path completely ploughed out and not reinstated. 820775 to 818775. One of several ploughing cases reported to Cheshire CC.
- Great Warford 11 / Nether Alderley 2 (Cheshire CC) Footbridge down at the junction of these paths also stile completely overgrown 817766. Cheshire CC informed.
- Kettleshulme 21 (Cheshire CC) Obstructed by a locked gate at 999803. Cheshire CC are dealing.
- * Lymm 37 (Warrington BC) Path ploughed out earlier in the year but has now been reinstated following complaints by the Society. 709880 to 714887.
- * Macclesfield Forest 7 (Cheshire CC) A stile has now been constructed at 957725 and access to Hardingland Farm Lane is now possible.
- * Macclesfield Forest 9 (Cheshire CC) Path now back on correct line with two new stiles erected at Ashtreetop Farm 960727.
- * Macclesfield Forest 10 (Cheshire CC) New ladder stile erected at 972727, path now available for use.

- * Macclesfield Forest 27 (Cheshire CC) Reported early in the year as being obstructed at two points. Subsequently one new ladder stile erected and the step stile over the wall made more clear. 985720 to 981722.
- * Marthall 3 / Ollerton 22 (Cheshire CC) Following representations by the Society a new bridge has been erected over Marthall Brook 794763.
- * Marthall 19 (Cheshire CC) A path badly affected by flooding even in the driest of weather. Cheshire now advise that hardcore has been spread in the affected areas. 812756 to 810762.
- Mobberley 52, 53 & 80 (Cheshire CC) All paths affected by a flooded quarry and are not on their correct line. Area around 819803.
- * Mobberley 59 (Cheshire CC) After lengthy correspondence two new stiles have been erected at 806821 and 805822. Path is now open again after being obstructed for many years.
- Mobberley 60 (Cheshire CC) Correct line of path is blocked by fencing surrounding a garden area at the renovated Beehive Farm. An unofficial diversion has been stiled and signposted on less firm ground. 807725. Referred to Bollin Valley Officer who is investigating.
- Mobberley 62 (Cheshire CC) Damaged stile at 79898201 requires only limited attention to make it sound. Cheshire are dealing.
- Nether Alderley 25 (Cheshire CC) Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 835760 and completely ploughed out between 835759 and 836757. Reported to the County Council.
- Nether Alderley 51 (Brinlow Lane Road) Following complaints by the Society Cheshire CC report that a bridleway sign has been erected and the stile repaired. 853772.
- * North Rode 5 (Cheshire CC) The damaged stile at 88856770 has now been repaired by the farmer following a direct request by the Society's Inspector.
- * Ollerton 13 (Cheshire CC) A new bridge has been provided by the County Council at 783761. The path is now open and in good condition.
- Over Alderley 9 (Cheshire CC) An odd situation where large dogs are allowed to roam free behind a gate which is not locked. A notice states "Beware of Dogs" and a bell is provided which summons the owner who secures the dogs whilst the walker passes. There is no obstruction as such but the complainant objects to having to ring a bell to pass along what is a definitive right of way. 86557688. Referred to Inspector for further information.
- * Over Alderley 15 (Cheshire CC) The sign for this path has been re-erected and a new ladder stile is in position following representations by the Society. 861766 to 863760.
- Peover Superior 21 & 23 (Cheshire CC) Obstructed by barbed wire at a number of points 790750 to 795744 and on to 784741. Reported to the County Council by the Knutsford Civic Society. Peak & Northern maintaining a watching brief.
- Plumley 12, 13 & 14 (Cheshire CC) Paths 13 & 14 ploughed out and not reinstated, 713751 to 713749 & 715753 to 714753. On path 12 the arm is missing from the signpost and there is a broken stile and barbed wire at 717745. Cheshire have been notified of all problems.
- * Poynton with Worth 14 (Macclesfield BC) Path obstructed for some time but now a new stile has been erected at 940852 and the path is clear.
- Poynton with Worth 55 & 57 (Macclesfield BC) Both paths obstructed by a tipping site in the area adjacent to 931840. Reported to the Borough Council.
- Poynton with Worth 78 (Macclesfield BC) A Closure / Diversion application which was opposed by the Society. The proposal was to close a path at the rear of gardens and following a public inquiry the closure was approved.

- * Rostherne 6 (Cheshire CC) Obstruction at junction of fields has now been removed. Stiles and SPs are in position and in good order. 749832.
- Sandbach 17 (Congleton BC) Council proposed a complete replacement of this rural footpath by housing estate roads. Following an inquiry at which the Society were co-objectors with the Mid Cheshire Society the SOS announced a compromise solution which was mainly satisfactory.
- Siddington 8 & 9 (Cheshire CC) A dangerous stile and an electrified fence affects FP 8 and the footpath sign on FP 9 requires attention. Reported to local authority.
- Sutton 18 (Cheshire CC) An unofficial diversion of this path was unacceptable to the Society and following negotiations with the Society's Inspector, a new stile and temporary ladder stile have been erected. 937700 to 939707.
- Swettenham 11 (Cheshire CC) The waymarked path from Kermincham Hall to Sweetenham is blocked at a field boundary by a large corrugated iron sheet. 800679 to 808680. Inspector is dealing.
- Tabley Inferior 6 (Cheshire CC) Ploughed headland path at 733765 reported to local authority.
- Warburton 3 (Warrington BC) A new stile has been erected but there is still a need for a plank bridge and signpost. 887712. Local authority is aware.
- * Wildboarclough 16 (Macclesfield BC) The Society's Inspector advises that this path is now clear of obstructions. 970683 to 977681.
- Wilmslow 7 (Macclesfield BC) This path is obstructed by a fenced car parking area built over the line of path 839845 and the signpost arm has been very precisely sawn off. Here we have two offences, one against highway law and the other against planning law. Macclesfield Council are well aware of our concern but are slow taking action.
- Wilmslow 72 (Macclesfield BC) During the year this path was obstructed by an 8 foot fence and had been included in gardens. The situation is now somewhat improved but the Alderley Edge Society is keeping watch on the site. 863818 to 861813.
- Wilmslow 76/78 (Macclesfield BC) At long last, Charlotte's Bridge at 868827, missing for many years, has been replaced. The new bridge is described as a substantial structure.
- Wilmslow 91 (Macclesfield BC) A diversion application under the TPCA. The Council wished to divert the path for industrial development but chose an illogical route on a main estate road. A much better route exists. Inquiry held November 1983, result awaited.
- Wilmslow 102 (Macclesfield BC) There is no signpost or stile where the path leaves the A538, a barbed wire fence at the halfway point, and the path is ploughed out at the south end. 816819 to 816825. This issue raised with the Bollin Valley Officer.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- Aston 7 (Derbyshire CC) A long standing dispute going back to 1975. This path is part of a route from Brough Bridge to Hope Station and has been improperly ploughed out over the last few years by a farmer bent on "improving" the efficiency of his land. The proposal was to re-route the path around the field edge thus destroying its short-cut use as a quick way to the station. The inquiry was held in July and was well attended by local individuals, ramblers and Bradwell Parish Council, with sadly Hope Parish Council supporting the application on the dubious grounds that their neighbours at Bradwell had no right to object!! Result awaited.
- Blackwell 13 (Bolsover DC) The Chee Dale path 125730 is narrow and dangerous above an almost vertical drop into the river below. Local authority asked to investigate.

- * Buxton 27 (Derbyshire CC) This continuation path into King Sterndale was obstructed by a house almost on the line of path. Two new stiles have now been constructed and the path is now clear. 071725.

Buxton 56/58 (Derbyshire CC) An application to change the footpath network on Temple Fields, below the famous toboggan slopes of Solomon's Temple to enable playing fields to be developed for Buxton College. The County Council suggested a ludicrous zig-zag diversion. Following an inquiry in March, this was rejected by the SOS in favour of our solution.

Chapel en le Frith 65 & 66 (Derbyshire CC) This path was reported as being obstructed by wire at two points 049814 and 052813; reported to the County Council.

- * Chapel en le Frith 101 (Derbyshire CC) Previously obstructed at 085809. Stile now provided.

Charlesworth 27 (Derbyshire CC) Path obstructed by wire at the north end 023912, signpost required. County Council advised.

- * Charlesworth 30 (Derbyshire CC) A new ladder stile has now been erected by the National Park Authority at a point east of Plainsteads. 025911 to 034913, path now clear.

Chesterfield 57 (Chesterfield BC) Path ploughed out over two fields and not reinstated. 354746 to 363746. Reported to local authority.

Glossop 87 (High Peak BC) Council advertised wrong line for diversion of path partly onto estate roads of housing development. Following an inquiry the application was dismissed on a technicality. Correct line later confirmed.

- * Green Fairfield 7 (Derbyshire CC) A five-barred gate across the line of path, with a PRIVATE notice securely affixed constituted an unacceptable situation. A stile has now been provided adjacent to the gate and a public footpath sign will shortly be erected. 091725.

Green Fairfield 9 (Derbyshire CC) Obstructed by a stone wall at 10407275 - allegations that the only way through is via the sheep-creep. Local authority are investigating.

- * Harthill 6 (Derbyshire CC) Previously obstructed by wire at two points 225639 and 228640. Path now clear.

- * Harthill 13 (Derbyshire CC) Barbed wire removed and path once more available. Misleading notice at NW end has been removed 231643 to 229644.

Hope 23 (Derbyshire CC) A wire and barbed wire fence recently erected across this path, no stile provided. 165853. Peak Park have been asked to assist.

Hope Woodlands 26 (Derbyshire CC) The farmer at Crookhill Farm attempts to dissuade walkers from using this path from the farm to the Dam Road at 191865. He prefers walkers to use FP 13, the farm road. He will not accept waymarking and the Peak Authority can do nothing further. Please use the path and report any problems to the General Secretary.

Killamarsh 14 (North East Derbyshire DC) Application to divert a well-used path on to housing estate roads when an alternative solution exists. Inquiry held in August and was notable for the opposition by Killamarsh Parish Council whose new policy on footpaths is to oppose all applications for diversions on to estate roads on the general grounds that they have lost more paths than is reasonable. Result awaited.

Nether Haddon 14 (Derbyshire CC) River bank and footpath washed away 230669. The County Council may consider this an Act of God and not reinstate. The Society is to support Derbyshire Area RA in asking for reinstatement.

New Mills 19 (Derbyshire CC) Path blocked by rubbish at side of barn 012898. Derbyshire CC informed and are dealing.

New Mills 167 / Chinley 32 (Derbyshire CC) Path line is not as shown on the definitive map. The correct line is obstructed by wire at 035843. Council asked to advise.

Peak Forest 40/44 (Derbyshire CC) Council in conjunction with Peakstone Ltd proposed a rationalisation scheme for paths across Dove Holes Quarry between Dove Holes and Bee Low. An inquiry in October 1983 was abandoned following irregularities. Negotiations continue.

- * Tideswell 27 (Derbyshire CC) The Peak Park Authority advise that this path, previously obstructed by wire atop the wall is now clear. A wooden step-over stile has been erected. 128794.

Whaley Bridge 54 / Chapel 146 (Derbyshire CC) All stiles on this continuation path are reported as being blocked 023801 to 028808. The County Council have been asked to check the whole length of path.

GREATER MANCHESTER COUNTY

Audenshaw 3 & 4 (Tameside BC) The Council, who owned the land negotiated a diversion with the Society but before advertising it, and without consulting local interests, allowed Barratts, the developers, to move on to the site and disturb the paths. This rightly led to anger and a demonstration walk by the local action group. An inquiry was fixed and we appeared to dissociate ourselves from this sort of conduct. The SOS refused to confirm the order and a new order, still unsatisfactory to the locals, will mean a further inquiry.

Blackrod 73 (Bolton BC) Tipping adjacent to the path is now encroaching on the path line. 612116 to 612119. Local authority informed.

Bolton 85, 110, 115, 332 & 333 (Bolton BC) Just five of a number of paths obstructed in the Bolton area which are causing the Society some concern. Bolton MBC do not appear to have the concern for public rights of way that we think they should have.

Bolton 356 / Westhoughton 112/113 (Bolton BC) Paths falling into disuse as a result of lack of maintenance. Bolton RA are pressing the Council for action on these and other Bolton paths.

Bradshaw South 48 (Bolton BC) Path is suffering from erosion adjacent to the footbridge at 737110. Another Bolton problem.

Bredbury & Romiley 5 (Stockport BC) Signpost has been removed from School Lane, Compstall, and there is no bridge over the stream. Local authority informed.

Bury 30, 31 & 32 (Bury BC) A number of obstruction problems in the area surrounding Harwood Fields Farm 831133. Several paths affected and further investigations are proceeding.

- * Bury 33 (Bury BC) This bridleway suffered from a major drainage problem and was impassible. The area has now been drained and the bridleway can be used again.

Cheadle 19 (Stockport BC) The Council propose the diversion of a path for a cemetery extension on to open space, having given planning permission on the understanding that the diversion would be on to a better and different line to that eventually advertised. There are unsatisfactory features including misuse of footpath legislation. This matter is being dealt with by "written representations".

Cooper Road, Irlam (Salford City) A proposed road closure where we are asking that the footpath element should be retained to give access to a new industrial estate to be developed on the site of the old steel works. This example of a new type of objection was argued before Magistrates in January and the case was adjourned "sine die" for further discussions.

Crompton 81 (Fir Lane) (Oldham BC) A TCPA S.209 application heard in August. A selfish application by the owner of a "done-up" dwelling "Leonardin House" to close a lane and a path to extend his property. The dispute has been going on since 1978. Result awaited.

- * Golborne 31 (Wigan BC) Clearance work and the provision of a new stile has been undertaken by GMC Engineers following Wigan MBC's inability or unwillingness to take action. Path is now clear.

Hadrian Avenue / Path - Beswick (Manchester City) A curious case. The Council wanted to close a road to prevent gypsy encampment and also to landscape the land and provide footpaths across it. However they refused to consider dedicating new paths as rights of way on the grounds that they might want to sell the land for development in due course. We considered this to be a back door method of obtaining closures and also a misleading of the public into thinking they were getting new permanent paths. We went to Court in January 1983 but we lost. However the Council were left in no doubt as to our future attitude on "landscaped" paths.

Heywood 50 & 54 (Rochdale BC) The stile is missing and the path obstructed where it leaves Ashworth Road 845142. Local authority informed.

Heywood 15 (Rochdale BC) Obstructed by a wall at 839148 and by a fence at 838148. reported to local authority.

Horwich 36 & 61 (Bolton MB) The former is obstructed by agricultural rubbish (671122 to 676122) and the latter blocked by corrugated iron sheets on the field boundary, 665114. Two further Bolton cases.

Hyde 126, 127 & 136 (Tameside BC) Suggestions that paths in this area have been ploughed and not reinstated. 945930 to 959929.

- * Leigh 253 (Wigan BC) Obstructed by building works on a new Pump House 664981. Path is now clear; stile and footpath sign erected.

Littleborough 352 & 356 (Rochdale BC) No stile adjacent to the Moorcock PH 953173 and gap stile wired up. Reported to local authority.

M63/66 - Stockport Denton Motorway The Secretary of State criticised the Department of Transport for the muddle over non-definitive footpaths, but has confirmed the closure applications anyway. We did however achieve our main aim, which was to get a better deal for the main Tame Valley path near Brinnington, and to preserve a through link with Denton FP 8.

Manchester 2 (Manchester City) Illegal notice displayed at 854047. "Private Road - Beware of Dog. Persons enter this yard at their own risk". This is on the line of a path adjacent to a recently constructed farm house. Manchester City Council informed and are dealing.

Marple 23, 25 & 26 (Stockport BC) Several obstructions reported in the area 992897 and 993896. All are being checked out.

Marple 40 (Stockport BC) Wall built across line of path at Broad Stone Farm. 977900. Reported to local authority.

Marple 74 & 92 (Stockport BC) Obstructed stile on the former at 985896 and a large building erected across the latter. Reported to BC.

Marple 187 (Stockport BC) Path is obstructed by an electrified fence some 7 feet high and an unofficial diversion has been set up. We understand that an enclosure is being constructed to accommodate deer. 955862 to 955863. Local authority advised of our concern for the right of way.

Medlock Valley Plan (Greater Manchester Council) The crux of our general objection to this plan was that GMC were using a local plan procedure to close and divert (in principle) specific footpaths and bridleways. We made representations to the Inspector that such specific proposals be deleted from the approved plan and he took note of our recommendations that individual changes had no part in such plan. He came down in our favour and therefore when the final plan is published there will be no specific scheme to close or divert any right of way. If we had lost on this point it could have led to undemocratic and back-door rationalisation by planners.

Middleton 2 / Rochdale 32 (Rochdale BC) Paths affected by the construction of the A627(M) in the region of 897095. Reported to the local authority.

Middleton 40 (Rochdale BC) Stile badly in need of repair and a new bridge required. Rochdale informed. 881077.

Milnrow 322, 323, 325 & 326 (Rochdale BC) General problems in this area. House is being renovated and "nasty" walkers are not welcome. Signposts and stiles required. Rochdale MBC informed and are dealing.

Pinfold Lane, Ringway (Manchester City) This lane was useful to pedestrians as well as vehicles. The Airport Authority applied to close it for development, but applied to the local magistrates court for closure on the grounds that it was "unnecessary". At Court they promised to upgrade a parallel footpath which would remain in the "foreseeable future". They achieved their aim, but we are disturbed at their methods to by-pass an inquiry and may well pursue this aspect in 1984.

Prestwich 29 (Bury BC) Path obstructed by a recently erected and locked gate between Simister Lane and Mellowdews Farm, 839060. Signposts are also required. Reported to Bury MBC.

- * Radcliffe 4 (Bury BC) Path reported early in the year as being obstructed by fly tipping. 784066 to 778063. Bury MBC now say that the path is "substantially" clear.

Rochdale 44 / Milnrow 332 (Rochdale BC) Playing fields of Bishop Henshaw School cover the line of path which is obstructed by fencing and requires signposting. Area around 910102 to 915106. GMC asked to advise on correct line.

Rutland Avenue / The Quadrant, Stretford (Trafford BC) Proposals to close this path to curtail abuse by motorcyclists. Surveys indicated it was used by hundreds of people as a short cut to shops/buses. The scheme was eventually dropped without an order being issued.

Sale 2A (GMC) Following pressure from the Society and the RA, GMC were persuaded not to support the DTP's application for closure. The application was shelved and the path, an important and well-used link to Sale Water Park, remains.

Tyldesley 15 / Atherton 30 (Wigan BC) This path is totally overgrown and an unofficial notice has appeared "This footpath is closed - it is not usable" 688039. Reported to Wigan MBC who are dealing.

- * Tyldesley 269 & 270 (Wigan MBC) Paths previously obstructed by large mounds of Colliery spoil. Now cleared.

Westhoughton 35, 40, 52a, 69, 74, 151 (Bolton BC) A further selection of paths in the Bolton MBC area which are obstructed. The Council just don't want to know.

Whitefield 35, 39 & 43 (Bury BC) Signposts required and some clearance work is necessary. 795046 to 790047. Reported to local authority.

Woodhouse Lane, Dunham (Trafford BC) The Council proposed to close a short length of road in Dunham Woodhouses (opposite to one entrance to Dunham Park). We believed it should be retained for pedestrian use and the National Trust as landowners agreed. Despite this, and despite a Council minute that matters be deferred for discussion, the Council Officers took it to the Magistrates and obtained complete closure. This matter is being pursued since we believe the Council has acted un-constitutionally.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bacup 103, 104, 142, 146 & 147 (Rossendale BC) A re-fencing programme by the landowner has ignored stiles etc and caused obstructions to all these paths. Reported to Rossendale BC.

Bacup 160, 161, 164, 457, 458, 459 (Rossendale BC) Numerous obstructions were found by one of our members whilst carrying out a survey of signposts in the area. FP 160; misleading notice at 866235. FP 161; barbed wire fence at 863242. FP 164; stile in very poor condition at 827246. FPs 457/8/9; at this junction of paths 888226 the way is blocked by lots of barbed wire, making a very dangerous obstruction. All reported to Rossendale BC.

Bacup 336 (Rossendale BC) A stile is required where this path joins Todmorden Old Road 88622460. Local authority advised.

Belmont 3 (Blackburn BC) Obstructed by a stone wall without stile at 670186, some 200 metres north of Lower Pasture Farm. Reported to Blackburn BC.

Coppull 17 (Chorley BC) A TCPA diversion for house building which was originally agreed in 1979, but then the land changed hands and the new owner wanted to revise the scheme and put the agreed diversion route on to estate roads. Inquiry held late 1983 and result awaited. Another example of a developer/local authority attempting to bend the law to suit themselves.

- * Darwen 63 (Blackburn BC) Formerly three obstructions on this path line. All have now been removed to the satisfaction of the Society's Inspector. 724201.

Darwen 172, 182, 183 (Blackburn BC) Obstructions to these paths were dealt with on an informal basis in June 1979 when our inspector met the Council's officer on site. At the time it was agreed that action would be taken against the offending landowners, but to date there has been no improvement; indeed the position is now much worse. 71452045 and 71452045. The matter has now been raised formally with Blackburn BC.

- * Darwen 202 (Blackburn BC) Inspector confirms that a satisfactory stile has now been erected and the path is clear. 705213.

Darwen 224 (Blackburn BC) Obstructed by wire and an extremely boggy area at 712217. Local authority informed.

Darwen 227 (Blackburn BC) Obstructed by barbed wire at 72042112 north of Scotland reservoir. Reported to local authority.

- * Helmshore 283 (Rossendale BC) All gates previously obstructing this path have now been removed and access is now clear.

Penwortham 11 (Central Lancashire Development Corporation) A New Towns Act application for diversion. A better line was agreed and a compromise seems in sight.

Poulton / Thornton Golf Course (Flyde BC) A rather strange affair. The Council laid a new path at the edge of the golf course which they owned, but leased to a private firm. The original path they wanted to divert runs right across it. After a well-attended inquiry the DoE decided in the objectors' favour. Now the old path remains with the new one as an alternative. A result very similar to that at Congleton (Cheshire) reported in 1982 and at Dunham (Greater Manchester) in 1981. Maybe these three cases will result in golf clubs thinking twice before meddling with old footpaths.

Rawtenstall 4 & 8 (Rossendale BC) Two wired stiles, one at the junction of paths 80452748 and the second where path 4 crosses a wall at 80312790. Reported to local authority.

Rawtenstall 52 (Rossendale BC) No signpost or stile where the path should emerge on to the B2638 at 843264. Reported to local authority.

Rawtenstall 148 (Rossendale BC) Stile in wall has been built up. 80932054. Rossendale BC is dealing.

Shawforth 2 / Bacup 458 (Rossendale BC) Both paths obstructed on the Todmorden boundary 896223 and 893226. Rossendale BC are dealing.

Tockholes 15 (Blackburn BC) Obstructed by felled trees and overgrowth 662222 to 661216. The situation is being checked on a regular basis before raising a formal report.

Turton (Edgeworth) Paths (Blackburn BC) Turton, Edgeworth is a real problem area for footpaths. The Society receives many reports of obstructions all of which are followed up by our Inspectors and reported to Blackburn BC who are slow to take action.

FP 13: Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at the east end, 719197 to 714197.

FP 29: Stile blocked with wood at the north end, 716182.

FP 43: Obstructed by a new fence at the junction with FP 44, 729173.

- * FP 46: Path line now clear and footbridge repaired and securely fastened down, 728179.
- FP 62: Obstructed by barbed wire fence at its east end near Longshoot Farm, 737203.
- FP 67: Gate firmly secured across the line of path, no stile at 737198.
- FP 70: Obstructed by an electrified fence and barbed wire at 73692012.
- FP 82: Fence and felled trees across the line of the path where it enters Broadmeadow Plantation at its north end. 738210. Forestry Commission land; they have now been informed.
- FP 107: Obstructed by a barricaded gate east of Slack's Farm. 751185.
- FP 163: A little used path near Jumbles Reservoir. Report says "no stiles". The situation is being investigated.

Upholland 41/44 (West Lancashire DC) A series of alterations to the path lines around a very large new house with the main path being diverted to a most inconvenient line. Inquiry held but abandoned after procedural irregularities. Similar order re-advertised and public inquiry expected early 1984.

- * Whitworth 111 (Rossendale BC) Two good gates erected where path was previously fenced off.

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL

Crosby 9 (Sefton BC) An alarming case in which the Council applied to Sefton Magistrates to close a well-maintained, flagged and lit footpath which was well-used locally but which local residents found undesirable. The Council were unco-operative with the Society -refusing to supply documents at first and advertised the application with Christmas and New Year intervening. This delayed our proper investigations and inhibited publicity. At Court, the Magistrates were equally unsympathetic to us and at one stage even intervened to stop our cross-examination into establishing the alternative distance people would have to walk if the path was closed. Also the Council did not post plans with the notice as they are required to do by law. The Magistrates confirmed the application. With the Society's resources stretched to breaking point by other business (i.e Wildlife & Countryside Act orders) we did not appeal, but with hindsight, we should have done.

Rainford 3 (St Helens BC) Some obstruction problems in the area of Billinge Bounty Farm. These being investigated.

Stockbridge / Cantrill Farm Walway at Brookside (Knowsley BC) This is a new (late 60s) footpath which forms a main walkway route through a large Council overspill estate. The Council and Barratt's as developers now want to close a portion and re-route it beside the main estate distributor road, for various suspect reasons. The "Diversion" would amount to a closure by stealth. Following a publicity campaign the application has been dropped.

West Derby Golf Course - Croxteth (Liverpool City) The Council have withdrawn a Magistrates' Court application and will now investigate ways of rehabilitation of the footpath. Success due to joint RA Merseyside and Peak & Northern effort.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bramley 8 (South Yorks CC) The County Council applied to close a short path (part of a much longer inter-urban one) improperly annexed into gardens. An inquiry was held but we lost the case.

North & South Anston 14/15 (Rotherham BC) The Council sought extinguishment so that a wealthy landowner could flood the path to extend his ornamental lake. The case almost reached an inquiry but was cancelled at the last minute due to irregularities. A compromise solution of a minor diversion now seems a possibility.

Wombwell 18 (South Yorks CC) Council propose closure of a length already illegally blocked by houses. A solution to re-align the the path to run between gardens is not acceptable to the County but negotiations are proceeding.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Biddulph 40 (Staffordshire Moorlands DC) Council propose a long-winded diversion (for housing development) by estate roads. Compromise seems possible and negotiations continue.

Waterhouses 71, 84, 85, 87, 88 & 136 Cotton 19 (Staffordshire CC) One of the most serious "try ons" of 1983. The County Council in conjunction with Blue Circle Cement proposed closure of 7 footpaths over Cauldon Low, including the ancient "Earlesway". This would have virtually severed all walking routes between Waterhouses, Cauldon and the Weaver Hills. The DOE threw out the application on a technicality. Developments awaited.

Chapel & Hill Chorlton 4 / Whitmore 8 (Staffordshire CC) British Rail wanted to demolish a footbridge over the Euston - Glasgow main line near Crewe for no better reason than to reduce their maintenance bill. Local objectors as well as the Society were at the inquiry. Result awaited.

Cheddleton 65 (Staffordshire Moorlands DC) DOE have confirmed the order which was, we consider a misuse of TCPA procedures for purposes of privacy.

- * Cheadle 19 (Staffordshire Moorlands DC) The steps and stile at the commencement of this path have now been reconstructed.

Grindon 15 & 16 (Staffordshire CC) Signpost required where the path leaves the road at 070552 and on FP 16 there is much barbed wire north from 070552 to 075562. Referred to County Council.

Heathylee 0.1704, 27 & 22 (Staffordshire CC) Barbed wire obstructions and missing signposts in the area 028654, 132655 and 032656. Referred to County Council.

Heathylee 2, 11 & 20 (Staffordshire CC) Complaints of obstruction by person at High Ash Farm 049654. The farmer stated that there was no right of way, but conceded there was when firmly challenged by three lady walkers. Local authority have contacted the landowner.

Hollinsclough 8, 15 & 35 (Staffordshire CC) Signposts required, also clearance work in addition to barbed wire obstructions. 044673.

Horton 51 (Staffordshire CC) The north west end of this path is "lost" in bungalows and gardens. First reported to the local authority by our Inspector in 1974 but still no progress. 943588 to 946587. Formal report now submitted.

Ipstones 53 (Staffordshire CC) Stile required at field boundary 028488, barbed wire blocks the line. Reported to local authority.

- * Kingsley 70 (Staffordshire CC) Fence now removed and gap provided in hedge.

Leekfrith 30 (Staffordshire CC) Obstructed by barbed wire at two points south of Old Springs Farm. 97576395 and 97516382. Reported to Staffordshire CC Highways Department who have acknowledged (which is somewhat unusual).

Quarnford 3, 0.1828 (a) & 0.1835 (Staffordshire CC) A stone wall across FP 3 at 00916712 arrests progress, whilst walkers using the path across Turn Edge 00856783 to 01576826 are liable to be turned back by a bearded gentlemen who insists there is no right of way. Reported to Staffordshire Moorlands DC.

- * Quarnford 10 (Staffordshire CC) Ladder stile now constructed at 018685, path now clear.

Quarnford 20, 0.1819 & 36 (Staffordshire CC) Signpost required at 017662. Loose and chained dogs on path - farmer "dislikes" walkers. FP 36 is obstructed by barbed wire and there is no signpost where the path leaves the road at 026653. Reported to County Council.

Waterhouses RUPP 1 (Staffordshire CC) A number of problems on this path: gate secured with wire at 10705101, stile missing at 11555169. All referred to SMDC.

WEST YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Batley 6 (West Yorkshire CC) Council confirms that the path was cleared in 1982. We find that to be not strictly true. Negotiations continuing.

Batley 16 (West Yorkshire CC) An improperly appropriated path. We objected, but SOS decided it should close.

Batley 25 (West Yorkshire CC) An unnecessary severance of a through path. Inquiry held, result awaited.

Batley 45 (West Yorkshire CC) A proposal to divert a bridleway away from the definitive line to a new route across a cattle field so that the farmer can continue to pen his stock across the existing way. Objection lodged.

Brown Lane / Oswald Grove, Holbeck (West Yorkshire CC) A path the Council allowed to become seriously neglected and obstructed by developers. They then applied for closure. We have objected and are dealing with the case by written representation.

Colne Valley 75 (West Yorkshire CC) British Rail want to close and demolish a footbridge which crosses the Manchester to Leeds main line. We have lodged an objection.

Colne Valley 101 / 103 (West Yorkshire CC) A ludicrous arrangement proposed by the County Council. Both these paths are blocked on their legal line and one of the so-called diversions is already signposted and waymarked as a public footpath! The diversion route for FP 103 proposes the use of an existing impassable path (boggy even in times of drought). Objection lodged.

Morley 90 (West Yorkshire CC) A path affected by the Leeds Country Way. The diversion is not in the walkers' interest, being solely to appease an unsympathetic farmer. Objection lodged.

Morley 93, 101 / Batley 47 (West Yorkshire CC) The DOE have refused to confirm the diversion of Morley 101/Batley 47 but have confirmed a minor diversion of Morley 93. This was the controversial Woodkirk Tip case which has occupied much of the time of our local Inspector, David Wright. Further developments are awaited with interest.

Shipley 40 (West Yorkshire CC) County Council failed to clear a "back garden" type path which became overgrown with garden refuse. Adjoining resident lobbied for closure and Council issued a closure order. Following objections and publicity the order has been withdrawn.

Todmorden 68 (Calderdale BC) At Green's Clough the path is unstable and it is not possible to make progress along it due to a very large tip. 888255. Reported to Calderdale MBC.

* Paths now clear.

This footpath report contains a selection of cases dealt with by the General Secretary and the Closure & Diversions Secretary during the year. It is not by any means a complete list as a good number of cases are dealt with by negotiation before they reach the order stage.

D T / D W L

PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 1983:

1982	INCOME	1983	1982	EXPENSES	1983
	SUBSCRIPTIONS:		530	Annual Report.....	244.72
150	Ordinary.....	262.00	435	Post & Phone.....	421.50
123	Joint.....	248.50	234	Stationery.....	312.44
174	Tfr from 10yr susp..	212.20	100	Gen.Sec.Hon@rarium.....	100.00
1	Junior.....	3.00	159	Gen.Sec.Expenses.....	163.70
179	Affiliations.....	328.00		TRAVEL:	
627		1053.70	201	Closure & Div.Sec.....	154.05
556	Donations.....	389.09	69	Footpath Inspectors.....	132.85
	INVESTMENT INCOME:		37	Others.	26.11
1387	Taxed Income.....	1229.79	236	Publications.....	16.85
595	Tax Credit.....	527.00		Maps & Plans....	148.55
		1756.79		less Grant.....	67.27
372	Untaxed Income.....	787.71	23		81.28
4	Profit on Dinner.....	14.50		Room Rents:	
3542	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME.....	4001.79	8	A.G.M..	9.00
49	Investment A/o	1553.80	63	Meetings	70.50
2221		5555.59	228	Archives	233.79
			25	Subscriptions & Donations	30.00
			74	Publicity	57.67
			42	ARCHIVE EXPENSES.....	82.13
			8	Courses	
			1	Bank Charges	
			200	Legal Costs	
			141	Write off booklets	
				Protest walk expenses.....	20.00
				Sundry	64
			2815		2157.23
			727	Ordinary Surplus	1844.56
			49	Investment Surplus	1553.80
			2221		5555.59

FUND BALANCES:

FUND:	B/PWD	INCOME	EXPENSES	C/PWD
General Fund.....	16345.42	5555.59	2157.23	19743.78
Defence Fund.....	2071.18	58.00	.00	2129.18
E Royce Memorial Fund.....	79.66	.00	.00	79.66
Signpost Fund.....	235.75	199.20	160.66	274.29
Survey Fund.....	189.73	65.30	.00	255.03
H Wild Memorial Fund.....	250.00	.00	.00	250.00
	19171.74	5878.09	2317.89	22731.94

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT:

During 1983 a number of changes were made to our investment portfolio. All of the society's investments are now fixed interest bonds. As cost depends on the market interest rate at the time of purchase, and is therefore subject to wide fluctuation, stocks are now shown on the balance sheet at maturity value. This made it necessary to revalue stocks, which produced the Investment Surplus shown above.

Net Profit on Maturity/Sales of shares.....+2571.84

Net loss on revaluation of stocks.....-1018.04

+1553.80

As at 31.12.83: Stocks Held: Maturity value £18,580.34

Actual cost £19,598.38

Market Value on 31.12.83 £21,654.63

The changes to stocks held will produce increased income for the Society.

PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.12.83:

LIABILITIES:

1982	1983	1982
19171 Funds	22,731.94	16522
		1006
		2000
1057 Subscription Ac	1,378.15	994
		106
<u>20228</u>	<u>24,110.09</u>	<u>20228</u>
.....

ASSETS:

	1983
Investments	18,580.34
Bank Deposit	2,515.34
M.S.B. Inv Ac	2,215.83
TAX CREDIT	527.00
Bank Current Ac	138.31
Postage Stamps	66.00
Grant re Maps	67.27
	<u>24,110.09</u>

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS:

INVESTMENTS: Local Authority Bonds.....2000.00
 Government Stock.....16580.34
 Total maturity value.....18580.34

(All Government Stocks are dated before 1999)

ACCRUALS: Two accruals have been shown:

Advance purchase of postage stamps for 1984 Report
 Grant for Maps from Lockerby Fund, received after 31.12.83

There are no significant outstanding accounts.

NOTES NOT FORMING PART OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

1983 was a successful year for the Society as far as finance is concerned. The increased subscriptions have brought in extra income as was intended, and expenses have been tightly controlled. Of particular note is the reduction in cost of the Annual Report, and the 'saving' by not subscribing to the London Gazette - this latter item will however result in extra expenditure next year (1984) in relation to the work of Definitive Map Officers.

The Investment Surplus represents only a revaluation of the Society's investment holdings, but the Ordinary Surplus is very pleasing and indicates that the Society is well placed to undertake the arduous and costly extra work which we will have to tackle in 1984.

What is required are more members, more affiliated societies, and especially, more workers - footpath inspectors and definitive map officers. Then the Society can be sure of keeping open our fragile footpath network.

Donations to the work of the Society are welcome at all times.

Stephen Shaw STEPHEN SHAW
 Treasurer

AUDITORS REPORT:

I have examined the Society's accounts. In my opinion and to the best of my knowledge and belief the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet give a true and fair view of the revenue transactions for the year ended 31st December 1983 and of the state of affairs at that date.

14 Feb. 1984

Signed: E McCormick
 Honorary Auditor

E. McCormick

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. The Society shall be called "Peak and Northern Footpaths Society".
2. The objects of the Society shall be:
 - (a) The preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the public highways, footpaths, bridleways, by-ways and other ways, vacant spaces, waste lands and roadside strips and to right of recreation over commons in the Northern and Midland Counties, particularly in the Peak District.
 - (b) The prevention of the abuse of such rights, especially trespass and damage to crops and property, disturbance of game by trespassers and the leaving of litter.
 - (c) The support by influence, petition or otherwise of Bills in Parliament promoting the aforesaid objects or any of them, or others of a like kind or kindred nature.
 - (d) The erection and maintenance of direction posts and footbridges.
 - (e) The purchase or promoting the purchase of rights of way and rights over open spaces to be dedicated to the use of the public for ever.
 - (f) And all objects conducive to the foregoing, including the combination or co-operation with other societies or persons in the promotion or furtherance of the aforesaid objects of any of them.
3.
 - (a) Annual subscription rates shall be payable in advance on January 1st each year. Subscription rates shall be those last set by the Annual general Meeting and shall be subject to review by the Annual Meeting, due notice of any alterations having been included in the notice of the meeting.
 - (b) Any amenity society or other body, corporate or unincorporate, having an interest in the work of the Society, and paying to the Society an affiliation subscription, shall have the right to nominate one delegate to the Society's Council, such delegate to be deemed a member of the Society for the purposes of the Society's Constitution and Rules.
 - (c) Joint members (two), having paid the appropriate subscriptions, shall each be entitled to full voting rights.
 - (d) Individual members of twenty or more years standing who have reached the age of 60 years may be entitled on application to free life membership and will receive a copy of the Annual Report and all other relevant literature.
4.
 - (a) The business of the Society not conducted in General Meeting shall be conducted by a Council.
 - (b) The Council will consist of:-
 - (i) Elected Annually:
 - (a) The Officers of the Society.
 - (b) Not more than 15 members of the Society.
 - (ii) Ex-officio:
 - (a) Nominated delegates of affiliated societies.
 - (b) Footpath Inspectors of the Society.
 - (c) Council will have the power to add to its number for a period not exceeding one year, any person or persons.
 - (d) Council may delegate its powers to any committee it may establish or to the Officers of the Society.
 - (e) Should any Officer resign or cease to act, then Council shall have the power to appoint a successor who shall act until the next Annual general Meeting and will be eligible for re-election at that meeting.
 - (f) Council may fix the rules under which it conducts business subject to these Constitution and Rules provided always that no business may be conducted by Council unless there are at least 8 members of Council present.

- (g) Council shall have the power to invest the funds of the Society as it sees fit and shall have the power to borrow but not to change the assets of the Society.
- 5. (a) An Annual General Meeting of the members of the Society shall be held in March/April every year and shall receive, consider and if approved, adopt the report of the Council for the past year and transact any other business that may arise. No motion shall be considered unless it is submitted to the Secretary in writing before the 31st December, for inclusion in the agenda, or unless two-thirds of those present at the meeting and voting, agree that it should be considered as a matter of urgency.
 - (b) The Annual Meeting will appoint each year 11 Officers of the Society, to such offices as the meeting considers expedient.
 - (c) The Annual Meeting shall have the power to confirm the actions of Council and Officers in previous years where it may have been necessary for these to act outside these Constitution and Rules, provided due notice of any such resolution is given in the notice calling the meeting.
- 6. An extraordinary General Meeting shall be held without delay whenever the occasion shall arise, upon the requisition of five members specifying the reason for the meeting and communicated to the Honorary General Secretary.
- 7. The Council shall by themselves or by Sub-Committees appointed from their number:
 - (i) Induce - or if necessary, compel - as far as is possible all Local, Public or Urban Authorities, District and County Councils to perform their duties as conservers of the said public rights.
 - (ii) Institute or defend, assist others in instituting or defending, continue, compromise, abandon, or prosecute to judgment at their discretion and generally give instructions for all legal proceedings.
 - (iii) Keep a map, or series of maps, wherein the situation of all footpaths and other public ways shall, so far as is possible, be indicated and recorded and visit, inspect, survey and report on the same from time to time and receive, consider and investigate complaints of violation of any of the said rights or of the abuse thereof.
- 8. All Sub-Committees shall from time to time, report to the Council.
- 9. The Society shall subscribe and be affiliated to the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society and to such other Societies constituted for like objects, as may from time to time be determined in general meeting.
- 10. All General Meetings, whether Annual or Extraordinary, shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary's written notice, posted or delivered to members at their usual or last known address, at least seven days before the day of the meeting and indicating the business for which the meeting is to be convened. Ten members shall form a quorum.
- 11. These rules may be rescinded, supplemented or altered by resolution passed in General Meeting, but not otherwise, and only if the proposed alterations are included in the Notice of the Meeting.
- 12. Any motion put to an Annual Meeting will be approved by a simple majority of those voting and the Chairman of the meeting may cast an additional vote at his discretion in the event of a tied vote.

As amended by decision of the Annual General Meeting held 28th April 1983.