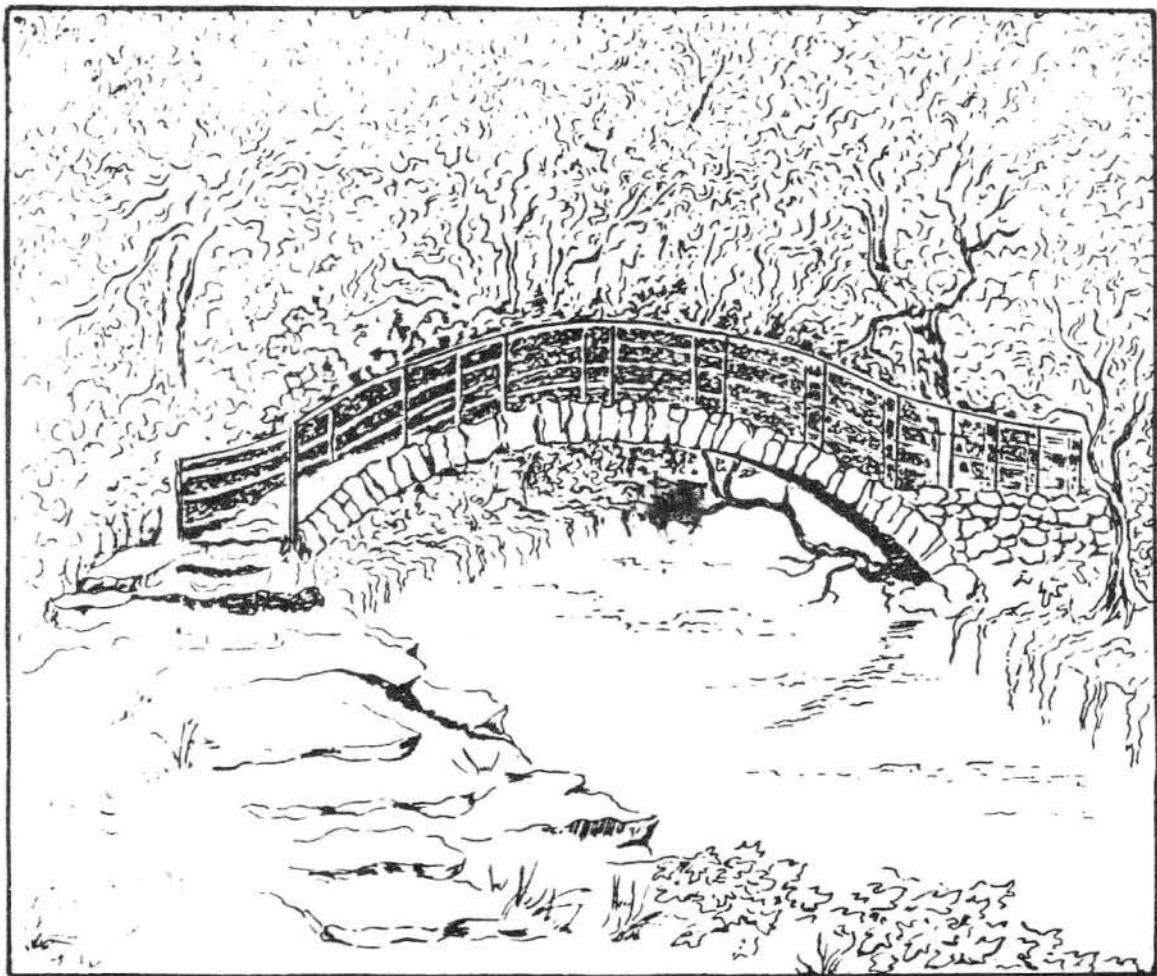


Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



Plucks Bridge Marple (Roman Bridge)

ANNUAL REPORT 1984

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:

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Hon. Treasurer:

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Membership Secretary:

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Closure & Diversions Secretary:

D W Lee
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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
G Haigh
Miss R Irlam
Mrs E Johnson

D Mace
J Ogden
Mrs M Page
C R Peers

FOREWORD

We start this report on a very sad note by recording the deaths of Frank Head, our President for the past 30 years, and Eric Newton who was the Society's General Secretary for many years. The Society was well represented at both funerals. As mentioned at the start of his memorial service, Frank "died whilst out walking on a sunny day", which is how most of us would wish it.

This annual report and the comprehensive minutes of our monthly council meetings show that the Society has had another very active year. Our considerable gratitude is due to the literally dozens of members who have contributed so much time and effort. I am sure they will understand if I pay particular thanks to our Chairman, who wears so many hats, our General Secretary and our Closure and Diversions Secretary. We would take this opportunity to thank Fred Darwin who has so ably organised our mid-week walks and who has been forced to relinquish his duties due to deteriorating health.

The Membership Secretary refers to the importance of our increasing the number of members. This is, of course, a classic Catch 22 situation; this largely depends on our devoting more time and effort to publicising the Society and its activities, but this requires more members willing to help with this and the many other jobs that need doing. Please do have a word with the Chairman or General Secretary if you are able to help - our workload covers a wide range of activities both mental and physical.

So much of the Society's work would be unnecessary if local authorities would undertake their duties with even a modicum of diligence. A number of social surveys have shown that walking in the countryside is a pastime enjoyed by a very significant and growing proportion of the population. Their needs are very modest - mainly that footpaths should be kept free of obstructions and signposted and waymarked to a satisfactory standard. The inevitable excuse is of inadequate money and staff to undertake this work. Yet large sums of money are spent subsidising formal recreation which benefits relatively few, and there always seems to be money available for grandiose schemes such as the Whaley Bridge to Chapel-en-le-Frith by-pass. Far from the footpath network being expanded to reflect increased demand, the opposite is happening. For example, a study by the Ramblers' Association showed that a total of 1645 footpath orders were made and confirmed in 1981 and 1982, of which 1309 were for diversions, 286 were closures and a mere 50 orders were for footpath creations.

It now appears likely that the Government will succeed in abolishing the Metropolitan County Councils, possibly by April 1986. The Society feels that the abolition of the Greater Manchester County Council will be a retrograde step for environmental issues in general and footpaths in particular. If, as the Government predicts, abolition will reduce the cost of local Government, we suspect the price to be paid will be reduced services. We shall be delighted if the successor authorities prove our fears to be unfounded.

It is nice to be able to end on a happy note. The Ramblers' Association came into being as a national organisation on 1 January 1935 and is, therefore, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary during 1985. Many national and local events are being organised and the Manchester Area and its local groups will be very involved. Although still a mere youngster compared with this Society, we wholeheartedly extend our congratulations and best wishes to the RA and its members.

J F H

AN OBITUARY TO OUR LATE PRESIDENT



Frank Head

"A Manchester Rambler is missing in North Wales" announced the newsreader of the 7 am news broadcast, and we wondered who it might be. A later announcement told us that it was our own President who had gone for a walk the previous day and had failed to return to where he and his family were staying on holiday. The sad news came later when we learnt that his body had been found on a footpath that he had gone to inspect during his walk.

Frank literally died with his boots on. Those who knew him closely were aware that his health was not robust in later years but his mind remained as keen as ever. Frank was always keen to consider the finer points of life, both material and practical, and this was clearly epitomised in his invaluable work for the Society over so many years. He joined the Society in 1938 and was elected President in 1955 following the death of Mr P M Oliver. In 1962 he became both President and Chairman, serving in both capacities until 1971 when he relinquished the office of Chairman to myself. He continued to serve as a very active and valued President up to the time of his death, leaving a vacuum which will be very difficult for us to fill.

Frank was a very active member of the Manchester Area of the Ramblers' Association and until recently was a member of the Association's National Executive Committee on which he served for many years. He was a member of the Peak District Voluntary Joint Committee and also the Kinder Advisory Committee to the National Trust.

Frank was very keen to see a public footpath created in Dovedale between Lode Mill and Milldale to avoid an unpleasant and dangerous road walk. This is a project many of us would like to see implemented but is being prevented by the reluctance of the National Trust to agree. I can think of no more fitting a memorial to his life and work than for such a path to become a reality.

Our condolences go to his wife, Joyce, and to his children.

The memorial service was held in Mellor Church, a superb setting for our last farewells. The many members of the Society who were present are unlikely to forget a very moving occasion.

LGM

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1984

It is my pleasure to present for your consideration, my report for the year ended 31st December 1984.

The Expanding Scene

I think perhaps the most significant occurrence in 1984 was the appointment, for the first time in many years of inspectors in Chorley, Lancashire and Calderdale, West Yorkshire. Following the appointment of Miss B Ingham and Mr J Hindle it quickly became apparent just how bad the footpath network in these two areas had been and we were able, certainly in the case of Chorley paths, to put pressure on the Highway Authority in an attempt to bring about some improvement. There is certainly plenty of scope for that. In Calderdale the situation is rather more confused in that West Yorkshire refuses to provide the Society with copies of the definitive map (one wonders what they have to hide) consequently we are unable to be as precise with our complaints as we would wish, additionally, as our filing system is based on Parish Names and Path numbers we are unable to set up an acceptable system of reporting. We are continuing to press the County Council and are ever hopeful that they will have a change of heart.

Obstructions by Farm Buildings

A problem which arose on a number of occasions during the year was that of farm buildings, barns etc, built across the line of paths. We now have about five or six known cases of this type of obstruction and we are monitoring the situation carefully. The problem is that agricultural buildings do not require planning consent and are not covered by the Town & Country Planning Act. Consequently the first time we, or indeed the local authority, hear of the problem is when we receive a report of the path being obstructed. There have been the occasional prosecution under The Highways Act 1980, Section 137 but the penalties imposed by the Courts have not been severe enough to make other farmers and landowners sit up and take notice. It is interesting to note however that Section 143 of the same Act gives the power to highway authorities to serve notice on any person erecting a structure on a highway requiring that it be removed within a stipulated time. If the landowner fails to remove the structure, the authority may remove it themselves and charge the landowner for doing so. My feeling is that we should not expect too much from the Courts, they have failed to take strong action in the past, but we should press local authorities to take action under Section 143. I think that by the time one or two structures have been removed in this way, farmers and landowners will begin to get the message.

The Allocation of Time

I have been looking at the most recent edition of the RA publication "Footpath Worker" and have taken note of the number of successful diversion orders listed therein where the Department of the Environment Inspector has agreed to a diversion on the grounds that it was "expedient in the interests of the Landowners". This in itself causes me concern but what I cannot quite understand is..... how is it that when we ask a local authority to prosecute a landowner for obstructing a right of way, the stock excuse for not doing so is often that the Council's Legal Department is under such pressure that they just do not have the staff time to do it. There never appears to be the same sort of restraint imposed on Legal Departments when it comes to processing a diversion or closure order which must be equally demanding on time. I wonder why!!

Parish / Town Councils

During 1984 it has been my pleasure to work closely with several Town or Parish Councils on both footpath and planning matters. As a result of this, members will note that 7 Parish/Town Councils have affiliated to the Society. In 1985 we intend to invite many more Councils to join us, in a number of aspects of our work we have a common bond in that we are both anxious to keep paths free from obstruction and we have a general concern for the environment. In the latter case we are often able to give support when bad planning proposals are promulgated.

The Staffordshire Syndrome

In my report last year I mentioned particular problems in Staffordshire which I call the Staffordshire Syndrome. Councils which suffer from this, fortunately still few, work on the principle that if you ignore a problem for long enough, it will go away. I sincerely hope that this disease, for that is what it is, does not spread. Those readers of my report last year will recall that the Society's Council decided to report the County Council to the Ombudsman as a result of their devious dealings over footpaths 18 & 40 in the parish of Grindon. I have to report that the complaint has been lodged via the Chairman of the County Council and a site inspection with the Ombudsman's representative has taken place. We now await the result and I have to say that I will be very disappointed indeed if the Ombudsman does not find that there has been maladministration by the Council. What will be interesting will be what action Staffordshire CC are asked to take to put matters right. From my previous experience of these cases I fear that they will be asked to set up a "footpath meeting" at which all footpath matters in the County can be discussed. I am not against this in principle but I am concerned that the Society, with our manpower resources stretched to the limit, could well become involved in this type of meeting with every highway authority in our area. In the end we could well find ourselves doing nothing but attending meetings. We already have three such meetings set up and my concern is that these very often become "excuses meetings" with a lot of talk and very little action.

Money - Lack Of

As we move into the new year I seem to be surrounded by local authorities pleading lack of funds..... we can't erect signposts, no money..... we can't clear obstructed paths, no money. Everyone blames someone else but in the final analysis very little is done. In continue to stress to all local authorities who plead poverty that it is all a question of priorities and that when they are considering the allocation of finances to various schemes they should not lose sight of those items for which they have a statutory responsibility, such as "protecting the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of every highway" Highways Act 1980, Section 130. Local Authorities spend a considerable amount of our money on many laudable schemes but they are not required by law to do so. When it comes to keeping open public footpaths the Act uses the word SHALL which doesn't give them an option. I will continue to press my point of view during 1985, time will tell if the Councils are listening.

Conclusion

In conclusion may I once again take the opportunity to thank the Society's Officers and Footpath Inspectors for their help and assistance during the year. May I also make a special plea, that members and inspectors alike please walk the paths mentioned in the footpath report and tell me if the situation has changed in any way. This would be very much appreciated.

DEREK TAYLOR
GENERAL SECRETARY

OUR STOCKPORT ACT

Since the Wildlife and Countryside Act became law it was increasingly obvious that its many facets needed further exploration and enlightenment amongst many of our members.

Some time ago your officers decided there was a need to stage a suitable seminar or conference at which full consideration could be given to our understanding of the working of the Act and where various points could be brought out for discussion.

Accordingly, but not without one or two delays, we arranged to hold a full day conference at Stockport which all our inspectors and other interested parties could attend and which, despite its early start, some 36 persons made an appearance.

We were fortunate in obtaining the Honorary Solicitor of the Ramblers' Association, Jerry Pearlman, as one of our speakers and also Derek Haslam of Greater Manchester Highways - together with a member of his staff. Our own Don Lee and Derek Taylor also made their contributions, whilst your Chairman maintained the continuity.

It would not be possible within the sphere of this article to deal with the many points and facets raised during the day, but it was obvious that there was considerable interest involved amongst all those attending what we think was the first conference of its kind in this country.

Our indebtedness is due to all who made their contribution to this very successful day, and which also during the intervals provided a minor reunion amongst some of those present.

LGM

OUR ANNUAL DINNER

On this occasion our speaker was a local man, none other than the Chairman of Greater Manchester County's Highways Committee, Councillor Dennis Allen, who gave us an interesting address, particularly in relation to his Committee's views on illegal obstruction, and also on Definitive Map Amendment Orders. We were pleased to learn that GMC Highways now has a special sub-committee to deal with matters of illegal obstructions.

This Society has always had a good rapport with GMC and it was especially interesting to listen to the words of their Highways Chairman; many of us will be sorry when their demise takes place.

Our inner selves were very well taken care of by the management and staff at the Temple and their usual high standard of gastronomy was maintained, as was the social side of the evening when many acquaintances were renewed.

Our thanks go to our Vice Chairman, John Houfe, who organised this event.

LGM

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR 1984

Affiliated Societies

There were 102 societies affiliated at 31 December 1984 compared with 91 in 1983 - a net increase of 11. Only four societies have not renewed and 15 new organisations have joined in 1984.

Annual Members

Individual members total 362 including 86 married couples, a decrease of four. A number of members have transferred to 10 year membership and I would again like to draw members attention to the financial of advantage 10 year membership both in the amount paid, the saving in postage and, to the Society, of administrative expense.

Recruitment of new members has again been satisfactory but this has been largely offset by members who did not renew in 1984. A large percentage of our membership renews on the anniversary of joining (often in the second half of the year) and this is a loss of interest to the Society. Paragraph 3(a) of our Constitution specifies that subscriptions are due on January 1st each year and I would urge members to observe this.

Ten Year Members

There are now 251 members including 42 married couples, a net increase of 25. I hope many more members will take out 10 year membership in 1985.

Total Membership

The Society has seven honorary life members and the current membership stands at 620, a net increase of 19. Affiliated societies and many members regularly make substantial donations to Society funds and it is this generosity which enables the Society to continue with its vital work.

TED WHITTAKER

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE

"Barb wire over rough gate and savage dog".

"I cannot disagree that the tip is across the path, the tipping has merely served to raise the path to a new level without causing an obstruction".

ARCHIVES RESEARCH

This has been an historic year for our hardworking team having, by the end of 1984, practically completed the cataloguing of our records drawn from past officers of the Society. From henceforth their efforts will concentrate on the records and correspondence of our existing officers, mainly on Closure and Diversion records of which there are considerable amounts of documentation to be examined and sifted. Just before the end of the year well over one thousand files were transported to our premises, leaving several thousand more to be moved at a later date after the first consignment has been absorbed into the system.

During the latter part of the year we received from GMC loan copies of revised Definitive Maps for the boroughs of Bolton, Trafford, Oldham, and Manchester City, and we express our appreciation for this facility. Subsequently we were able to reciprocate by providing assistance to GMC Highways staff by allowing access to selected records in our files.

It cannot be overstated how much the Society is indebted to its Archives Team, many of whom have shown remarkable diligence in their work and attendance throughout the past four years and in addition contributed to our signpost programme. An eightieth birthday was recently celebrated by one enthusiastic member.

We are still open to offers of assistance from other members who can reasonably journey to Hazel Grove, who are available on Mondays and would like job satisfaction with other kindred spirits. (Offers to Chairman or Secretary).

LGM

SIGNPOSTS

During the last four years the Society has been heavily committed executing major repair work on many of its existing signposts, the main object being to maintain all posts with major defects and to keep them standing. This phase is now virtually complete and our attention must now be directed to those posts which four years ago were not in need of urgent attention.

During the period under review some 36 posts have received attention including the Alf Clowes Memorial post. Another memorial post (Ashton CHA/HF) was awaiting authority to erect at the end of the year.

It is a matter of regret that two of our recently erected signs on the East bank of the Derwent (Nos. 186 & 191) were removed very shortly after being erected and have not been recovered. A further existing sign at Slippery Stones which was uprooted has been found and is now in safe storage. This destruction was obviously carried out by someone who had prepared themselves with the necessary tools to carry out this vandalism.

For the last four years the Society has, apart from some welding and signwriting, been constructing and repairing all its own signposts by voluntary labour taken mainly from its own resources. We are considerably indebted to those individuals for their services which have saved the Society's funds to no mean end.

On three occasions we mounted a voluntary work party to assist Staffordshire Moorlands Council to carry out certain work and we have also undertaken bridge repairs in Wildboarclough (Cheshire). On two occasions we have responded to requests from local farmers to waymark paths on their lands at Kettleshulme and Compstall - in the latter case, for those with long memories, at Benfield Farm! We have also assisted the Derbyshire Highways Department with signpost work.

We are most grateful to the small band of volunteers who have made such a contribution to the work of this Society. A list of signpost work completed in 1984 is shown below.

We urgently require a suitable volunteer to undertake the supervision of this work, especially from a person who can use simple tools and has access to a telephone and transport.

Signpost Maintenance Work Completed in 1984

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Grid Reference</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 10 | 109908 | Snake |
| 19 | 063883 | West of Kinder Reservoir |
| 24 | 041812 | Tunstead: Now County Council Post |
| 46 | 722786 | Yew Tree House Tabley: Now a County Council Post |
| 59 | 061946 | Nr Mossylea Bridge |
| 81 | 707782 | Nr Flittogate Farm |
| 86 | 225879 | Strines Road, Nr Moscar Cottage |
| 91 | 698818 | Northwood Hall, Aston by Budworth |
| 98 | 099834 | Above Dalehead, Edale |
| 104 | 989698 | Clough House, Wildboarclough |
| 132 | 991688 | On Buxton - Allgreave Road |
| 136 | 713862 | Agden Brow |
| 137 | 712854 | Agden Lane, SW of Agden House |
| 141 | 730763 | Tabley Inferior No. 6 |
| 161 | 984766 | West Side Jenkyn Chapel (Rainow 7) |
| 162 | 976763 | North of Buxterstoo Farm (Rainow 77) |
| 164 | 932894 | Riverside Nr Otterspool Bridge (County attached sign to our Post) |
| 170 | 307778 | Lidgate (Holmesfield) |
| 173.B | 984766 | Jenkyn Chapel (North West) (Rainow 2) |
| 175 | 175911 | Derwent |
| 178 | 983.5.766.5 | Jenkyn Chapel (North Side) (Rainow 12) |
| 181 | 975813 | Bowstonegate Farm |
| 186 | 171919 | (New Plate erected in August stolen shortly afterwards) |
| 191 | 174909 | East Bank of Derwent Reservoir South of SP186. (New post and plate erected. Stolen shortly afterwards) |
| 193 | 198885 | Above Grindle Barn (resited) |
| 194 | 983890 | North of Mellor Vicarage, FP Marple 93 |
| 195 | 983891 | North of Mellor Vicarage |
| 196 | 203908 | East Derbyshire Border (Derwent) |
| Finger Posts | | |
| 15 | 171953 | Slippery Stones |
| 18 | 172916 | Between Abbey Grange & Bamford House |
| 21 | 198907 | Bradfield Gate Head |
| 22 | 705805 | Arley |
| 23 | 797822 | Castle Mill Now County Council Post |
| 24 | 802832 | Castle Hill Farm (Bollin Valley) |
| | 055884 | Water Pollution Notice - Kinder Reservoir |
| Alfred Clowes Memorial Post | | |
| 171 | 968652 | Hanging Stone Farm, Dane Bridge |

LGM

FOOTPATH REPORT 1984

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Agden 2 A path first reported as obstructed in 1981, now reported as clear.

Ashley 7 A regular ploughing problem on this path. Once again reported as being ploughed out between 770838 and 767834. Local authority asked to take action.

Ashley 12 Damaged stile has been repaired and vegetation cut back on this path between 79828374 and 79798353. The Bollin Valley Wardens have also erected a signpost on Mill Lane.

Ashley 14 A new step stile has been erected on this path and there is still room for improvement to the stile at the junction with Mobberley 66. 799834 to 788826.

Aston by Budworth 6 / Tabley Superior 10 Following clearance last year further fences were erected alongside the new stiles. These have once again been removed following pressure by the Society.

Aston by Budworth 8 Stile now erected at 696791. Path now clear.

Bollington 31 There is evidence of an unofficial diversion to this path at 93627690 and details are now being checked with Macclesfield BC.

Bollington 40 This path now clear and a footpath signpost has been erected on Oak Lane, Kerridge at the request of the Society. First reported March 1982.

Bosley 10 / Gawsorth 26 A stile has now been erected on this path which the inspector now reports as being clear. 927681.

Brereton 17 & 18 On FP 17, the path which is said to exist on paper only has eleven obstructions along its length including barbed wire, ploughing, missing bridges, etc. 775642 to 767622. On FP 18 a gap in the hedge is closed by three strands of plain wire and four strands of barbed wire at 775643. Reported to Cheshire CC.

Brereton 28 / Bradwell 7 The footbridge which should join these two paths is missing as is the signpost on FP 7 at 763637. Cheshire CC are investigating.

Chelford 7 The definitive line of this path has been substantially diverted along the north side of the wood at 83217340. This unofficial diversion is also obstructed by barbed wire. Cheshire CC are dealing.

Congleton 36 This long standing obstruction case has now been resolved thanks to the persistence of the inspector concerned and the (somewhat delayed) assistance of Congleton BC. This problem first reported in June 1979. 905652 to 891653.

Disley 32 Path blocked off at the rear of property and the stiles have been removed. 98588369. Reported to County Highways.

Disley 39 A stable has been erected across the line of this path at 98618372. The right of way on foot is not completely obstructed but the situation is being carefully watched by the Society.

Disley 44 Path obstructed by walling stones where it passes through the garden of Waterside Cottage 984852. Reported to County.

Great Warford 11 / Nether Alderley 2 Cheshire CC advise that these paths are now clear of obstruction but confirmation from members using the paths would be appreciated. 81727658 to 81547697 and 82357652 to 81727658.

Higher Hurdsfield 5, 7 & 11 The wooden step stile at the junction of these paths is in a dangerous state of disrepair 928751. Reported to Local Authority.

Higher Hurdsfield 5 & 6 The wood step stile at the junction of these paths has now been repaired and the path is clear. 932756.

Kelsall 2 An interesting success story with regard to this path which is near Chester. The Department of Transport in promoting the Kelsall Bypass first proposed closure of this path but both the Mid Cheshire FPS and P & N objected so they reinstated the path on their Side Roads Order Scheme. This annoyed the landowner who pressed for its closure at the Public Inquiry (at which we did not appear to need to attend) and because we were not on hand the inspector recommended deletion of the path. The Department of Transport realised that our rights were being compromised so before reaching a decision gave us a chance to make further written submission. The path is a well used hedges path leading from Kelsall Village to the local fruit picking fields. We requested retention and asked for the inquiry to be re-opened. However, this proved to be unnecessary as the Department of Transport decided to keep the path open and divert it slightly.

Kettleshulme 14 Footbridge crossing Todd Brook has collapsed at one end making the crossing dangerous. Reported to Cheshire Highways. 985781.

Kettleshulme 20 & 28 The "No Road" sign previously sited at 986784 has now been removed and all paths, including those through the Tunstead Knoll Farm complex are now clear.

Little Bollington 4 This path has been ploughed out, obstructed by barbed wire and a "Private - Keep Out" notice has been erected on the path. 725850 to 726844. Cheshire CC have been informed.

Lymm 18 First field ploughed out and there is a barbed wire obstruction where the path crosses the Golf Course access road. 676877 to 682878. Reported to Local Authority.

Macclesfield Forest 12 Two new stiles have been erected between Lower and Higher Ballgrave Farms, the path is now clear. 976737 to 972745.

Marton 2, 3 & 4 All these paths are ploughed out to some extent and representations have been made to Cheshire County Council with a view to the farmer being prosecuted.

Millington 6 This path is blocked at two points, 735848 and 733848. Details passed to Cheshire CC.

Millington 7 Barbed wire now removed from path at Hope Cottage 735851. First reported as obstructed in February 1982.

Mobberley 7 / Knutsford 11 Footbridge crossing is extremely hazardous. Repairs or a new bridge are urgently required. 768803.

Mobberley 61 Damaged stile has been repaired and a substantial footbridge erected. 801819 to 806818. The Society has been pressing for this since May 1978, showing that persistence often "pays off".

Mobberley 63 Path previously ploughed right up to hedgerow, now re-established.

Mobberley 72 Footpath signpost lying in the field at the Station end. The field beyond has been ploughed and the path not reinstated. 779814 to 782817. Cheshire have been informed.

Newbold Astbury 2, 4, 5, 5 & 11 Information from a resident of Biddulph suggests that all these paths are obstructed. Inspector is investigating.

Over Alderley 6 Obstructed by wire at three points in the vicinity of Edge House Farm 862773. Reported to Cheshire CC (Countryside and Recreation Department) who took immediate steps to put the matter right. Path now clear.

Peover Superior 7 The owner of Peover Hall advises that Cheshire CC have closed the path through Spinney Wood, Investigations are continuing. 76517311 to 77307282.

Peover Superior 11 Path obstructed by barbed wire and a new stile is required. 76747467 to 77007359.

Peover Superior 16 Signposts required at each end, one gate wired up and another not easily accessed. A possibility that the landowner would like to close the path. 788732 to 791723. Reported to Cheshire CC.

Peover Superior 21 & 23 A stile has been erected on FP 23 at 793743 and the obstructing hedge and fence on 21 has now been completely removed. Path now clear.

Peover Superior 22 This bridleway is obstructed by a four strand barbed wire fence, a felled holly tree and a chained five-barred gate. Cheshire CC are well aware of a special problem in this area and are dealing with it. 783741 to 790750.

Peover Superior 24 Path ploughed out and not reinstated 780747 to 781744. Reported to Cheshire CC.

Pickmere 9 / Tabley Superior 1 This continuation path is badly obstructed at 713784. Cheshire CC have been informed and advise that arrangements have been made to supply 4 stiles to the landowners concerned and to erect one signpost near Yew Tree House.

Plumley 12 Obstructed by barbed wire at 718746 and by brushwood and heavy undergrowth alongside a garden fence. Reported to LA.

Pott Shrigley 5, 9 & 24 - Rainow 22 & 86 There are allegations of problems on all these paths which are being investigated.

Poynton with Worth 22 The pedestrian gate which should allow passage round the cattle grid at 945832 is securely locked. Macclesfield BC have been informed and are dealing.

Rainow 17 Stile is broken and made to look like a fence, a signpost is also required. 968778. Reported to Cheshire CC Countryside and Recreation Division.

Rainow 25 Previously obstructed but though the line of path is badly defined, the path is now clear.

Rainow 61 Obstructed by wire adjacent to Wimberlymoss Farm 962767. Writing on signpost has been obliterated.

Rainow 62a, 78 & 94 Wood step stile and adjacent fencing at 968755 have now been satisfactorily repaired.

Rainow 68 & 88 The former is blocked on its legal line by a new post and wire fence, the top strand electrified. The latter is obscure on its correct line and requires waymarking. Countryside and Recreation Department advised. 950745 to 948743.

Rainow 77 Allegations that some form of substantial earthworks is affecting the line of this path at Common Barn Farm 968760. The Society's Inspector is keeping a watchful eye on the situation.

Rainow 92 There is no stile at 968778 where this short path leaves the road leading towards Harropfold Farm. Cheshire CC have been informed.

Rostherne 11 Correct line of path is in doubt and may not be as shown on the 2½" Second Series Map (742833). There is however a kissing gate at 741832. Cheshire CC have been asked to clarify the position. Members comments would be welcomed.

Sandbach 17 & 18 There was a proposal by housing developers to divert these paths wholly on to estate roads. The matter went to an inquiry where we were co-objectors with the Mid Cheshire Society. A compromise solution, partly retaining the line of the old route was suggested and this was recommended by the Inspector in his report. The matter has now been satisfactorily resolved.

Snelson 3 & 4 Both these paths obstructed by barbed wire fencing and timber trestles where they pass under the railway at 808740 and 804735. Cheshire CC informed.

Somerford 1 There has been a proposal to change this path from one side of a hedge to the other. This would affect the views to be gained by walkers from the path. The matter is now "on ice".

Sutton 23 Sunken track, badly overgrown and flooded in parts with large blocks of stone hidden in the undergrowth to trap the unwary. 96306902 to 95256963. Cheshire CC Countryside and Recreation Department have been asked to deal.

Wildboarclough 16 Barbed wire was used in a dangerous manner causing problems on three stiles on the path, these have now been put in a more satisfactory condition and a new substantial stone stile erected at the Crag Inn end. 98156848 to 96456845.

Wilmslow 55 & 60 Uprooted signpost on the former at 857786. On the latter, the path has been ploughed out and not reinstated. The signpost arm is missing at Chonar Farm. 857796 to 867802. Reported to Macclesfield BC.

Wilmslow 91 There was a proposal to divert this useful path from Spath Lane, Handforth to Handforth Hall. This to enable an industrial estate to be developed. We suggested a perfectly reasonable diversion away from estate roads but the Council wanted to move it on to the main estate distributor road which would of course be used by heavy traffic. The case went to inquiry but the decision went against us.

Wilmslow 102 This path which starts opposite the Valley Lodge Hotel 81658288 to 81618252 was totally obstructed over its entire length and could not be followed on the ground. It has now been restored by the Bollin Valley Team. A first class job and the Chief Officer has been thanked for the work carried out. First reported by the Society in March 1983.

Wilmslow 128 Stile missing at 873831. Line of path not clear after reclamaiton works on the former 61 MU site at Handforth. 87758398 to 87308299. Cheshire are investigating.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ashover 16 This was a diversion proposal to remove a path for privacy purposes from the precincts of a "done up" farm. We do not altogether agree with altering paths for such reasons, particularly where there are no benefits to the public. The order was however confirmed.

Aston 7 A long and bitter struggle that resulted in success for the public after 7 years. Well known as a short cut across the field from Brough Bridge to the main Hope/Bamford Road and until it was consistently ploughed out by a new landowner was well used by ramblers in particular rushing for trains at Hope Station following a day's walk. The farmer wanted to take the path round the field edge thus destroying the entire value of the path. Derbyshire County Council pityingly supported the farmer, but they lost.

Buxton 56 & 58 These paths are part of a network on Temple Fields which are below Solomons Temple. Derbyshire CC supported a scheme by Buxton School to divert two of these well used paths for new playing fields. One was a most unreasonable route and we objected, suggesting a workable solution. The County Council refused to consider this which resulted in an inquiry. The Inspector agreed with us, against the Council and now DCC have had to issue a revised and more reasonable offer. This long-winded, bureaucratic and wasteful approach to "consultation" is unfortunately typical of Derbyshire CC.

Castleton 28 & 29 The Peak Park Planning Board propose a quite unnecessary diversion and we have objected. An inquiry is awaited.

Chapel en le Frith 17 Line of path through Woodside Farm, previously obstructed 003807, is now clear. First reported May 1982.

Chapel en le Frith 65 Previously obstructed at two points between the road and "The Courses" 049814 to 055811. Now clear, but a signpost is still required.

Chapel en le Frith 89 Stile obstructed by barbed wire at 083818. Reported to Derbyshire CC.

Chapel en le Frith 139 Allegations that this path, known locally as "the tramway" is not definitive in parts. Landowner concerned is a member of Chinley Parish Council challenges the definite map. Investigations are proceeding.

Charlesworth 21 A newly erected fence is said to be obstructing this path at 02319143. Derbyshire CC have replied promptly to say that two new stiles have now been erected and a ladder stile, which is not satisfactory, is receiving further attention.

Chinley 5 Path reported as being obstructed by barbed wire on the 4 April, was reported by Derbyshire CC as having been cleared on the 10 May. Quick action by the Council. GR 026816.

Chinley 6 One side of a British Rail step stile was missing at the north end of this path 015834. Promote action by British Rail has put the matter to rights.

Chinley 11 Fence erected, stream diverted, path obstructed and flooded to an unacceptable level. 015831 to 025823. Reported to Derbyshire CC.

Chinley 14 Allegations that barbed wire has been erected across a stile at 02858330. Rather large bulls are loose in the adjacent field (with cows). Reported DCC.

Chinley 31 Stile at the side of Naze Farm 04428347 is in a dangerous state of repair. Derbyshire CC have been informed and are dealing.

Chinley 37 Path is obstructed where it leaves Hayfield Road A624 at 051835. Derbyshire CC have been informed and reply that it is hoped the obstruction will be removed "within the not too distant future".

Chisworth 3 & 4 Locked gate and no stile at 998916 and no stile or gate to exit on to Far Combs Drive at 004917. Derbyshire CC have been informed and have acknowledged.

Dale Abbey 14 We raised objection to the proposals to close an attractive village path for housing development. A more acceptable diversion has now been proposed.

Glossop 21 Obstructed by wire west of Jumble Farm, 04619332. Glossop & Longden Dale Footpath Society are dealing and the Society is maintaining a watching brief.

Glossop 26 Obstruction by person south of Jumble Farm 04629311. Derbyshire CC are aware of problems in this area and are dealing.

Hayfield 27, 28 & 33 A stile is required at 026890 and a stile and signpost at 026893. A footpath sign is required on FP 33 where it leaves the metalled road at 027875. Derbyshire CC have been informed.

Hayfield 32 Continuing east from Higher Cliff, the next three walls are either blocked off or wired up. 028877. Derbyshire CC have been informed.

Hayfield 55 Path is obstructed by sheets of metal etc at Ashes Farm 05548630. The gate is locked at the unoccupied Caldwell Clough Farm 05658585. Derbyshire CC have been informed and are dealing,

Killamarsh 14 A routine TCPA case involving a housing developer fragmenting a through route by proposing to re-route on to pavements when there was an alternative available by routing the path by the backs of gardens. This went to an inquiry and the Department of the Environment have accepted our scheme as being better and have therefore refused the order.

New Mills 8 Substantial amount of work has been carried out on this path - new stile, bog drained, stepping stones placed and a substantial new footbridge erected. A first class job. The Secretary has congratulated the County on their efforts. 019901 to 015906.

New Mills 10, 12 & 13 A notice has appeared at 00459020 - "Near Slack Farm - Private Road", there is a private road to the farm but the notice tends to deter walkers. A "Public Footpath" signpost is required to counter. Derbyshire CC have been asked to provide and have agreed.

New Mills 32 & 34 Many complaints with regard to these paths. Obstructed at three points by a locked gate and sheep netting. A suggestion that the south end might have been unofficially diverted. Council signpost uprooted at 00358931. Finally established that the path has been diverted at the south end now runs 00208800 to 00548925. A signpost and stiles have now been erected, and a passing Society working party have "fixed" the gate.

New Mills 62 Path overgrown between houses and obstructed by barbed wire at 007867. Derbyshire have been informed.

New Mills 65 & 68 A barbed wire fence blocks the line of path at 99358681 and there is no sign of the path where it should leave the bungalow approach road at 99348690. Derbyshire CC have been informed.

New Mills 136 Obstructed by newly erected barbed wire at 02058522. Derbyshire CC have been informed, and promptly replied that two new ladder stiles have been erected. Path now clear.

New Mills 164 New stile erected at 101892. Path now clear but signpost is still minus its arm.

Peak Forest 40 & 41 These two paths cross the Peakdale Quarry at Dove Holes and provide useful routes towards Peak Forest. The RA originally complained about improper obstructions to DCC who instead of getting rid of the problems agreed with the quarry owners on closure. We objected and an inquiry resulted. We await the decision.

Shipley Park Paths This was a contentious proposal to rationalise paths in Shipley County Park, Derbyshire, for an "Alton Towers" type fun-fair. One path is a favourite, well used lakeside walk. There were over 100 local objectors but despite this the Department of the Environment confirmed the scheme.

Staveley 16 A diversion proposal to divert an ancient bridleway which despite our opposition was confirmed following an inquiry.

Wensley & Snitterton 30 The Society's inspector confirms that this path is now clear. A signpost is however still required.

Wormhill - Old Moor Quarry A scheme to close, divert, create a network of paths on the fringe of the National Park to allow of extensions to the Old Moor Quarry. Following negotiations, we achieved a number of useful link paths.

GREATER MANCHESTER COUNCIL

Ashton-Under-Lyne 37 & 135 (Tameside MB) Footpath signpost erected to counter "Private - Access Only" sign on 135. F.P. 37 is clear and walkable, the Society's inspector feels that a handrail is not necessary on this path.

Audenshaw 3 & 4 (Tameside MB) A diversion application which due to the tenacity of local objectors managed to go on to two inquiries before the diversion was confirmed. We managed to get the paths routed mostly away from estate roads.

Blackrod 50 (Bolton MB) A niggling little application to close a short length of path which someone had already taken into their garden. The Department of the Environment confirmed the order.

Blackrod 53 (Bolton MB) Path badly obstructed by overgrowth adjacent to a disused railway line. 596116. Bolton MB have been informed.

Blackrod 73 (Bolton MB) An extremely long and dangerous flight of steps forms part of this path. The steps are unsafe. Bolton MB have been asked if they are satisfied that the steps are in fact safe 612115. Bolton have promised to undertake the repair using the Community Workforce.

Bolton 332 (Bolton MB) Two new stiles have been erected on this path. It is said that this is the first time this path has been clear of obstruction since at least 1977. 672077 to 673083.

Bolton 337 (Bolton MB) Obstructed at two points by barbed wire fences. 673077 and 674077. Bolton have been informed.

Bolton 373 (Bolton MB) Previously obstructed by mounds of earth etc, this path is now clear but a signpost is required at the north end. 70310598 to 70440644.

Bolton 356 (Bolton MB) Path is quite impassable to the north of Morris Farm 669071. Deep Mud, silo bin on line of path, electric fences across the line. Obstructed since 1978 Bolton MB have been advised of our extreme concern.

Bredbury & Romiley 6 (Stockport MB) A broken down stile has been replaced and the long line of felled timber which was across the path has now been removed 96209105.

Bredbury & Romiley 46 (Stockport MB) The path is wired where it leaves Ashton Road 923930. Where the path joins FP 49 the gate is locked and there is no stile. The footpath signpost on Ashton Road is invariably wrongly aligned. Stockport MB have been informed and have acknowledged.

Cheadle 19 (Stockport MB) A diversion application for an extension to Cheadle Cemetery which introduced an unnatural kink into a well used route. Our protestations fell on stoney ground.

Crompton 67 (Oldham MB) A Highways Act diversion for a "tarted up" farmhouse. This is a diversion for privacy which we have opposed as the present route of the path is perfectly adequate.

Crompton 81 (Oldham MB) A TCPA Section 210 application for a diversion to extend a house garden which we believed was not strictly within the terms of Section 210. The case went to an inquiry but the Secretary of State disagreed with us and confirmed the order.

Chadderton - Greengate / Wood Street (Oldham MB) An application for closure of a path already illegally appropriated into a builders compound. We have objected.

Denmark Road - Moss Side (Manchester City) This case achieved a good deal of publicity in 1984 and even though it ended in defeat there were several principles at stake and we certainly made our mark over the right of pedestrians in inner city areas to use roads that industrialists want to close for expansion. Denmark Road, once a main road by the Royal Brewery was diverted a year ago but the old road was left to cater mainly for those on foot. The Brewery wanted to extend but such was the opposition from pedestrians and cyclists that a four day public inquiry was necessary. We lost in the end but it will be a long time before Manchester City Council tries to ride rough shod over peoples rights again.

Golborne 13 (Wigan MB) A rather peculiar little application this, by Haydock Race Course to close a 20 yard section of Sandy Lane on race days for up to ½ an hour at a time. They proposed to enter into an agreement with Wigan MB to automatically dedicate/rededicate the right of way when racing was not taking place but of course the public would have no right to object to any variation or extension to this agreement. This particular case was confirmed but we are keeping a close watch on any similar applications as this is a problem which could spread.

Hazel Grove & Bramhall 2 (Stockport MB) Path badly affected by overgrowth and the path is almost lost at certain points where it passes between a fence and the stream. 89168179 to 90108067. Referred to Stockport MB.

Hazel Grove & Bramhall 5 (Stockport MB) Path behind houses at Woolford obstructed by overgrowth. 883825 to 881822. Path cleared by members of the Alderley Edge Society.

Hyde 82 (Tameside MB) Path adjacent to the old railway line is obstructed by fencing and stonework from the dismantled bridge. British Rail are thought to be responsible. 959946 to 959945. Referred to Local Authority.

Hyde 88 (Tameside MB) Allegations that the stile leading from the A560 at 96029383 has been blocked by Tameside MB. The Society's inspector confirms the facts of the case but there are suggestions that the path was officially diverted in 1965. GMC have been asked to advise.

Leigh 209 (Wigan MB) Excavation work taking place across the line of path which is obstructed. 677986 to 675989. A signpost is required where the path leaves the East Lancashire Road A580. Wigan MB have been informed.

Littleborough 352 & 356 (Rochdale MB) All obstructions removed and access to the path can now be obtained on the Halifax side of the Moorcock PH 953173.

Marple 3 (Stockport MB) Obstruction by person - the farmer maintains there is no right of way. Path leaves the A626 at GR 97889097. Stockport MB have been informed and have replied promptly to say that if the farmer persists in his attitude, legal services will be asked to take appropriate action. Members to take note.

Marple 17 (Stockport MB) The gap between two stone posts completely wired up at 99309060. Stockport have been informed.

Marple 19 (Stockport MB) A large area of field is under water. The stile at 99828966 is therefore unusable unless wearing wellingtons. Receiving attention.

Marple 21 (Stockport MB) Allegations of obstruction by person. The lady at Far Bradshaw Farm maintains that the track is private. 99528955 to 99759000. Members to use this path and report any problems to the Secretary.

Marple 44 (Stockport MB) This path is now clear of obstructions and signposts have been erected.

Marple 44 & 47 (Stockport MB) The two armed signpost on the A626 at 97759076 has been removed during recent road repairs. Stockport MB have replied promptly to say that work is not yet complete but the signpost will be re-erected. Members living local to this point please advise the Secretary when reinstatement has taken place.

Marple 162 (Stockport MB) This path is obstructed near Lumb House GR 967872. Investigations proceeding.

Marple 163 (Stockport MB) Footpath from Strines Road to the Peak Forest Canal is blocked by sheds etc, at the western end where it joins the lane to the farm. There is wire across the same path at 965872. Reported to Stockport.

Milnrow 279 (Rochdale MB) Offending notice now removed, path now clear over its entire length.

Nelson Street, Chorlton on Medlock This is an interesting case which, when taken in parallel with Denmark Road, Moss Side was the Society's first broadside against street closures where the rights of pedestrians was being compromised. Manchester Royal Infirmary said they wanted to close Nelson Street for its admittedly much needed hospital extension but we suspected that their main reason was one of security since there seemed no good reason why Nelson Street should not have been converted to a pedestrian way and slightly diverted when it could then have been retained within the development. This would have then provided a vital access between two main roads, Oxford Road and Upper Brook Street. Not only that, but it would have given access to the proposed Pankhurst Museum on Nelson Street itself which is a well established "Womens History Trail" of the area. After 2 abortive court attempts to stop up the street, brought to a halt by insufficient posting of notices, stormy meetings, sharp exchanges in the media and local agitation, the hospital authorities accepted our compromise solution and following a short period of temporary closure for the building works, a new PUBLIC footpath will be provided.

Prestwich 29 (Bury MB) Both branches of this path have now been signposted and there is a passing point round the secured gate at Mellowdews Farm.

Radcliffe (Christ Church) 6 & 12 (Bury MB) A stile and signpost are required where the former leaves the road at 76350909 and there is an unacceptable notice "No admittance except on business" on the gate across the latter at 77800953. Bury MB have been informed.

Ringway 1 & 3 (Manchester City) The Airport Authority wanted diversions in order to develop a cargo terminal which would have partially severed a through walking route from Wythenshawe to the Bollin Valley. Negotiations ended with us getting an additional path which will in some small measure redress the balance. The Society is also looking at ways of having the Moss Nook (Airport Hotel) - Styal valley footpath link recreated. This was closed in 1962 for runway extension. It was a greivous loss and should never have been closed but merely diverted, it was done under local powers now thankfully expired.

Rochdale 15 (Rochdale MB) Allegations that the path is "made up" where it should leave Chadwick Lane 87461059. Investigations are proceeding.

Rochdale 30 (Rochdale MB) A recently constructed stone wall obstructs the path at 846159. Reported to Rochdale MB.

Rochdale 44 / Milnrow 332 (Rochdale MB) These paths cross the playing fields of Bishop Henshaw Memorial School and were found to be obstructed in February 1983. The paths are now clear 910102 to 915106.

Saddleworth 55 (Oldham MB) Signposts and stiles have now been erected and the path is now clear. 003092.

Saddleworth 137 (Oldham MB) Path blocked off to allow the construction of a private garden. 97340826. Investigations proceeding.

Saddleworth 249 (Oldham MB) The owner of Rye Top Farm, 007052, set up an unofficial diversion "to avoid a field in which a particularly vigorous stallion is kept". Oldham M.B. to their credit, sent an Officer who informed the farmer "if the nature of the animal presents a potential danger he should be kept in a field not used by the public". A refreshing comment by a Council Officer - would that there were more of his kind about.

Swinton 51 (Salford City) A minor diversion proposal for a path through the Broadoak Garden Centre that for years has been unofficially tampered with much to the consternation of local people. A formal objection was lodged when the order was made so that when the public inquiry is held we should be able to get the truth of what might well be a squalid little affair.

Turton (Egerton) 7 (Bolton MB) Paths obstructed at three separate points after leaving Cox Green Road. 709154. Bolton MB have been informed previously by Bolton RA in February, 1982 but as usual nothing has been done. Reported again to the Director of Environmental Services.

Turton (Egerton) 15 & 16 (Bolton MB) Both paths affected by building development and left in a dreadful condition. Bolton MB are, or should be aware of the problem as they were warned by the Society in 1981 that the situation was unacceptable. The Council have been asked to give this matter their urgent attention.

Tyldesley 91 & 92 (Wigan MB) Path obstructed by a British Rail post and wire fence where it passes under the railway, 71200302. Wigan MB informed and are dealing.

Tyldesley 96 (Wigan MB) Path obstructed by a barbed wire enclosure erected by contractors working for the National Coal Board Opencast Executive. This obstruction has now been cleared but there are two further obstructions on the same path which are being checked by the Society's inspector. 71050205 to 71580207.

Westhoughton 145, 146 & 147 (Bolton MB) Quite a number of TCPA cases are anticipated by get rich quick developers, we always object in such cases to force embarrassing inquiries. In many of the cases, however, the Department of the Environment gives the guilty party the white wash treatment. Not so in this case, however, for following an inquiry on the closing of FP 146, which forms part of a through walking route on the Captain Lees Estate, he refused to sanction what Bolton Council wanted. A path now goes through a completed but unsold house and Bolton Council blow hot and cold. We await developments with interest.

Woodhouse Lane, Dunham (Trafford MB) Another niggling little case which shows the lack of consideration for pedestrians. When the National Trust opened Dunham Hall and Park, Woodhouse Lane at Dunham Town Hall was diverted slightly to cater for increased traffic. This led Trafford Council to apply to local Magistrates for the complete closure of a tree lined section which could quite easily have been left open to those on foot for it connected directly between Dunham Village bus stop and one of the main paths through the park. We put our case to the bench but they seemed to lack interest and granted the Council what they wanted. A recent visit was revealing. The old bit of road is still there and is now becoming a rubbish dump. A good example we feel of getting rid of the Magistrates Court procedures for dealing with highways.

Worsley 39 (Salford City) The "Private Property - Keep Out" notice painted on the fence adjacent to the point where this path leaves the East Lancashire Road A580 at 74660189 has now been blacked out after complaints by the Society. A Public Footpath notice has now been erected.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Accrington 18 The Council proposed outright closure of a path leading to an isolated council estate on the council estate on the fringe of Accrington in order to extend a cemetery. Their alternative proposal was to allow people to walk through the extended cemetery during daylight hours only. Such a "sufferance" route is not acceptable as an exchange for a public path and we have objected since it is quite possible for a fenced path to be provided between the old and new part of the cemetery.

Bacup 173 A new stile in a fence has been countered by a new barbed wire fence immediately in front of the stile 857247. Referred to Rossendale BC.

Bacup 390, 391 & 392 A newly erected high barbed wire fence obstructs the line at the junction of these paths. 891242. Rossendale BC have been informed.

Bacup 621 Wooden gate "piled high with timber" at 842210 and a stone wall built across the line of path at Top O'th Height Farm. The Society's inspector gets the impression that every effort is being made to discourage walkers from using this path.

Bradshaw North 11 Obstructed at "Ouzel Nest" Cottage 73341361. The landowner "does not want people walking through his garden". Bolton RA are dealing and will seek assistance of the Society if necessary.

Bretherton 6 Path ploughed out and not reinstated. Bridge over a ditch is in position but is obscured by bramble and nettles. The arm has been broken off the signpost at 48132150. Reported to Lancashire CC.

Bretherton 12 Path obstructed by barbed wire at 46631863. Reported to Lancashire CC.

Bretherton 24 Path ploughed out and set to a root crop earlier this year, no attempt to restore the line. 46651885 to 46851968. Lancashire CC have been informed.

Croston 25 One of many signposts in Lancashire which suffer from the "missing arm" syndrome. This one at 49671967.

Charnock Richard 10 The footbridge at 5486157 has slipped into the stream and is in a poor condition anyway. A signpost is required where this path leaves the A49. Reported to Lancashire CC.

Charnock Richard 16 The stile has been removed where this path changes from one side of the hedge to the other at 55451532. It has been replaced by a barbed wire fence. Reported to Chorley BC.

Coppull 17 In 1979 we negotiated a satisfactory TCPA diversion for a new housing estate, maintaining an important pedestrianised route through the housing. The developer did not proceed and in 1982 a new layout was drawn up re-routing the path on to estate roads. We objected, it went to an inquiry, we lost.

Haslingden 153 Barbed wire fence across line of path at 776238.

Haslingden 158 Locked iron gate with spikes on top obstructs the line of path. There is a stile some distance away but it is in bad condition. 776234 to 776238.

Haslingden 161, 162 & 163 A stone wall topped with barbed wire obstructs the line at the junction of these paths at 779236. All Haslingden cases referred to Rossendale BC.

Haighton 11 An application for a diversion on privacy grounds only - we have objected.

Heskin 17 Footbridge badly in need of repair at 51501582. This problem referred to Lancashire CC who have, uncharacteristically, acknowledged receipt of the complaint.

Livesey 2 Lancashire CC licensed a quarry for 40 years and across this quarry site ran a definitive path, hopelessly mangled by the quarry operator. Their proposal was a longer but quite pleasant diversion, it was a finely balanced problem. In the end the diversion was approved but the file has been marked in our archives "for 40 years review" when it should be possible to restore the old path.

Mawdsley 34 Obstructed by electric fences at two points on path from 48871653 to 5030161. Reported to Lancashire CC.

Ramsbottom 15 & 16 A small bridge or stepping stones is required at the junction of these paths 76711626. Lancashire CC Engineers have been informed.

Ramsbottom 147, 169, 170, 172, 173 & 187 All these paths in the vicinity of Turn Village are obstructed in some way. Rossendale BC have been informed but have not, some nine months later, found the time to either reply or acknowledge.

Ramsbottom 209, 210 & 211 All paths obstructed by barbed wire, all in the Shuttleworth area. 822161. Reported to Rossendale BC.

Rawtenstall 155 & 281 Newly erected barbed wire affects both these paths at 832205, 830205 and 818207. Rossendale informed.

Rawtenstall 219 Newly erected barbed wire fence near Heigh Barn Farm, Edgeside, 843224.

Rawtenstall 348 Path previously obstructed by builders debris has now been cleared.

Tarleton 17 Lancashire County Council proposed to close a path which had long been blocked by a motel, later converted into a garage cum caravan site. Local people managed to keep using the approximate route around the buildings but this was not good enough for LCC and the landowners who split legal hairs and decided that as the true line of path was not used it could be closed. The Society is working with the West Lancashire Footpath Group on this case and the inquiry is scheduled for January 1985.

Thornton 1 Wyre BC propose to re-route one of the last few rural paths around Fleetwood on to an estate road. Objection lodged.

Turton (Belmont) 3 Previously obstructed by a stone wall at 670186. North West Water Authority now advise that the path is clear.

Turton (Belmont) 10 & 35 Dangerous and difficult stiles exist on this continuation path. 677163 to 691170. Reported to Blackburn BC.

Turton (Chapelton) 25 This path is not obstructed, as was at first thought. The line shown on the 2½" map is incorrect and the path is open on its correct line. It leaves the B6391 at 71571701.

Turton (Chapelton) 31 No stile on correct line of path at 72431546.

Turton (Chapelton) 44 Obstructed by a fence at 69721795. Reported to Blackburn BC.

Turton (Edgworth) 63 Previously obstructed by barbed wire, path now clear. 72362022 to 72312028.

Turton (Edgworth) 120 Stile wired at 75501665, this obstruction is cleared from time to time but is then obstructed again. The Society's inspectors are watching the position.

Turton (Egerton) 6 Some speculation as to whether this path is shown correctly on the 2½" map. If it is, then it is obstructed by a stone wall at 709156. Further enquiries being made.

Turton (Egerton) 35 / Darwen 144 North West Water Authority confirm that these paths, which were obstructed at 702181 and 705184, are now clear. First reported to Blackburn BC in July 1979. The clearance is a result of 5 letters and 9 reminder cards from the Society. This shows to some extent the size of the problem in the Blackburn BC area.

Turton (Egerton) 37 Now clear after lengthy correspondence, still to be signposted.

Turton (Egerton) 38 Now clear, short ladder stile erected.

Ulnes Walton 8 & 11 Footbridge in a poor state of repair at 50451950. The is obstructed by a fence at the restaurant complex and a signpost is required where the path leaves the A581. Lancashire CC informed.

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL

Rupert Lane, Everton (Liverpool City) This must be the last semblance of a rural path with a view of the pierhead and is on a ridge just north of the city offering fine distant views to walkers. The Council wanted to close the lane (named after Prince Rupert who had local associations) and incorporate it into a new park which would, of course, be closed at night. We have now secured a guarantee that a right of way will be rededicated.

St Helens 9 & 11 (St Helens MB) The Council wanted to close these two paths for a reclamation scheme. There were plans to lay nearby recreational paths and we suggested diversion on to these routes rather than formal closure, since that would allow them to be retained on the definitive map.

PEAK PARK PLANNING BOARD

During the year, members expressed some concern that once again, following a period of drought, the Planning Board had taken upon itself the task of dissuading walkers from using definitive rights of way in the Park. Park Wardens had been stopping parties and individuals. One such instance being on the Doctor's Gate path. Concern was also expressed by the Society with regard to the wording of notices which had been displayed and where these had been placed. All these matters have been discussed with the Authority who are now aware of our concern.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Sheffield 362 (Sheffield City) A proposal to divert this path on to an estate road when there was no need for it. Objection lodged.

Todwick 13 (Rotherham BC) We negotiated a satisfactory diversion for a housing estate but the Council reneged on it. Hence we objected and an inquiry will be held in February 1985.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Alton 38 Path is obstructed. The landowner refuses to acknowledge that a footpath crosses his land. Inspector is dealing direct with the County Engineer.

Chapel 4 / Whitmore 8 British Rail wanted to demolish a footbridge over the main Euston - Glasgow line. The bridge was in a dangerous condition due to lack of maintenance. We opposed the closure, it went to an inquiry, but we lost.

Ipstones 101 / Onecoat 41 On the former a signpost is required where the path leaves the A523 and on the latter there are two obstructions.

Rushton 4, 6, 12, 22 & 42 - Horton 26 All of these paths are obstructed in some way. Complainant has written direct to the County Council and the Society has asked the Council for a copy of their reply to him.

Rushton 49 This path, which uses the bank of a British Waterways "feeder" for Rudyard Lake, was found to be impassible due to dredgings in excess of 3' deep being deposited on the line of path. Whilst leading a walk, the Society's inspector dropped into this almost thigh deep when descending from a stile. An extremely dangerous situation which British Waterways do not appear to fully recognise. This path forms part of the Gritstone Trail. The dredgings continues for over 1 mile 93956235 to 95356385. After lengthy correspondence there would appear to be a move towards a temporary diversion order to operate until the dredgings have dried out.

Waterhouses RUPP 1 Obstructions cleared and new stiles erected. The erecting of signposts at each end of this path is now the only outstanding item. 10325048 to 11305204.

Waterhouses 9 A fallen tree which effectively obstructed a gap stile at 10015149 has now been sawn up and removed. The path still needs signposting where it leaves the Calton to Throwley Road.

Waterhouses 36 A substantial replacement bridge has been installed at 09405155 but the path is obstructed by a 3/4 feet high, 3 strand barbed wire fence where it leaves the road at 10145155. A signpost is also required at this point.

Waterhouses 37 Step stiles and ladder stiles now erected. Path clear 12355150 to 11405155.

WEST YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Batley 25 A diversion proposal to divert path onto estate roads, case lost after an inquiry.

Brown Street / Oswald Road, Leeds A neglected path which the County Council considered had outlived its usefulness. We disagreed and took the case to an inquiry but lost.

Calderdale paths For many years the Society has not had an inspector to cover this area. This has now been put to rights and as we suspected the path network leaves much to be desired. The first and second obstructed path schedules has been passed to West Yorkshire CC and contains over thirty obstruction cases. Definitive path numbers are not available as the County Council will not supply the Society with copies of the definitive maps, the only authority of the eight in our area which refuses to provide us with this facility. We are continuing to press the Council.

Colne Valley 75 British Rail wanted to demolish a footbridge. We took it to an inquiry and won.

Further comments by The Closure & Diversions Secretary

DELETIONS FROM THE DEFINITIVE MAP

Quite the worst disaster for walkers resulting from the introduction of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 is, not the Bulls issue which was a smoke screen to divert attention to more insidious issue, but the ability given to landowners and the like to "concoct" evidence that any path on the definitive map is not in fact public at all and to apply to the local authority for its deletion

The first two examples of this shameful law are now creaking their way through. Heywood 95 at Delph House Farm, Birtles is an old favourite. We won it in the 1970s following an inquiry in which the Secretary of State decided that the path was useful in the network of paths in and around the Ashworth Valley and that the alternative involved road walking. Now the intransigent occupier of the farm is having a second bite at the cherry and has applied to GMC for deletion of the path on the grounds that it should never have appeared on the map in the first place. Evidence from neighbours will be tested before an inquiry in due course.

The second case, at Standish, Wigan Footpath 31 is just as awkward in its own way and once again a time wasting inquiry seems inevitable.

It must now be said that no path is safe and if members think that this is scaremongering talk about rarely used and useless paths, can I ask you to reflect on another proposed deletion we heard of recently - Turton No. 5 at Grange Farm, more generally known perhaps as the main footpath on the West Side of the Jumbles County Park, used by thousands enjoying a reservoir walk.

It seems ironic that in what will possibly be GMCs last year of business, their staff are tied up with useless exercises like this which are very much against the public interest, when they could be spending their last year in adding to the definitive map the 1000s of non-definitive, but most certainly public paths.

This footpath report contains a selection of cases dealt with by the General Secretary and the Closure and Diversions Secretary during the year. It is by no means a complete list as a good number of cases are dealt with by negotiation before they reach the order stage.

The General Secretary would be interested to hear from members who are able to make useful comments with regard to any of the paths mentioned.

DT/DWL

FEAR AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 1984

| 1983 | INCOME | 1984 | 1983 | EXPENDITURE | 1984 |
|------|-----------------------|---------|------|----------------------|---------|
| | SUBSCRIPTIONS: | | | | |
| 262 | Ordinary | 291.50 | 245 | Annual Report | 195.70 |
| 249 | Joint | 220.50 | 422 | Post and Telephone | 533.02 |
| 212 | Tfr from 10yr susp. | 259.45 | 312 | Stationery | 257.89 |
| 3 | Junior | 2.00 | 100 | Gen.Secy:Honararium | 100.00 |
| 328 | Affiliations | 396.00 | 125 | Expenses | 125.00 |
| 1054 | Total Subscriptions | 1169.45 | | TRAVEL: | |
| 389 | DONATIONS | 360.25 | 154 | Closure & Diversions | 202.52 |
| | INVESTMENT INCOME: | | 133 | Footpath Inspection | 86.97 |
| 1230 | Paid Net | 313.26 | 26 | Other Travel | 50.24 |
| 527 | Tax Repayable | 134.24 | | | |
| | | 447.50 | 17 | Publicity | 12.60 |
| 788 | Paid Gross | 2635.50 | 81 | Maps | 45.20 |
| 15 | Profit on Dinner | --- | | ROOM RENTS: | |
| 4002 | TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME | 4612.70 | 9 | A.G.M. | 9.50 |
| -- | GRANT:Sports Council | 475.00 | 71 | Committee Meetings | 72.00 |
| 1554 | Investment A/c Adj. | --- | 234 | Archive Storage | 240.01 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | 30 | Subs & Donations | 23.00 |
| | | | 58 | Publicity | 8.51 |
| | | | 82 | Archive Expenses | 56.91 |
| | | | -- | Training Course | 107.68 |
| | | | -- | Bank Charges | 16.00 |
| | | | 21 | Sundry | 2.53 |
| | | | -- | Office Equipment | 109.69 |
| | | | 2157 | TOTAL ORD EXPENSES | 2279.97 |
| | | | | Investment Ac Adj | 74.26 |
| | | | 3398 | SURPLUS INCOME | 2733.47 |
| 5556 | TOTAL INCOME | 5087.70 | 5556 | | 5087.70 |

Treasurers Note: re Course costs:
The balance sheet amount shown under this heading is
for items which could not be placed under other headings
and does not represent the final absolute cost of
the course.

FUND BALANCES:

| Fund: | B/Fwd | INCOME | EXPENSES | C/Fwd |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| General Fund | 19,743.78 | 5087.70 | 2354.23 | 22,477.25 |
| Defence Fund | 2,129.18 | 45.00 | 3.42 | 2,170.76 |
| E Royce Memorial Fund | 79.66 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 79.66 |
| Signpost Fund | 274.29 | 104.50 | 137.48 | 241.31 |
| Survey Fund | 255.03 | 52.50 | 0.00 | 307.53 |
| H Wild Memorial Fund | 250.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| Totals: | 22,731.94 | + 5289.70 | - 2495.13 | = 25,526.51 |

PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st December 1984:

| LIABILITIES | | | ASSETS | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1983 | | 1984 | 1983 | | 1984 |
| 22,731.94 | FUNDS | 25,526.51 | 18,580.34 | INVESTMENTS | 19,306.08 |
| 1,378.15 | SUBSCRIPTION A/c | 1,684.70 | 2,515.34 | BANK DEPOSIT A/C | 4,142.42 |
| | | | 2,215.83 | INVESTMENT A/C | 3,506.89 |
| | | | 527.00 | TAX CREDIT | 134.24 |
| | | | 138.31 | CURRENT ACCOUNT | 121.58 |
| | | | 66.00 | POSTAGE STAMPS | 0.00 |
| | | | 67.27 | GRANT | 0.00 |
| <u>24,110.09</u> | | <u>27,211.21</u> | <u>24,110.09</u> | | <u>27,211.21</u> |

INVESTMENTS:

The investments of the Society comprise of fixed interest stocks, all due to mature before 1999. They appear in the balance sheet at their maturity value. Any redemption loss or gain is shown in the income and expenditure accounts in the year of purchase.

Investments as at 31st December:

| 1983 | | 1984 |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 18,580.34 | Maturity Value | 19,306.08 |
| 19,598.38 | Cost of purchase | 20,398.38 |
| 21,654.63 | Market Value 31 Dec | 20,984.12 |

NOTE TO THE ACCOUNTS:

The grant of £475.00 received from the Sports Council was made subject to certain conditions and a part of the grant, which cannot be valued at the time these accounts were prepared, may become repayable.

There were no significant accruals nor any capital commitments as at 31st December 1984.

TREASURERS COMMENT:

Our financial position is sound. It is clear that we need more volunteer workers to assist us in keeping open the footpath network in our area.

If there are any questions on the accounts the Treasurer would be grateful if they could be advised to him at least seven days before the A.G.M. to ensure that a full answer can be given.

Stephen Drew

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 here given give a true and fair view of the revenue and transactions for the year ended 31st December 1984, and of the state of affairs as at that date.

2 Feb 1985

Signed:
E McCormick
Honorary Auditor

E W Linnell

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, particularly in the eight Counties of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, West Yorkshire.
 - (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 charge 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 26th April 1984.