

Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



Bollin Valley 1985

— ANNUAL REPORT 1985 —

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Founded in 1894; Manchester Association Founded 1826

President:

Vice Presidents:

D.T. Berwick
G.S. Cooper

P. Daley
Mrs. E. Evison

T. Ewart

Officers & Council Members:

L.G. Meadowcroft (Chairman)

J.F. Houfe (Vice Chairman)
N.H. Edwards (Vice Chairman)

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D. Mace
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Mrs M. Page

FOREWORD

The enthusiasm with which the majority of the Society's Footpath Inspectors carry out their duties really amazes me. The way they can also sit through an evening Council meeting each month talking about footpaths and associated problems is most encouraging. It is only after attending numerous of these monthly meetings that one grasps the theme running through them, and can understand the reason for their enthusiasm. They are all keen outdoor people and the desire to go walking whether in town, urban, rural or country areas is paramount. So hence the need to ensure that the ways are kept open and free from obstruction for all to use without let or hindrance.

A lot seems to have happened since your Chairman invited me, whilst manhandling a signpost in Lyme Park, to stand at the AGM as a Council member. My connections with the RA at both local and area level had brought me into close contact with the Society and its Officers, and many the time have I returned after a Manchester meeting in deep conversation with the late Dr. Frank Head. I was then asked to speak at the Annual Dinner, which was really a first time in two ways. It was the first of the Society's dinners that I had attended and the first time that I had spoken out to what were then still to a large extent, strangers. This did give me the experience and confidence to really settle into my duties as RA area chairman. Last year I was pleased to accept nomination as a second Vice Chairman of the Society. My other duties have prevented me from doing as much as I would have liked for the Society, but now these are abating perhaps the future will see me in a more active capacity.

I wonder what makes people interested in the "amenity" scene? There must be plenty of reasons. Mine are basically two-fold. First and foremost is the religious aspect. My friends all know that I am a devout Christian. If those with bibles would refer to the first chapters of John and Genesis they will no doubt appreciate why I am so interested in amenity aspects. I know that I am a trustee of this land and must do all in my power to prevent the ravages of man destroying or damaging it. The second reason is purely personal and egoistic in that I love this land and am really never happy unless I am lost in the countryside with all its assets. I can always remember my late father's words to me when I was a teenager when he indicated that if you put back twice as much as you expect to get out of life then you will enjoy it all the more. This I now know to be right because in my many outings into the countryside I realise that my efforts have in some small way enabled me and others to enjoy it to a better advantage.

No doubt elsewhere in this report there will be eulogies on the passing of G.M.C. and other Metropolitan Counties in our area. Perhaps some of us non political people will see advantages in their departure, but realise that the policies will not entirely die but be transferred elsewhere. The organisation will go but not necessarily the politicians involved. I must confess that we shall miss the help and assistance the G.M.C. has given to the outdoor movements. The numerous plans it has initiated in its life span will be a lasting reminder. The river plans, especially the Mersey Valley plan will bring the countryside to Manchester. Perhaps we shall have problems with horses and motor cycles at times, but at least we shall have the benefit of a better network of routes along the valley. The possibility of walks from Irlam to the Cat and Fiddle using the Mersey and Goyt valleys or to Standage or Delph using the Mersey and Tame network is something that we have looked for for many a year. We must make sure that the district authorities who will take over responsibility continue the good work and employ the necessary wardens and other workers to keep the schemes in a healthy state.

I know that the Society is concerned that the passing of the Metropolitan Counties will mean harder work for our Secretary in his bid to deal with path blockages. The efficiency of the local councils will vary tremendously and it will mean that our task will have to be more vigilant and perhaps abrasive to ensure that we continue our success story as to rights of way. 1986 is going to be a year of retrenchment and keeping a watching brief on the new setup.

Footpath work is certainly not necessarily an instant success story, but patience and prompting bring their rewards in the end. I was involved in the formation of the New Mills and District RA group some fifteen years ago. One of the first efforts was a booklet of walks around New Mills. One in particular was a circular tour of the district. This entailed crossing the stream near Thornsett. The bridge had been washed away some years before. We started to report the position, we even offered to help towards the cost of a new bridge. Stepping stones were promised but never delivered. Now I am pleased to report that with the aid of a MSC team the bridge is nearly completed. So our motto must be "never give up".

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As the year ends we are left with only a few months' existence of Greater Manchester County Council. Without being political we believe that the passing of two departments in particular, Planning and Highways, will leave a void that will be difficult to fill when their duties are split between the metropolitan districts. The Planning Department's overall management of the various river valley schemes has been of considerable benefit and their performance is to be applauded. We are particularly grateful for the work carried out by staff of the Rights of Way Section of the Highways Department, under the management of Mr Derek Haslam and his two lady assistants with whom we have had very useful exchanges of information and practical help to our mutual benefit. We would also acknowledge the services rendered by the Highway Committee and in particular the support of its Chairman, County Councillor Dennis Allen who was the guest speaker at our 1983 Annual Dinner.

One of the year's successes was the erection of a footbridge over the Norbury Brook on the Hazel Grove/Poynton boundary by the G.M.C. Highways Department. Four years ago this path, Hazel Grove 75, was obstructed at both ends and there was no means of crossing the brook except by wading. This route will connect with the proposed Norbury Brook footpath. We are also very pleased to report that, during the period April 1984 to March 1985, the Derbyshire CC Highways Department erected 60 new footbridges at a cost of £85,620 and repaired a further 67 footbridges at a cost of £59,455.

During the year the Society's exhibition was on display at various venues including the Castlefield Festival in Manchester, Lose Hill Hall's Open Day at Hope, Sale Water Park, Marple Ridge School's Open Day, the Royal Bank of Scotland in Piccadilly Station Approach and a window display at a building society in Darwen. The Society's illustrated lecture is proving very popular and has been given to a number of interested organisations including several Townswomen's Guilds, CHA, Scouts, Civic Societies and a Rotary Club. Most of these events have been presented by the Secretary and Chairman and they would appreciate any slides showing obstructed paths.

This was a very busy year for the Archive Research Team. Most of the Society's historic documents have now been recorded and indexed and we are now examining the records of the Closure and Diversion Secretary. Many of these are stored temporarily at the home of one of our inspectors and we are very grateful for this facility. All Closure and Diversion Orders for the counties of Staffordshire and Derbyshire are now being dealt with by the Archive Team and further counties will be added during the months ahead. After a long-standing request, we have now received on loan a copy of the Definitive Rights of Way map for West Yorkshire which will rectify a long felt need within the Society. Earlier in the year we received from Lancashire CC copies of the Definitive Maps for South Ribble and revisions have been received for certain areas of Greater Manchester and Derbyshire. In addition to the above work, we are also the workshop for all the signpost activity that is created by the programme of erecting new and maintaining existing posts. At the end of the year we regrettably lost the services of one of our original Archive team members, Mrs Phyllis Pott, who died after a long illness. She will be greatly missed by fellow workers at our Monday sessions and several members attended her funeral.

I would draw your attention to the Form of Bequest on page 30 and respectfully request that you may wish to consider completing this for the benefit of the Society's work for future generations. Finally, our appreciation must be expressed to the many officers and members who have so willingly and generously given of their time and effort to the work of the Society. Long may we continue in this partnership.

ANNUAL DINNER 1985

We have many prominent speakers in the past but, despite the age of sexual equality, this was the first occasion on which we have been addressed by a lady speaker.

Miss Kate Ashbrook took over the post of General Secretary to the Commons Society, some two years ago having previously been with the Dartmoor Preservation Society. She is also

a member of the National Executive Committee of the Ramblers' Association. Our Society has had a close working relationship with the Open Spaces Society over very many years, and it was complementary to our interests that we were able to invite their new secretary. We were treated to a forthright and refreshingly delivered speech in a manner typical of the lady concerned.

It almost goes without saying, paradoxically, that we were catered for in the very high standard that we have come to expect from the Temple management.

(LGM)



You can now proudly wear the Society's own very attractive rucksac/blazer badge. This is reproduced above in the actual size (3½" diameter) but the real badge is, of course, in full colour.

Please apply to Mr Robert Fyshe, 57 Moss Lane, Timperley, Cheshire, including 80p and a suitably sized stamped addressed envelope.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present for your consideration, my report for the year ended 31st December, 1985.

The Ombudsman

I seem to have been writing now for years regarding our problems with footpaths 18 & 40 in the parish of Grindon in Staffordshire and how, after protracted negotiations with Staffordshire County Council, we finally felt the need to refer the matter to the Ombudsman. Forgive me therefore if I write a further chapter in this truly amazing saga. In my report last year I said that I would be very disappointed indeed if the Ombudsman did not find the County Council guilty of maladministration. What exactly happened was that though the Commissioner did not find that there had been maladministration he could not summon up sufficient courage to say so. The normal procedure is that the Commissioner issues a report which goes to the local authority and the complainant. The local authority must then advertise in the local press that there has been an inquiry and indicate to all interested parties where a copy of the report can be seen. The Press and others then check the report and the local authority usually gets some rather bad publicity as a result. For some strange reason, in this case the Commissioner did not issue a report but merely wrote to the County Council asking them to review their procedures for dealing with footpath matters. Another interesting twist to this bizarre story is that the Commissioner widened the terms of reference for his inquiry from the particular Grindon 18 & 40 to the whole of the Staffordshire Footpath network. I must confess that I thought at the time this was an excellent ploy but I now have cause to suspect that because he has dealt with the footpath network as a whole we can no longer submit individual cases to him. I have asked the question! As always it has been a frustrating year but the good news is that Council member Andrew Bennett M.P. is raising the matter direct with the Commissioner. Hopefully the final episode of the saga will appear in next year's report.

Before leaving the Ombudsman scene I should perhaps report that we have asked him to investigate what we allege to be maladministration by Macclesfield Borough Council on the question of the obstruction by a car parking compound of footpath Wilmslow 7. Will we get a report in this case I ask myself...or will the Ombudsman again take the easy way out...watch this space!!

Footpath Inspectors

Over the years we have been extremely fortunate in having a most conscientious team of inspectors without which, quite honestly, the society could not continue to operate efficiently. This year has brought about one or two changes in the inspectorate and I would like to draw to the attention of members to some vacancies which need to be filled.

Area 30, Chorley is shown as being vacant, as are areas 23 & 29. I myself act as inspector for Area 2 Wigan, but the job of General Secretary is so demanding that I would like to hear from any member who would be prepared to take over from me in this area. Finally can I make a plea to all inspectors. If you feel that you cannot cope with your area, for whatever reason, please tell me. It is possible that we could find a replacement or indeed break your area down into more manageable parts.

Ploughing

The Society has been deeply concerned for some time at the extent to which the problem of ploughing and non reinstatement has grown. So much so that earlier in the year the Chairman and I visited Cheshire County Council Highways Dept. at Blackford Hall Nr. Chester to raise, amongst other matters, this very thorny problem. We stressed that in cases where several warnings had been given, the Council should, as a last resort, take out prosecutions under Section 134 of H.A. 1980. We said that if one or two cases were taken to Court, farmers and landowners would begin to get the message. The Council

reacted favourably to our request and made available a proforma for completion in the event of ploughing and non-reinstatement. These forms have been distributed to Cheshire Inspectors and I am now waiting for the first one to be returned. I am afraid that "the ball is now in our court". I have a supply of forms, please contact me if your favourite path (in Cheshire at the moment) has been ploughed and not reinstated.

G.M.C. - R.I.P.

Whatever it is and has been said about Greater Manchester County Council, this Society will most certainly mourn the loss of an extremely good friend. In April, 1986 the County Engineers Department which deals with rights of way will be disbanded and we will be left with having to deal with the District Councils whose track record on path matters has in the past been abysmal. It is with the deepest regret, therefore, that we say a fond farewell to all those at County Hall, both Officers and Councillors involved with Highway matters, but in particular to Mr Derek Haslam and his staff who deal specifically with footpath matters.

Conclusion

In conclusion may I once again take the opportunity to thank the Society's Officers and Inspectors for their help and assistance during the year. May I also draw your attention to the Footpath Report for 1985. I have gone to a great deal of trouble to give Grid References in almost all cases of obstruction; please will you walk these paths and advise me if there has been any change. It is essential that we know of obstructed paths but equally important that we know when they have been cleared.

Derek Taylor.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Affiliated Societies

There were 104 Societies affiliated at the 31st December 1985 compared with 102 in 1984. Four new societies joined during the year and only two have not yet renewed.

Annual Members

Individual members total 375 which includes 97 married couples, an increase of 13 over last year. Recruitment of new members has again been satisfactory but this has been offset by the 35 members who did not renew. The majority of these only joined in 1984 but there were several long standing members who failed to renew, possibly due to old age and financial pressures.

Ten Year Members

There are now 317 members including 60 married couples an increase of 66. Some of these joined the society in 1985 but many who were annual members recognised the potential saving and transferred to ten year membership before the increase in subscriptions which took effect from 1st January, 1986.

Total Membership

The Society has seven honorary life members and the current membership stands at 699 a net increase of 79. I would again like to express the Society's appreciation of the continued generosity of many members and affiliated societies who regularly make substantial donations to Society funds to enable our vital work to continue.

Ted Whittaker.

REPORT OF SIGNPOST SUPERVISOR

During 1985 the Society erected its two hundredth signpost. This work began in 1905 and nearly all the posts are still standing. A few have disappeared during this long period or have been replaced by posts provided by other bodies; otherwise they have given remarkably good service. Our older posts have become old friends and some have been dignified by being listed as "Treasurers of Derbyshire". It might be thought a happy chance that signpost number 200 is on Shining Tor.

As the number of posts increases so does the task of maintaining them. We ask our inspectors to keep a particular eye on the signposts in their areas, but we would like to know as soon as possible of any that have been damaged or need attention. May I ask any member to report any loss or damage immediately or otherwise there is a risk of it vanishing. Please give the exact location with the grid reference and, if possible, the post number.

The problem of damaged posts has tended to worsen recently and, where this is accidental, is presumably due to the increased mechanisation of work on the land. Vandalism is another very serious problem and it is sad to report cases of deliberate damage to or even removal of our posts. This was noted in the 1984 Annual Report as being serious in the Upper Derwent Area; one new post disappeared, one was uprooted and the sign defaced and the arm of a third sign was taken away, all soon after erection. The two latter posts have now been restored and waymarking has been used to lessen the need for a post at the first site.

We are now experimenting with the use of concrete footings on our usual wooden posts, but this is possible only at the more accessible sites. In vulnerable localities we are tending to use vertical direction plates instead of wooden arms; although less conspicuous they are less easily damaged.

A serious loss occurred when the Edwin Royce memorial indicator on the summit of Lantern Pike was virtually destroyed. Evidence of the remaining foundation blocks points to persons coming equipped with heavy tools for the purpose; the bronze indicator plate is missing. Consideration is being given to the question of replacement.

On a more hopeful note it is a sign of the greater general interest in "the great outdoors" that nearly all of our recent new posts have been commissioned by public bodies, associations or private individuals, and not by the Society. Of course we must approve the site and wording and are often asked to suggest these. For example, we would probably not agree to erect a post where a public footpath or bridleway leaves a metalled road. This is the statutory duty of the highway authority although there are hundreds of locations in our area where this has not been done.

I now list details of the main work carried out during 1985. It will be seen that in two cases we were able to help our friends in the Ramblers' Association by attending to "Lockerby" posts, whilst our post at Barber Booth was recovered and re-erected by National Trust wardens.

No.	Type of work	Location
198	New (memorial) post for CHA/HF Ashton	999975 Hollingworth Moor
22	Re-erected by NT wardens	114847 Barber Booth
105	Re-erected	001710 S of Cat and Fiddle
34	Arm relettered	063847 South Head
199	New (memorial) for RA (Frank Mason)	975876 Mellor Golf Club
197	New (memorial) for P&N (Frank Mason)	978881 Linnet Clough
200	New (memorial) for Buxton RC	995739 Shining Tor

-	Lockerby post re-erected	964882	Marple
72	New plate	171919	Upper Derwent
75	Repainted	221879	Moscar
-	Replaced: Old Hallamshire post	203880	Derwent Ridge
160	Re-erected	170953	Slippery Stone
-	New arm fixed: Lockerby post	977880	Linnet Clough camp
116	Painted	973809	Sponds Hill
169	Reworded	972807	Sponds Hill
182	Painted	984819	Lyme Handley

Many other posts have been visited for inspection and their condition noted.

I would like to record my thanks to those members without whose willing help this report would not have been possible. Particular thanks are due to one member who has repainted many posts single handed, and to our tireless Chairman for his invaluable assistance to me since I took over as Signpost Supervisor in June and for the facilities we enjoy on his premises.

New posts in preparation or projected:

Memorial to Dr Frank Head (M/C Associates RC)	Mellor Churchyard
Commissioned by Radio Manchester	Bull Hill, Rossendale
Commissioned by Radio Manchester	Devil's Bridge, Arnfield
Waymark post with memorial plaque	Chew Valley
Anniversary post for Stockport CHA (under negotiation)	Benfield, Compstall

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FOOTPATH REPORT 1985

COUNTY OF CHESHIRE

Adlington 27: Two new stiles have been erected and obstructions closing off the tunnel under the railway have been removed (928799).

Adlington 31: Path very much overgrown along its entire length (932795). Reported to Macclesfield B.C.

Appleton 20: This path is still obstructed and together with deterrent notices still causes concern; proceedings are being considered. (62668383 to 63028423).

Aston by Budworth 6/ Tabley Superior 10: Two new stiles have been erected and this continuation path is now clear. (707806)

Blacon (Chester City): Two well used shorth cut paths, one flagged and lit, are being threatened with closure by the City Council because of alleged "misuse", objection lodged and inquiry to be sought.

Chinley 37: Stile now erected on the A624 at 051835; path now clear and available for use.

Congleton 51 & 52: Two obstructed paths which form part of the "Cheshire Trail"; F P 51 whilst only short is reported as being non-existent. (89616285 to 89686284).

Disley 32: Path now clear throughout its entire length with signposts at each end. (98588369).

Disley 33,37 & 38: There is a fence across the line of 33 at 98988360 whilst stiles are required on 37 at 98988368 and 38 at 99188405; Cheshire C.C. have been informed and the latest information is that 33 is now clear through to Furness Vale.

Disley 44: Previously obstructed by stones and overgrowth where it leaves the road at Waterside Cottage (98428518), now clear.

Disley 50: A stile is required on this path, the only way to proceed is via a dilapidated gate tied with string (98088258); Cheshire have been informed.

Great Sankey 2: A path which leads from a main road to a proposed park. Developers wish to re-route it almost entirely onto estate roads when there is land available for a field alternative; objection lodged.

Halton Grange, Runcorn: The D o E (New Towns Section) have decided to close a well used main spine walkway on the grounds that the path was "abused". They called it development under Section 23 of the New Towns Act 1965 and applied to the D o E; though we objected to their methods / reasons the D o E dispensed with the need for an inquiry and decided to confirm the order. The sooner we get rid of this undemocratic piece of legislation the better.

Helsby 2: The Council has allowed developers to extend new house gardens over this path which leads from the main road at Helsby over the railway line and on to the Marshes; B.R. subsequently blocked the crossing and taking advantage of the illegal situation the farmer also blocked the path. Objection has been lodged and an inquiry will be forced unless the authorities come to their senses.

Little Warford 3: Path obstructed by overgrowth and ploughing; at least one new stile is required (81047630 to 81437669). Reported to Cheshire C.C.

Lyme Handley 28 / Disley 28: Stiles on this continuation path are in need of repair (98108319 & 97668301); Cheshire Highways are dealing.

Lyme Handley 36: Stile badly obstructed by a pile of building stone at 98678091; now removed and path clear.

Marthall 20: Path obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 812760 and signs are required at each end; County Council is dealing with this.

Mere 1 & 2: Paths have been subject to ploughing in recent years but inspector advises that both paths are now clear to the Motorway bridge. (70988104).

Mobberley 51: Allegations that this path is almost always obstructed by a locked gate at Lidow Farm (81838000 to 82228031); investigations are continuing but it would appear that pedestrians are not prevented from using the way.

Mobberley 62: All stiles are now in good order and the signpost has been re-erected by Mr Burgess of the Alderley Society. (79688214 to 80158190).

Mottram St Andrew 13: Allegations of an unofficial diversion to the east of Newton Hall Farm (880807); Cheshire C.C. Rangers are checking the situation on the ground.

Newbold Astbury 27: Allegations that this path is obstructed by barbed wire at 866058840; inspector is checking.

Penketh 10: Obstructed by wire and two large diameter pipes across the line of path (56058658 to 55738676); a formal application for a diversion has been submitted.

Peover Superior 7: Line of path is obstructed by a large greenhouse and there are several other problems with regard to the correct line of path (77287282); consultation with regard to a possible diversion is taking place with Cheshire C.C.

Peover Superior 24: Previously ploughed but following representations by the Society a 2'6" wide strip has now been left unploughed throughout (780747 to 781744).

Peover Superior 28: No access to this path from the road at 77787421 and the path has been ploughed out and not re-instated, a signpost is also required; reported to Cheshire Highways.

Pott Shrigley 24 / Rainow 96: There appears to be some deviation from the definitive line of this path at Sharrowbooth (959787); Countryside Department of Cheshire C.C. are dealing.

Poynton with Worth 3: Damaged signpost has been removed and new sign erected (92298475).

Poynton with Worth 21,31 & 37: Allegations that these paths are obstructed and lack signposts; the Society's Inspector has checked the paths and reports several broken signposts but no major obstruction. Macclesfield B.C. are dealing with the signposts.

Poynton with Worth 22: New kissing gate erected adjacent to the cattle grid (945832); path now clear.

Poynton with Worth 62: Path ploughed out and not reinstated (932854); reported to Macclesfield B.C.

Prestbury 29: Allegations that this path was wired at each end of the wood have been investigated by the Society's Inspector who reports that six stiles are now in good order and wooden steps have been provided on the steep ascent from the brook to the wood. There is a reasonable footbridge over the brook. (88077628 to 88007666).

Rainow 4 / 82: A new post and wire fence has been erected at the junction of these paths (98057515); the complaint is being investigated by the Countryside Division of Cheshire C.C.

Rainow 8: This path has been obstructed by building work at (978767). This problem has been reported direct to Cheshire C.C. by the complainant and the Society is maintaining a watching brief.

Rainow 19: A deliberate obstruction to the right of way at Harrop Fold Farm (96527805); Local Authority is dealing.

Rainow 43: Following a public enquiry the D o E confirmed a quite unnecessary diversion of this path purely for the benefit of a private individual.

Rostherne 9: Two new stiles erected on this path - progress now possible. (744854).

Somerford 1: A long standing dispute of a landowner wanting to change the route of a well established path so as to exclude the public from her sight! The case has been to a public inquiry and the result is awaited but in any case we censure the authorities for wasting time and effort on an anti-social scheme.

Waverton 5: The Council proposed closure of a little used village path that had become illegally obstructed. The Parish Council helped to cloud the issue by specifically asking that the path be not signposted. Unfortunately the body who should have actively supported the case for retention (The Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society) saw fit to support the extinguishment. We lost the case after an enquiry.

Wilmslow 9: Stile obstructed by newly erected sheep netting fence some 4 ft from the stile (84118393); reported to Macclesfield B.C.

Wilmslow 52: A stile is required adjacent to the two pools which flank this path (86157892) reported to Macclesfield B.C.

Wilmslow 102: The Bollin Valley Ranger Service has done an excellent job in restoring this path (816828 to 816825) and have been congratulated by the Society; regrettably later in the year the farmer chose to plough out the path and has not reinstated.

Grosvenor Estate - Saighton, Waverton & Chester: The Society faces the largest rationalisation scheme ever in proposals by the Grosvenor Estate and is having to intervene in a "fringe" area because what has been offered so far is unfair and unreasonable. The paths form an historic radial pattern from Saighton and this will be totally destroyed. Links between village, bus stop and church will all be severed and bids are being made by the Estate to close routes we saved in the 1970's following objections made then with closure thrown out by the D o E. We have told Cheshire County Council that we strenuously object.

COUNTY OF DERBYSHIRE

Ashford in Water 6: Two new stiles constructed at 17356823 and 17556828 following representations to the County Council who responded promptly.

Aston 2: Peak Park Rangers have built two footbridges and have signed and waymarked this path.

Bonsall 20: Path obstructed by barbed wire west of Baonsall 264579; Inspector is checking.

Buxton 64/65: A routine "estate road" diversion under T C P A where local feeling is running high; we have objected and an inquiry is awaited.

Chaddsdon 16/17 Derby City: On the face of it, two closures of stub ends of paths following new development but there are some disturbing features and we have objected; Matter being dealt with by written representation with D o E.

Chapel en le Frith 61: A most interesting case concerning the well known path between Chapel Village and Combs. In the last few years houses with extremely long gardens have been built adjacent to the path and the gardens extended over it but with space left to walk. The proposal was to shift the path to the edge of the gardens into a wet

depression and a bed of nettles. The matter went to an inquiry and the Council/residents lost their case so the path continues, well defined and used, through the gardens.

Chapel en le Frith 77: Allegations that this path is obstructed at "The Wash" (06298210); the stile is said to have been destroyed and the wall built up. Inspector is checking.

Chapel en le Frith 146: This path is the continuation of Whaley Bridge 54 which was obstructed for some years; the gate which obstructed the Chapel path at 02728075 can now be opened. The path is now clear over its entire length.

Charlesworth 5: Obstructed by wire at five points along its length (01909318 to 01429345); Derbyshire C.C. have been informed and have acknowledged receipt of the complaint

Charlesworth 10: Development is taking place adjacent to this right of way and there are suggestions that there has been an encroachment; the Longdendale & Glossop Footpaths Society are monitoring the situation.

Charlesworth 21: Two new step stiles and one ladder stile have been provided on this path (area of 02319143); the County Council now confirm that the path is clear of obstructions.

Charlesworth 27: Path now signed and new stiles erected (023912 to 023910).

Charlesworth 31 & 32: Both paths obstructed by fencing and require signposting (03389127 to 02919042 and 03159061 to 03089029).

Charlesworth 47: Strands of wire above wall height prevent access to this path from the Penistone Road at 05209800; Derbyshire C.C. are dealing.

Charlesworth 75/76: Paths obstructed by a foul smelling pool some 6 to 8 inches deep whilst the farmer also disputes the right of way; Derbyshire C.C. have been informed and are dealing.

Chinley 6: The half of the ladder stile previously reported to be missing has now been replaced by British Rail (015834).

Chinley 8 & 9: Blocked stiles on these paths and at least three obstructions in the area around 01898382. Derbyshire C.C. are dealing.

Glossop 114: Allegations that this path is obstructed by a newly erected fence at Little Padfield (03199611); the County Council have been informed by another body and the Society is maintaining a watching brief.

Hartington Upper Quarter 15: Entry to this path from Axe Edge Road is blocked and signpost is required (06656921); Derbyshire C.C. are dealing.

Hassop 9: A path some $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long starting at 23257235 is totally overgrown over almost its entire length; referred to West Derbyshire C.C.

Hayfield 2: Small pond constructed across line of path (03208651) and a small plank or similar is required to cross to stile; Derbyshire C.C. are dealing.

Hayfield 3: The stile at 03168633 is in the centre of a stream and flood, the area is badly in need of attention; referred to County Council.

Hayfield 32: Previous allegations that this path was obstructed at three points. Inspector confirms that path is now clear and suggests that more people should use paths 32 & 33 as views of the hills and of Kinder in particular are some of the best in the area. F P 32 (02808768) and F P 33 (02808760).

Hayfield 55: A locked gate at Coldwell Clough Farm causes problems from time to time (05658585) but following a visit from Derbyshire C.C. Officers, the lock has now been removed; members please use this path and advise the Secretary if the gate is found locked.

Hayfield 71: Early in the year we had a report that the arm was missing from the Society's post at South Head (062846); this report was correct as the arm had been removed for repainting and has now been replaced.

Little Hucklow 1: Obstructed by a barbed wire enclosure at 16537855 and signposts are also required; West Derbyshire D.C. are dealing.

Nerther Haddon 8/9: Allegations of obstructed stiles not confirmed by the Society's Inspector but footpath 9 and Bridleway 21 adjacent have been ploughed out and not reinstated; representations made to West Derbyshire D.C.

Nether Haddon 14: This path which follows the river was washed away some time ago but has now been restored (23146638 to 22956700).

Monyash 18: Inspector advises that all obstructions have now been removed (16506395).

Monyash 20: Path previously obstructed by a locked gate with barbed wire at top; now open on the definitive line (172640).

Nether Haddon 9 & 21: Path previously ploughed out but now reinstated; landowner has been informed of the legal position by West Derbyshire D.C.

New Mills 10, 12 & 13: Public Footpath sign has now been erected to counter the "Private Road to Near Slack Farm" notice which could have deterred walkers (00459020).

New Mills 30: Obstructed by barbed wire at 02409064 and on the Hayfield boundary at 02389052; Local Authority is dealing.

New Mills 32: Stile over the wall into a paddock is wired up at 00128882 and the path is obstructed when horse jumping is taking place in the paddock; Derbyshire C.C. have been asked to comment.

New Mills 55: At 00828725 there is a swiftly flowing stream with no footbridge or stepping stones and the path is obstructed by cut down branches and bushes at 00988710; Derbyshire C.C. have been informed.

New Mills 62: Stile on this path has been removed and the gap wired up; some clearance work has been undertaken and the path is now clear. (00688670 to 00158689).

New Mills 65 & 68: Stiles now erected and path clear. (99358681 and 99348690).

New Mills 93: A wire fence has been constructed round a completed tip site, the path is within the fence but the signpost is without. Derbyshire C.C. have advised that the signpost has been resited. (99458525).

New Mills 142: Allegations that where this path leaves the road at Moor Lodge a sign has been erected "Please use Diversion Route" (02188542); the Definitive route through the Moor Lodge premises is, as a result, falling into disuse. Derbyshire C.C. have been asked to investigate.

New Mills 158: Path obstructed by sheep wire and scaffolding at 00958448 and the signpost for this path on Marsh Lane is located incorrectly; reported to County Council.

New Mills 161: Stile at 019842 is loose and impossible to climb, is "perched" over a stream and difficult to reach; Local Authority has been informed.

New Mills 176: Path obstructed by barbed wire and walls at two points (01908515 & 01908530); reported to Local Authority.

Newton Grange 2: The stone gap stile in the wall at 148538 has collapsed and is obstructing the way.

Over Haddon 7: Allegations of a misleading notice at the junction of paths 6 & 7 whilst 7 is blocked where it should emerge on the road at 20326629; reported to W.D.D.C. who have replied.

Over Haddon 9: Path was obstructed by a wall where it should emerge onto the B5055 at 17926685; stile now provided and path clear.

Parwich 2 / Lea Hall 6: On the former a stile is required at the north end (19175408) and proceeding south four stiles have been blocked off. On the latter there was a fence with no stile but a gate has now been made functional to resolve this particular problem. (19695240).

Peak Forest 40 / 44: Peakstone Limited, the owners of the huge Dove Holes Quarry, were only partly successful in their bid to close two paths over Bee Low to Peak Forest for quarry extensions. One remains as a loop and a new one is created along the line of the old Bee Low Tramway. This result was decided following an inquiry. Incidentally an abortive inquiry had been cancelled due to errors by the County Council and we have been awarded costs because of D.C.Cs. "unreasonable" attitude to the Society.

Sheldon 13: This path is reported as being badly overgrown at the exit to the main road near Sheldon village (17396870) and the path is also said to be obstructed further south; latest reports indicate that the obstructions have been removed and the path is clear.

Thorpe 2: Obstructed by sheep netting and a barbed wire fence at Spend Lane (16984901) and the adjacent signpost has been vandalised; West Derbyshire D.C. are dealing.

Tideswell 24 / 25: Two wood ladder stiles at the junction of these paths (132579234) have been rendered hazardous by running barbed wire across the top spar; receiving attention.

Water Lane, Chesterfield: A five year old dispute over plans by D.C.C. to close this ancient way and incorporate it into school playing fields finally resulted in an inquiry in 1985 with plenty of local support for our bid to retain the path; result awaited.

Whaley Bridge 54: A stile has been constructed where the path leaves the A6 at 02348011 and the path is now clear; first reported in 1983.

Whaley Bridge 73 & 74: Allegations that a dwelling has been built across the line of F P 73 at 004788; signposts are required on both paths. Referred to Derbyshire C.C.

Wormhill 12 & 17: An electric fence blocks the stile at 113752 on FP 12 and signposts are required at each end. On FP 17 the path is clear but a signpost is required at the north end.

Wormhill / Old Moor: The I C I / P P P B bid to close / divert / create a new set of routes for the huge quarry extensions into the National Park was finally settled without the need for an inquiry (which we were prepared to force) when they granted an additional useful path at Wormhill which will be going through part of the extension.

COUNTY OF GREATER MANCHESTER

Bollin Valley Rationalisation (Trafford M.B.): Long standing proposals by the National Trust and its tenants to close the direct footpath in the Bollin Valley between Dunham & Lymm and to re-route it on the river bank thus increasing the distance considerably, seem likely to provoke a controversial inquiry in 1986.

Bolton 113 (Bolton M.B.): Obstruction by barbed wire just after leaving Walker Fold Road (675114); reported to L.A.

Bolton 287 / Horwich 111: (Bolton M.B.): A T.C.P.A. diversion proposal where the diversion route is five times as long and very indirect. An objection and the threat of a public inquiry forced the Council to offer an additional path which, whilst still making the journey considerably longer, will provide a new and much needed link that we should not otherwise have obtained. We remain unconvinced that arrangements of this sort are necessarily the best. The latest information we have is that there are local objections and an inquiry may well result.

Bolton 356 / Westhoughton 112: (Bolton M.B.): This continuation path is totally obstructed by old car tyres at 66920718. The Society's records show that this problem was reported to Bolton M.B.C. by Bolton Group RA in 1978 and 1983; a further complaint has been submitted.

Bolton 359: (Bolton M.B.): Obstructed by barbed wire at 65320800; Local Authority informed.

Bredbury & Romiley 2 & 3: (Stockport M.B.): Inspector has checked both these paths and confirms that they are clear. Footpath 2 has been officially diverted to the west of Needham's Farm and now terminates at its northern end at 96749268. G. Rs for FP.3 are 96709167 to 96819199.

Bredbury & Romiley 37: (Stockport M.B.): Path now clear on its correct line and signpost correctly aligned (938917).

Castleton E29: (Rochdale M.B.): Another "house on path" case which almost got to an inquiry in 1985. After the inquiry had started, irregularities caused a red-faced Council Solicitor to ask permission to withdraw. Naturally we are seeking costs.

Chadderton 16 & 17: (Oldham M.B.): Path was obstructed at Black Pits Farm (89250710) but gate has now been erected and the way is clear.

Dukinfield 10 / 11: (Tameside M.B.): A barbed wire fence obstructs the line at the junction of these paths (97799602); reported to L.A.

Dunham Massey 20 / Sale 10: (Trafford M.B.): This continuation path from Buck House Farm (74859038) crosses the railway and runs into Sale at 75199036. There is no point of entry at the Sale end as the gate at the bridge over Sinderland Brook is locked and there is no railway crossing point. Inspector is carrying out a full investigation.

Hale 22: (Trafford M.B.): Allegations that this path is wired and the gate which previously gave access has been chained; Inspector is checking. (80258660 to 80008716).

Hazel Grove & Bramhall 7: (Stockport M.B.): Allegations that a farm building has been erected across the line of path at Hill Top Farm (885826); Stockport M.B. have agreed a diversion but it is not totally satisfactory. Proceeding!

Heywood 15 & 161: (Rochdale M.B.): Several problems in the area of Yates Farm (830150), pressure by the Society has resulted in new stiles being erected and the ploughed path being re-instated.

Heywood 89: (Rochdale M.B.): Path leaves School Lane at 81111355 but according to the definitive map should leave at 85011355. The L.A. talk of a temporary closure order being current but the reason for this is not obvious. Inspector is investigating.

Horwich 71: (Bolton M.B.): Bolton Council allowed developers to build over a path and then even granted them "temporary" closure power to enable them to do so! Later they processed a diversion order when the case was hopelessly compromised by the existence of the occupied houses over the path. A public inquiry into this mess will be held in 1986.

Horwich 108 / Blackrod 10: (Bolton M.B.): At the junction of these paths 64220978 there is a barbed wire obstruction and no means of crossing a drain. Further east on F.P. 108 the path is again obstructed by barbed wire and further plank crossing of the drain is required. All reported to Bolton M.B.

Hyde 43: (Tameside M.B.): Allegations of an obstructed stile and an obstruction "by person" (97039590 to 97499598); the complainant was in fact on the wrong line and the only problem is the need for a stile at 97179562.

Leigh 87, 88, 98 & 99: (Wigan M.B.): Paths in this area, which is adjacent to the Higher Folds reclamation area, are said to be in poor condition, stiles are missing and path lines are ploughed out. Wigan M.B. have been informed and are taking action.

Littleborough 337: (Rochdale M.B.): A so called "diversion" of a long blocked path, the subject of a rambler's complaint, onto a route already used for years by the public. Objection made.

Longdendale 4, 7 8 & 10: (Tameside M.B.): New fencing erected by the Water Authority has obstructed these paths. The Society's Inspector has visited the area with the Tameside Footpaths Officer and subsequently stiles were installed by NWWA in the area Devils Bridge / Hollingworth Reservoir.

Longdendale 46: (Tameside M.B.): Path completely obstructed by trees and undergrowth (98389540 to 98759630); Tameside are dealing.

Longdendale 94: (Tameside M.B.): Path blocked by pallets; Longdendale Amenity Society are dealing and the Society is maintaining a watching brief.

Manchester - Denmark Road, Moss Side: Following a four day inquiry in 1984, the D of E finally confirmed closure to pedestrians.

Manchester - Maine Road, Moss Side: Flushed with their success over Denmark Road, the City Council proposed outright closure of a length of Maine Road, used extensively for access to City's Football ground and of historic interest as originally being called "The dog kennel path". The closure is said to be needed to extend school playing fields but we believe a path ought to be left. Inquiry awaited.

Manchester - Nelson St, Chorlton on Medlock: The Regional Health Authority conceded defeat here following three unsuccessful court appearances to gain complete closure of a street used by hundreds of pedestrians at hospital visiting times. Also it is on the route of the Manchester Women's Trail going past the Pankhurst House. The road will be closed and a public path diversion will be provided around the extension.

Manchester Outer Ring Road: Side road orders have now been advertised involving 50 paths of which 10 are controversial and objections have been lodged. The worst case is the proposal to sever the Rochdale Canal Towpath at Chadderton and replace it on a service road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Inquiry expected in 1986 and the Society is co-operating with the "No Manchester Outer Ring Road" organisation.

Marple 6: (Stockport M.B.): Signpost required where path leaves road at 99699168. Derbyshire have indicated that they will place this on their ordering schedule for July 1985.

Marple 17: (Stockport M.B.): Previously obstructed at 99289960, now cleared and path walkable throughout.

Marple 74: (Stockport M.B.): Path obstructed at Sportsman Farm; path ends at 98408935. A bid to divert an adjacent path has recently failed and the area is being watched closely.

Marple 86: (Stockport M.B.): Signpost erected where this path leaves Mill Brow (98008960) and path now clear.

Marple 109: (Stockport M.B.): Obstructed by a high wall at (98298902) junction with Cown Edge Way; reported to Local Authority.

Marple 195 / 197: (Stockport M.B.): Allegations that there is a footbridge without handrail and a damaged ladder stile on these paths. The bridge is at 95508455 and the ladder stile is in fact in Lyme Handley 95278452. The Society's Inspector is dealing with the stile problem but it would appear that the bridge, which consists of two telegraph poles side by side, has never had a handrail. Checking further.

Middleton 15 (Rochdale M.B.) Plank bridge restored across watercourse by G.M.C. (89750823) and path now clear.

Middleton - Radclyffe Terrace: (Rochdale M.B.): A street closure of a way mainly used by pedestrians so that a garage could extend its premises. We said a way could be found for pedestrians. Inquiry held but closure confirmed.

Milnrow 269: (Rochdale M.B.): Was obstructed by a fence immediately beyond which was a stile, serving no useful purpose. Prompt action by Rochdale who confirm that the path is now clear. (92181420).

Ramsbottom 18: (Bury M.B.): Allegations that the line of path has been diverted at Hollingrove Farm (77101550). Bury advise that diversion proposals will be sent to the Society but we have asked for an assurance that the definitive line will remain open until the diversion is agreed.

Rochdale 15: (Rochdale M.B.): Path previously obstructed by barbed wire and tree branches (87461059). Inspector confirms that the stile has been re-built and the path cleared.

Saddleworth 13: (Oldham M.B.): Allegations that this path is obstructed by barbed wire complete with deterrent notices has been checked by the Society's Inspector who advises that the wire and notices are not on the line of path (97400831 to 97540829).

Sale, The Mall: (Trafford B.C.): A T.C.P.A. Section 209 case with property developers wanting to "improve" a shopping street by "privatising it" and offering in return opening hours of 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday. This is a new and disturbing threat to urban paths and we shall be forcing a public inquiry since what is really behind the issue is not whether the closure is necessary to allow development to proceed, but whether the Council can control access as and when they please.

Stalybridge 60: (Tameside M.B.): Obstructed by an overgrown beech hedge where it passes between houses (97659761), Tameside M.B. have been asked to arrange clearance and to advise why, as this is a R U P P, it is only some 2'6" wide at this point.

Stockport 135: (Stockport M.B.): An urban path to the river which is closely hemmed in by high hedges at certain points (86359051). Horse riders are using this path and it has become extremely dangerous for walkers by reason of its restricted width. Local Authority have been alerted to the dangers.

Tottington 8: (Bury M.B.): Path lies beside an overgrown bank with a wire fence less than a metre from it, leaving an unwalkable channel. (76101645 to 75701655). Reported to Local Authority.

Tyldesley 60: (Wigan M.B.): Mounds of topsoil now removed from the line of path following representations by the Society. (70420231 to 70330230).

Tyldesley 264: (Wigan M.B.): The surface of this path is in such a poor condition that only those wearing wellingtons can proceed. (69559982 to 70119979). M.S.C. Team will carry out improvements shortly.

Warburton 11: (Trafford M.B.): Obstructed by barbed wire at three points; path runs from 71008998 to 69978973. Trafford informed.

Wardle 17, 25 & 139: (Rochdale B.C.): Obstructed by wire at the junction of these paths (91721668); L.A. is dealing.

Wardle 95, 127, 128, 164, 170 & 161: (Rochdale B.C.): All these paths obstructed on their correct line; reported to Local Council.

Wardle 99: (Rochdale M.B.): Obstructed by a sheep fence topped with barbed wire. (89851755); Rochdale M.B. is dealing.

Wardle 145 & 146: (Rochdale B.C.): Obstructed by a fence at the junction of these paths (91981682); Local Authority is dealing.

Westhoughton 146/147/148: (Bolton M.B.): A notorious "house on path" case which in 1984 went to inquiry and the Council were refused permission to close the path. They then went to the Local Magistrates and after a three day hearing finally got their way but not without considerable adverse criticism and public censure.

Westhoughton 151: (Bolton M.B.): A bit of sharp practice from the Council who elected to go to Magistrates Court, against D o E advice in government circulars, to gain closure of the path to the Rose & Crown public house. It emerged in court that the Council were involved in a "land deal" and had made an agreement with the new landowners, Greenhall Whitley, to use their "best endeavours" to have the path closed. Their own evidence indicated that in a 30 minute period 40 / 50 people, mainly mothers with children, used the path as it is a route to a school. The Magistrates refused the application.

COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

Accrington 18: (Hyndburn B.C.): The Council want to close a path which goes through their cemetery and which forms a main access to a Council Estate. They are relying on a 60 year old planning permission! (which was long before the post war estate was built) and are also trying to argue that the Cemetery by-laws passed last century are inconsistent with a public right of way. We forced an inquiry in 1985 and the result is awaited with interest in what is a singularly unusual case.

Bacup 389 / 400: On the former, two padlocked gates obstruct the line of path and stiles are not available (883243 & 884242). On the latter, a barbed wire fence obstructs the line at 884237. All have been reported to Rossendale B.C.

Bretherton 6: Clearance work undertaken by the County Council and signpost added to the list for replacement. (47772120 to 48132150).

Bretherton 24: Path completely ploughed out and not re-instated (46651885 to 46851968); subsequently re-instated and the landowner advised of legal requirements by the County Council.

Bretherton 12: Barbed wire fence removed and path now clear (46631863).

Clitheroe 13: Ribble Valley B.C. proposed closure of a short cut path which they allege is being misused by school children (it forms a quick access to the school). They refuse to clean the path which is in a bad condition and to take action against householders who have incorporated widths of the path into their gardens. Inquiry held and result awaited.

Croston 3: Path completely ploughed out, set to a crop and not re-instated (46771800 to 47301810); reported to County Council.

Darwen 172: A stile and stone steps have been provided and the path is now clear (71652052).

Darwen 223: Obstructed by fence at 71502135; Blackburn B.C. are aware and are said to be dealing.

Heapey 21: Footpath is obstructed near Tootals Farm with a six foot drop and barbed wire fence preventing progress (61951937 to 62051935); reported to Lancashire C.C.

Mawdsley 34: Previously obstructed at two points by electric fences and now clear (49151640).

Turton (Edgworth) 106: Previously found to be in a boggy condition but now much improved (75201831 to 74701811).

Turton (Edgworth) 121: Stile restored at 75501685 and path now in good condition.

Turton (Edgworth) 124: Obstructed by barbed wire at five separate points; Blackburn B.C. are aware and have written to the farmer concerned (751165 to 752168).

Ulnes Walton 8 & 11: New bridge constructed, surrounding trees trimmed back and path now well used (50451950).

Whitworth 57: First reported as obstructed in July 1981, Rossendale B.C. now confirm that the path is clear (886173).

COUNTY OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Dearn 3: (South Yorks C.C.): Proposed closure of a cross-field path which is ploughed out. Objection lodged and inquiry date awaited.

Moor Lane / Laburnum Close, Bolsover: (Bolsover D.C.): Proposal to close a well used path because of "nuisance"; this proposal was dropped due to extensive local objection.

Sheffield 362, Wincobank: (Sheffield M.B.): An extraordinary proposal by a Council to exclude public access to a public open space on Wincobank Roman Ridge by the City Council. They tried unsuccessfully to tie in the closure with a re-routing onto estate roads of the rest of the path serving nearby housing development and were defeated following a public inquiry.

Todwick 13: (Rotherham B.C.): A T.C.P.A. Section 210 case which we won. Our argument, that an independent ginnel (fenced and with blind corners) was a preferable arrangement to an estate road, was accepted by the Inspector. A most important case to quote.

COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Alstonfield 12: Obstructed at the narrow point of the Dale where a wall has been built up and overstrung with barbed wire (12755730); reported to the County Council.

Alton 10 & 58: Paths obstructed by stone walls (062429). The Society's Inspector raised this problem with the County Surveyor in 1979 and was told that the landowner would be asked to remove the obstructions. The Council promised to keep the Society informed but did not do so and a further letter from the Inspector has been ignored. The Secretary has now raised this matter with the County Clerk.

Alton 35 / Farley 40 & 46: Substantial bridge erected over the River Churnet under the leadership of Dave Matthias of S.M.D.C. and a working party from the West Midlands Conservation Trust.

Burton on Trent, Brewery Footbridge: Following an inquiry which we won on points in 1985 the Council were quick to re-advertise the same proposals, with planning approval granted, to comply with the law. Another inquiry resulted and the closure / diversion was confirmed.

Gnosall 83: (Stafford B.C.): Closure application for a path which runs at the rear of new houses but Order withdrawn due to opposition from locals and the society.

Grindon 9: Inspector reports that this path is now walkable but needs watching (091533).

Grindon 12: Path obstructed at four points (08735428 to 09035310) and a detailed report has been submitted to Staffordshire C.C.

Grindon 30 / Onecote 2: A 25 feet span, double railed footbridge on new concrete buttresses has been erected across the River Hamps at 06815319. Bridge previously completely missing.

Grindon 31: Path obstructed at two points. Inspector has contacted the farmer, S.M.D.C. have agreed to provide stile kits and a further site meeting has been arranged (06545390 to 06785225).

Grindon 41: New wood step stiles have been erected at both ends of this path (07125361 to 07005365) but signposts are still required.

Hollinsclough 0.1749, 0.1744, 0.1746: An unofficial diversion has been set up round the property Dun Caow's Grave (04356675) but FP 1749 is therefore obstructed. At the junction of 1744 and 1746 at 032667 walkers are advised to use the track south of the buildings but this is not the definitive line. Investigations proceeding.

Hollinsclough 35: Two new stiles erected and path now clear but signpost still required (036662).

Horton 29: Allegations that this path is obstructed by barbed wire at 938585 have been checked by the Society's Inspector and certain "adjustments" have been made to the wire. Problems were also found on an adjacent path and these are being checked with S.M.D.C.

Ilam 7: Society's Inspector reports that a sturdy stile has been erected at 13815181 and some clearance work has taken place. The Definitive and the concession lines are now clear.

Ilam 8: The Concessionary alternative to the definitive path is now complete and in good condition. The Society's thanks have been expressed to the National Trust staff concerned.

Kidsgrove 16: G.E.C. wanted to legally close a path they had unofficially closed in 1968 and to provide a lengthy detour. There was much opposition to this as the route backed onto 30 house gardens. Re-opening of the more direct route would have meant a mix of traffic and pedestrians whereas the new route - a ginnel - was completely traffic free. The issue was finely balanced but following an inquiry the diversion was confirmed.

Leekfrith 23 & 39: The former obstructed by a hedge at 99456135 and the latter at a gateway (99646135); County Council informed.

Leekfrith 37: This path is said to be obstructed and heavily overgrown (01026090 to 99936047); County Council is dealing.

Onecote 28: Reported as obstructed at 045580. Inspector now reports "Well marked at Mixon with stone squeeze outlined in white wash, good stiles as far as Manor Farm". Path now clear.

Onecote 47: Path is said to be obstructed where it leaves the road at 04605732; reported to County Council.

Quarnford 26: Oak post with yellow arrow now stands beside the footbridge at 02006808; path clear.

Ramshorn / Denstone / Farley: A number of paths in these parishes are the subject of a rationalisation bid by J C Bamford. Objection has been lodged and an inquiry is expected in 1986.

Rushton 44: A two strand barbed wire fence obstructs the way. Stepping stones are

available to cross the four feet wide stream but there is a deep quagmire extending some 12 feet on either bank (93236203 to 93026157) and the County Council have been informed.

Rushton 50 & 51: Rather an odd case of a section of path missing from the map adjacent to "The Cloud". Footpath 51 is shown from 90636218 to 90606254, footpath 50 starts at 90526311 and there is nothing between the two. There is a suggestion that the missing section should be in Cheshire, Congleton and information from members would be welcome.

Sheen 2: There has been a long history of obstruction by person on this path but it is now clear and walkers are not, at the moment, being turned back.

Sheen 30: Allegations that this path is totally obstructed by a tall wall at 11886061 and investigations are proceeding.

Stafford 28: Stafford B.C. propose a so called "diversion" of a pleasant though blocked path with wide views over a new nature reserve onto an already public track. Inquiry to be held.

Stafford 30: This is an important path leading to Stafford's biggest public park but blocked off by park fencing and house gardens. There had been much local agitation to get the path opened up but plenty of foot-dragging by the Borough Council even after pressure from the County Council. One of the offending householders was the Surveyor of an adjoining council! Following an inquiry the D o E decided that the path was valuable and should not be closed.

Warslow & Elkstones 28 & 0.1864: Gap stile obstructed by wire at 08735822 and the stile destroyed and wall built up at 08605815, whilst on path 0.1864 an electric fence obstructs the line of path. All reported to Staffordshire County Council.

Waterhouses 1: New ladder stile erected 11405155, gate replaced at 11475178 and signpost erected at 11305204. Path now cleared.

Waterhouses R.U.P.P. 2: The Society's Inspector reports that the farmer at Greensides Farm maintains that the right of way no longer exists but then goes on to say that it should be preserved and protected for posterity (09205015 to 08935054). An interesting case with unusual aspects and inquiries are continuing.

Waterhouses 5: Ladder stile erected at 11165174 and path now clear.

Waterhouses 7 & 17: FP 7 obstructed by a wall and fencing S.E. of a light railway (195510) whilst FP 17 suffers from the lack of a bridge, which has collapsed, at 09495131; reported to the County Council.

Waterhouses 16: The obstruction previously located at 09255195 has now been removed and the path is clear.

Waterhouses 28: This path is obstructed at no less than seven points along its length (08535185 to 09205167). The detailed report submitted by our Inspector was forwarded to the County Council in November 1985 but the Council have not as yet seen fit to acknowledge.

Waterhouses 107: Gap stile has now been provided at 08255154 but a signpost is still required at this point.

Waterhouses 141: Obstructed at several points, badly overgrown and stream crossing can only be negotiated wearing waders; reported to County Council. (08485178 to 08385152).

COUNTY OF WEST YORKSHIRE

Halifax 292: A straight closure proposed for incorporation into house gardens but well used as access to open space; objection lodged.

Kirkburton 205 / 206: Closure proposals for paths already quarried away illegally whilst a diversion route could probably be available; objection lodged.

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

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 1985

1984	INCOME	1985	1984	EXPENSES	1985
	Subscriptions:		196	Annual Report	272.79
292	Ordinary	270.50	245	Stationery etc.	245.81
221	Joint	250.50	45	Maps	53.85
259	Tfr from 10 yr susp.	327.75	533	Post & Telephones	482.58
2	Junior	5.00		General Secretary:	
396	Affiliations	429.00	100	Honorarium	100.00
			125	Expenses of office	150.00
1169	total subs.	1282.75		Travel:	
360	Donations	444.37	203	Closure & Diversion	191.34
	Investment Income:		87	Footpath Inspectors	172.63
	Paid Net	313.26	50	Other travel	79.14
	Tax recoverable	134.24		Room Rents:	
448		447.50	82	Meetings	84.90
2636	Paid Gross	3127.67	240	Archives	248.91
	Profit on sales	2.50	23	Subs & Donations	35.00
4613	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	5304.79	9	Publicity	52.84
475	Grant received	-.-	57	Archive Expenses	64.30
5088		5304.79	16	Bank Charges	13.50
-----		-----	110	Office Equipment	-.-
				Loss on Dinner	13.72
				Rucksack Badges	121.00
				Part grant returned	330.00
			108	Training Course	-.-
			3	Sundry	-.-
			2280	Total ordinary Exp.	2712.31
				Tfr to Defence Fund	778.24
			74	Investment Ac Adj	130.13
			2733	Surplus Income	1684.11
			5088		5304.79
			-----		-----

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS:

1. Hon Sec Expenses of Office: The figure for 1985 includes £25.00 for 1986, which was inadvertently paid early.
2. Investments are in Government stock on the National Savings Stock Register, and are due to mature between 1990 and 1999. The balance sheet value is the maturity value of the stock. Any gain or loss between cost and maturity value is accounted for in the income and expenditure account in the year of acquisition. Investments as at 31st December:

1984	1985
19,306.08.....Maturity Value.....	19,175.95
20,398.38.....Cost of Purchases.....	20,398.38
20,984.12.....Market Value 31 Dec....	22,118.47

3. As at 31st December the interest rates on the Society's Bank accounts were:
Deposit Account: 7.75% Premium Account: 11.0% Investment Account: 11.5%.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1985

1984	ASSETS	1985
19 306.08	Investments	19 175.95
4 142.42	Bank Deposit Account	2 217.14
- .--	Bank Premium Account	3 709.98
3 506.89	NSB Investment Account	4 955.50
134.24	Tax Credit	134.24
121.58	Current Account	74.65
<u>27 211.21</u>		<u>30 267.46</u>
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	LIABILITIES:	
25 526.51	Funds as below	28 202.51
1 684.70	10yr Subs Suspense Ac	2 064.95
<u>27 211.21</u>		<u>30 267.46</u>
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FUNDS OF THE PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATH SOCIETY:

Name:	1.1.85	INCOME	EXPENSES	31.12.85
General Funds	22 477.25	5304.79	3620.68	24 161.36
Defence Fund	2 170.76	829.24	- .--	3,000.00
E Royce Memorial	79.66	- .--	- .--	79.66
H Wild Memorial	250.00	- .--	- .--	250.00
Signpost Fund	241.31	249.00	142.35	347.96
Survey Fund	307.53	56.00	- .--	363.53
GRAND TOTALS	25 526.51 +	6439.03 -	3763.03	=28 202.51

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 the Balance Sheet here given provide a true and fair view of the revenue and transactions for the year ended 31st December 1985, and of the state of affairs as at that date.

Signed: E McCormick
Honorary Auditor 25th January 1986

Stephen Shaw
Hon. Treasurer
26.1.86