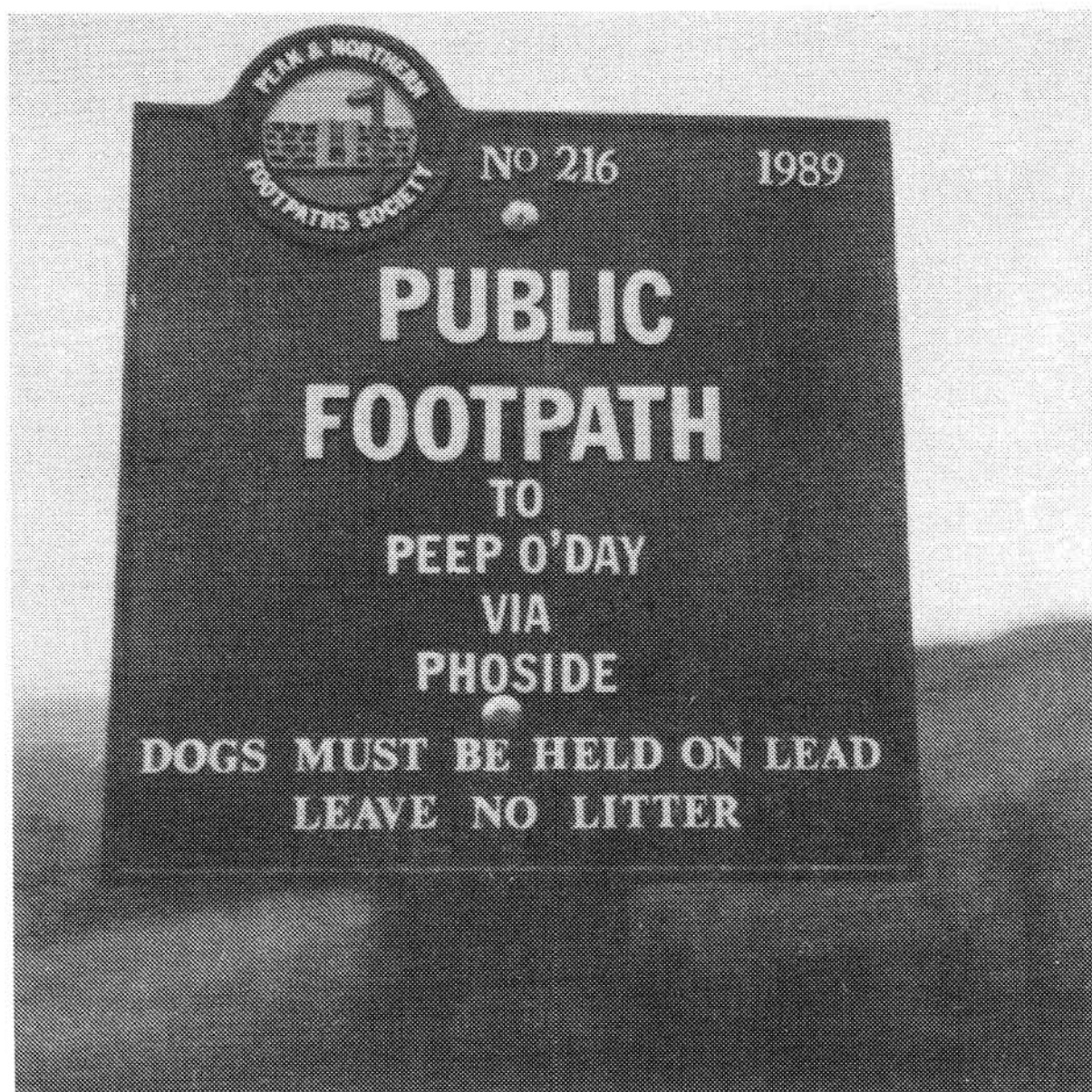


PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT
1989

PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Founded in 1894; Manchester Association founded 1826

ANNUAL REPORT 1989

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*Cover photograph by Percy Hutchinson of the
Society's new type sign plate (see page 15)*

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

A Bennett MP
D T Berwick

Vice Presidents

G S Cooper
P Daley

T Ewart

Chairman

L G Meadowcroft

Vice Chairmen

N H Edwards and H A Hadfield

Honorary General Secretary

D Taylor

15 Parkfield Drive, Tyldesley, Manchester M29 8NR 061 790 4383

Honorary Treasurer

S Shaw

10 Alstone Road, Stockport SK4 5AH 061 432 6097

Membership Secretary

T Whittaker

51 Queensway, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 3ET 061 437 1226

Inquiries and Courts Officer

D W Lee

7 Mossway, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 IWR 061 653 4560

Signpost Supervisor

P S Hutchinson

1 Oaklands Avenue, Marple Bridge, Stockport SK6 5DB 061 427 1718

Auditor

E McCormick

Trustees

G S Cooper and L G Meadowcroft

Other elected members

H Billington
W Brookfield
Mrs P Cliff
Mrs E Daley
Mrs J Howard
J F Houfe

Miss R Irlam
P Kenyon
Mrs B Kuse
J L Lewis
P J McCarthy
Mrs L Meadowcroft

J Ogden
Mr B Rothman
Mrs B Taylor
D Lander (co-opted)

Footpath Inspectors

Dr A Bateman JP
H Berry
H C Brimelow
W S Brown
N Bullock
D Carter
Mrs M C Carter
Miss M Corbishley
F Darwin
M Deakin
M Dearden
S Evison
K Feltham

D Frith
F R M Fysh
E J Goddard
Mrs M Gregory
S R Hackney
P J Harris
J Hindle
B Howarth
C Law
Mrs A A Lee
L McMeeken
M Portman
J G Riddall MA

J Robinson
J R Roddis
Prof H Sutcliffe
H Townley
F Travis
Mrs R Treece
Mrs K Wells
K West
F Whitehead
T Whittaker
J F Wild
C F Wildgoose

Delegates from affiliated clubs and societies

B Aries
Mrs M Barratt
A Beswick
A Brackenberry
J Burgess
R A Carter
R Cartin
A Constantine
Miss P E Darter
Mrs J C M Dickson
Mrs D Downing
V Edwards
D Ehrlich
P Evans
F Fisher

A H Foster
Mrs E Gaskell
Miss F Gibbs
J Gilbert
R Hampshire
H Heap
J H Holness
D M Ingham
F R Jarrett
R Lindley
Mrs E Lomax
P McHale
Mrs C MacKay
A T Manning
J Matuszewski

B Maynard
W Parkin
R Prince
Mrs L E Proctor
A Robertson
Miss G V Salkeld
P Sleightholm
D Smith
M Southern
H S Swift
G B Wardle
D Whinnerah
B Wright
R A Wright
Miss S Wroughton

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1989

That the last 12 months have flown is probably due to the vast amount of work in which the Society has been involved since our last AGM. The officers and others have undertaken a heavy workload and I should like to pay special tribute to the Archives and Operations team which has borne a fair share of this, not forgetting our many footpath inspectors who fastidiously carry out their duties rather isolated from the rest of us.

It was with great regret that, at the beginning of the year we suffered the loss of Colin Fenton from our Archives Team. From the end of the year all closure and diversion proposals will be dealt with at Hazel Grove; we are looking for further assistance from members to supplement the existing team and to cover for holidays and sickness. The work is extremely interesting and takes place amongst convivial company.

The Society has been represented at many public inquiries and appeals during the year and we have also been involved in several inquiries involving written representation. Some 1200 items of correspondence have been dealt with during the year in addition to numerous telephone calls, many of which are outside the normal working hours even of volunteers! We have maintained close contact with many organisations including the North West Sports Federation, adjacent footpaths societies, areas and groups of the Ramblers' Association and the Derbyshire Conservation Advisory Group. We are extremely sorry that the Wigan Footpaths Society has ceased to operate but understand their records and assets are being transferred to this Society.

During the year we have brought into use our modern office equipment; this was purchased with the assistance of a grant from the Countryside Commission, for which we are very grateful. Apart from the actual printing and finishing, this annual report has been produced mainly inhouse by the Society's officers and members. In trying to improve the public image of the Society, the officers take all suitable opportunities to publicise its activities through exhibitions, lectures, press, radio and seminars with various local authorities. Most of these activities achieve a satisfactory level of success although this is not always apparent in the short term. Each year we invite an important figure to address our members at the annual dinner and we see this as a public relations exercise to help in promoting our aims and objectives. We are inevitably judged by the number of members supporting this event; therefore I would ask you to consider joining us on the occasion in the year when your presence will clearly demonstrate to our guests your enthusiasm for our continuing efforts of the oldest and most active footpath organisation in the country.

During the year we showed our exhibition display at Chesterfield, Sale Water Park and the "extravaganza" at Hartington Youth Hostel; we are very grateful to our Signpost Supervisor for the loan of his caravan at the latter event. We are still seeking a volunteer to look after our exhibition display. This needs someone with the use of a car or small van and willing to transport and set up the display as suitable opportunities arise. This is not an arduous task and the equipment can continue to be stored at the Archives Centre if desired.

Can we hope for an early response? We also need someone who has artistic and/or layout skills to help with the display itself. The Chairman and General Secretary have given illustrated lectures to many organisations resulting in a much greater awareness of the Society and its activities, new members and useful contributions to our funds.

Perhaps the main event of the year was the successful conclusion of the saga involving the deer fence obstructing Marple FP187. The Ramblers' Association bore the main financial burden at both the Magistrates' Court and events leading up to public inquiry. But this Society provided much of the relevant evidence and, prior to the successful prosecution, did much of the correspondence and paperwork.

During the year under review we have had meetings to discuss footpath policies and problems with a number of local authorities, amongst which are Calderdale, Doncaster, Peak Park, Staffordshire, Rochdale, Wigan and Stockport. It is disturbing to discover that the latter authority is requesting additional powers to close paths for reasons of crime, safety, and vandalism. These are dangerous proposals and would open the door to a host of applications for closures, many of which would be based on reasons of personal privacy. Furthermore it is more than likely that if these extra powers were granted local authorities would be inundated with applications to process, and which they can be assured we would oppose, and they on their part, would have to augment their administrative resources to promote. We are amazed at the naivety of Stockport's officer and members, and its failure to follow and utilise existing legal machinery, as we pointed out last year when dealing with the infamous Marple 187 Deer Fence case.

At some of the meetings with local authorities we have stressed the need for an up-to-date guide to the Closure & Diversions of Public Paths, so that maps can be updated. We are pleased to report that Peak Park hope to be producing one in the near future, and that some other authorities are to give this consideration after completion of their Map Reviews, subject to Ordnance Survey agreement.

At the Lynton National Parks Conference the personal attention of Sir Derek Barber was drawn to the facilities available under the Highway Act 1980 for the charging by the Highway Authority of those costs involved in removing obstructions to the person concerned. This was followed by confirmatory correspondence, and is a point we are pressing with other authorities who have obstruction problems, and find legal actions are time consuming and sometimes non-effective. We were pleased to note the Countryside Commissions stated intention to have all Public Paths walkable by the year 2000 and we wish them well in their endeavours to so achieve this aim. We are however a little apprehensive of some of their proposals for dealing with path problems.

Marple 187

Despite our success last year in winning this case at the Public Inquiry the subsequent inclusion of gates in the electrified fence still provided problems of

negotiation for many people, and after we made representations to Stockport, steps were erected below the gates. However the spring loaded gates still made passage difficult and at least one person has been injured when passing through the fence. The situation is being closely monitored, and the local authority have been made aware of the present problem.

Windmill Woods

The long running saga of the claim by the Knutsford Civic Society and this Society eventually came to a head when the Cheshire County Council were ordered, after considerable procrastination, by the Department of the Environment to promote a creation Order. As a subsequent result following an objection by the landowner, a public inquiry was held in Knutsford and which lasted for two non-consecutive days during last summer. There was strong public support and considerable evidence produced at the hearing, and when the Inspector's findings were published, they were in our favour.

Long Edge Plantation, Ladder Hill (025785)

The recent erection of a number of "private" notices along this route to the village of Combs from the Old Road above Fernilee created much interest amongst local people and our members. We researched the usage of this non definitive path and found considerable evidence to justify a claim to Derbyshire County Council for inclusion on the Definitive Map. The County have accepted our claim which is being formally processed but the final outcome is not yet known.

Charles Head Farm, Rainow

We are presently seeking evidence from users of the route towards Bummer (Summer) Close Farm, and would like to hear from anyone who can offer information going back over a period of some twenty years or more.

Tergiversation in Tameside

The following is extracted from the Chairman's address to the Society's Annual Meeting in Manchester Town Hall on Thursday 13th April 1989.

"Nearly 20 years ago the Cown Edge Way was launched by the voluntary societies- Greater Manchester's first medium distance footpath, and at practically no cost to the local authorities who supported this Conservation Year project. This gave walkers a circular route out into the fringes of the Peak National Park from Hazel Grove, returning to Gee Cross.

During the last two decades many thousands of walkers have enjoyed the benefit of this signed and waymarked route through beautiful countryside with magnificent views from the high places, with one notable exception in Tameside Borough.

On Werneth Low Road you have little opportunity to observe the extensive views that are available if you value your life. Hemmed in between two stone walls this narrow road barely allows two vehicles to pass each other as you flatten your body up against the stone wall to allow them to pass, for this road has no pavement. However a simple and safe practical solution exists which is

only being negated by bureaucratic bungling within the Authority.

On the western side of the road the land is in the ownership of Tameside and in 1977 the Authority were asked to provide a simple footpath along this land parallel to this dangerous stretch of road. In 1984 we were informed that this would be resolved as quickly as possible. In 1988 we were told that completion should be by 1st April of that year - an appropriately foolish statement as we are now in April of the following year. We are still awaiting the Rip Van Winkles of Tameside to "extract their digit" and get on with the job and not add to our already voluminous file of correspondence with their excuses for inefficiency".

The above statement was given adequate publicity but did not achieve any response from Tameside, so that in the early Autumn we joined forces with the Manchester Ramblers Association and made a submission to the Ombudsman and which was accepted. Subsequently your chairman met the Ombudsman's representative on site for further discussions.

Towards the end of the year we received a letter from the Ombudsman with attached correspondence from Tameside indicating that resources which had eventually been earmarked for the project had subsequently been switched to a different project in another part of the Borough, and that whilst our requested route would be fenced and stiled, no other work would be done, nor would the route be made of Definitive Status. It is this latter point which needs to be resolved. and members who are ratepayers in Tameside are requested to exert pressure on this Authority to ensure the route becomes a Public Right of way, and not a gratuitous facility which can be withdrawn at the whim of any Council Official or member. We have referred this latter and most important point back to the Ombudsman and further inquiries are being made at Tameside.

Our annual dinner

This year we had the pleasure of entertaining Richard Thomas, the North West Director of the Countryside Commission, whose office is based in Manchester and and with which we have frequent contact. It was also an opportunity to express our appreciation to the Commission for their generosity in financing the up-dating of our administration equipment, and the assistance towards our signposting programme which has enabled us to revert to cast metal signs. incorporating the Society's badge emblem, one of which we had on display that evening.

Your membership

If you are an Annual Member and have not as yet renewed your membership for the current year, which commenced in January, will you please give serious consideration to becoming a 10 year member? For a once only small additional capital outlay you make a considerable personal saving over the 10 years, not only in membership fees, but the cost of postage itself, which, at current rates comes to almost £2. Likewise, the Society has to bear not only the same amount but also any additional reminder charges due to your failure to renew

promptly. In addition the administration work of our hard working Membership Secretary and the costs of issuing receipts can be considerably reduced and the subsequent savings be utilised to further the work of the Society on practical issues. It should also be pointed out that 10 Year Membership covers any increase in annual subscription rates which occur during that period, and which may well be operative from next year.

Due to the high cost of producing and circulating our extensive monthly Council minutes to affiliated organisations, it has become necessary for a charge of £5 to be made for those requiring this service, so that the benefit of the Affiliation Fee is actually spent on footpath work.

L G Meadowcroft

This Society is a registered charity and welcomes payments of membership subscriptions and donations by means of CAF Charity Credits. The Charities Aid Foundation also operate "Give as You Earn", a payroll giving scheme by which you arrange with your employer for a fixed sum to be deducted from your gross income. This way, if one pound is deducted, you actually receive only around 70p less in your take-home pay, the balance comes from the taxman. GAYE is available only with your employer's consent. For further information about Charity Accounts please send an sae to:

Charity Aid Foundation
48 Pembury Road
Tonbridge
Kent TN9 2JD

The CAF is a registered charity whose purpose is to service other charities. Their services have been used to distribute almost three quarters of a million pounds from the DHSS following an error in pension payments and, more recently, to distribute the Christmas charity stamp premiums to local charities.

MONDAY MORNING

9am. Spot on time is the arrival of S... who in more ways than one is possibly the first member of "the team". Going over to the incoming mail tray he removes the 30 or so letters that have arrived during the past week, most of which are dealing with proposals to alter the public path network and only occasionally to our benefit. He meticulously enters them into the Path Register, checks the card index for any previous record and allocates a file reference number.

Shortly after 9.30 other members have arrived and begin examining each consultation or order which has come from the highway authorities or their many districts. After careful scrutiny of the plans and relevant definite map, each consultation receives three separate opinions. A request may go out to our local inspector if a further opinion is needed. Only when we have formed a definite view do we then send a reply with our decision to the issuing authority. This letter may accept the proposal or it may suggest an alternative solution; if we are objecting to an order we must have the support of the Society's Council to whom it will have normally been referred.

By lunch time the work of sending out the opinions has usually begun and may continue into the late afternoon. Meanwhile the afternoon shift has arrived and may be completing some of the morning's outstanding duties, filing documents, updating definitive maps from confirmed orders or highlighting parish boundaries for easier reference. Once a month the Society's minutes are reproduced before being sent to members of Council. Meanwhile, out in the workshop signposts are being painted or prepared for erection.

Around 4.30pm letters are being stamped and sealed, other work concluded and our practical staff taking off their overalls. Another day has ended and it is time to go home. But those long distance phone calls which are sometimes necessary have to be left until the early evening to benefit from cheaper rate calls. This is extra work for someone and they are all volunteers.

The above scenario takes place almost every Monday of the year, sometimes including bank holidays. There are vacancies for suitable volunteers who can give their time on a fairly regular and reasonable basis: it is very pleasant out here in Hazel Grove!■

LGM

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to submit for your consideration, my report for the year ended 31st December 1989

"The alternative way"

Once again it has been an extremely busy year, the measure of how busy can be judged from the number of new cases of obstruction shown in the footpath report. As usual there are several cases which cause the society extra concern. One such is in Ashley (Cheshire) on a path which is controlled by the Bollin Valley Project. The project have set up a concession path with stiles, waymarks and bridges, quite an excellent path. The problem is however that the definitive line is obstructed in several places and the farmer tells walkers that they must use the concession route. We have made it clear to the Bollin Valley Officer that our concern for concession routes of this nature is that farmers are inclined to direct walkers on to these routes which allows the definitive line to fall into disuse. As we go to press I am receiving reports of two or three other locations where the Bollin Valley Project Team have set up similar concession paths. I see a need in the very near future for a meeting with the appropriate officer with a view to our attempting to resolve this problem.

"It's not one of ours"

This brings me to a rather interesting and complex situation which exists within North Cheshire. I always refer to it as the "it doesn't belong to us" syndrome. In North Cheshire the footpath complaints procedure is rather complicated. There is a veritable warren of different departments to which complaints can be channelled. You can take your choice of Highways at Backford Hall, Countryside & Recreation at Wilmslow, Macclesfield BC or the Bollin Valley Project. I am fast coming to the conclusion that no one knows exactly which paths are controlled by which section and as a consequence my letters are often passed around from one to the other with very little action taking place to resolve the problems. There is a rumour circulating that "next year", presumably 1991, all paths will be dealt with by Countryside & Recreation which on the face of it would be good news except that in the end it depends how much money that department is given to carry out the work and that is likely to be the usual "very little".

Positive action from Rochdale MB

The Chairman, in his report has mentioned briefly our meetings with several authorities in our area and there would appear to be some improvement in the footpath maintenance scene possibly as a result of those meetings. At a recent meeting at Rochdale we were more than pleased to hear that the Council had decided that if a path was obstructed and it was not possible to locate the landowner then the Council would attach a Section 143 notice to say the stile or adjacent building, take a photograph of the location showing the notice and then at the expiration of 28 days, if the obstruction has not been removed, go in and remove it. This we feel is a positive way forward and one which we will be commending to other authorities at every possible opportunity.

The "Abram" story

Since I took upon myself the mantle of Secretary to the Society some 12 years ago I have always said that the most useful attribute of a footpath preservation worker is persistence, without it all is lost. It is therefore against a background of persistence "beyond the call of duty" that I relate the story of a footpath at Abram near Wigan. And incidentally despite the pronunciation placed on the word ABRAM by the BBC and others who should know better the "A" is pronounced as in Apple and not as in April. Our members in Abram will appreciate my putting you right on that small but important fact.

Way back in 1985 a lane, which was not on the definitive map, suddenly became obstructed by a locked gate adjacent to a new bungalow. Locals had used this route as of right for, some say, over 100 years. Local people, who by this time had joined the Society in great numbers took all the necessary steps to claim the right of way as public with a view to it being added to the definitive map. There was the usual delay with the former GMC, Wigan MBC and the Department of the Environment all playing a part. But whilst the paperwork was being shuffled around, the good people of Abram maintained constant pressure on anyone who would listen to their case. But by far the most important aspect of their campaign was that on Saturday morning of every week through a period of 18 months locals assembled in great numbers adjacent to the gate in peaceful protest against something which belonged to them being taken away. In June 1989, following a public inquiry, the decision was announced the path was judged to be public the gate was opened and the people of Abram had restored to them, that which had really been theirs all the time there is no doubt at all that in this case, as in almost all others, persistence won the day.

Computerisation

The computerisation of our "administrative systems" is now well underway and we are deeply indebted to our member Geoff Cooke who has spent a considerable amount of time and effort in writing the necessary programs and advising on the systems required. The net result of this exercise will be a more efficient and streamlined footpath complaints system and hopefully a slight reduction in my workload. There will be some re-organisation and re-numbering of inspectors areas but these will be minimal. Many thanks Geoff.

The Data Protection Act 1984

Further to the above item, we will shortly have on disc names and addresses of all members and in the case of officers and footpath inspectors we will also hold telephone numbers. I am required by the Data Protection Act 1984 to advise all members of these facts and to say that these details will only be used to forward communications from the Society, except that in the case of officers and inspectors, the information will also be made public in the Annual Report. The Act requires that I must advise all members of the above and to state quite clearly that if any member would wish to object to his or her name and address being so recorded, they should advise me and it will be removed.

"Beware of the notice"

Every year I receive complaints about notices displayed on or adjacent to public paths, "Private", "No entry", "Private Drive" are all rather commonplace but this year how about the one on Lyme Handley 19, "Beware of Dog - enter at own risk"... enter at own risk indeed on a public right of way! Cheshire CC are taking a long time to resolve this problem but again I am sure that persistence will prevail.

"The Great Wall"

We have heard a lot recently about "the wall", that's the one in Germany of course but what about the one in Staffordshire which obstructs Bridleway 12 in the Parish of Alstonefield. First reported to the County Council in April, 1985. They removed the wall in December 1986 however, surprise surprise, in February 1987 it had reappeared, good as new. In August 1989 Staffordshire say in reply to our request for further information "difficult landowner - obstruction removed but later replaced". A court case is pending watch this space.

"Thirty bridges required"

We often have problems with missing bridges but take a look at the footpath report (Greater Manchester - Irlam 6). Thirty plank bridges required on a path less than half a mile in length, this must be a record of some sort. Peat working takes place in this area of Cadishead Moss with complete disregard for public rights of way. Salford are the responsible authority but are slow to take action.

"To plough or not to plough"

I mentioned last year that problems of ploughing and non-reinstatement were prevalent in Cheshire. I regret to say that the problem has not improved despite the fact that Cheshire told us that they would prosecute in certain cases. True they did set up one case for court action but due to certain circumstances involving the landowner it was not possible to proceed, the reasons we quite understood. The landowner's son has however given certain undertakings with regard to maintaining the path lines. I have to say that we are looking for a lot more positive action from Cheshire on ploughing issues during the coming year. Don't be at all surprised to see this topic mentioned again in my next report.

... and finally

My thanks to all the Society's officers and in particular our footpath inspectors for their efforts during the year. Precise reporting makes my job so much easier. Can I also extend the thanks of the Society to R S Pemberton Ltd of Hazel Grove for their help and assistance during the year■

D Taylor

SIGNPOST SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that I have received many complimentary remarks about the newly designed cast plates, three of which have been erected so far and a further eight undergoing completion.

The photographic record of the Society's signposts is progressing, although somewhat slowly bearing in mind their widespread locations. However 117 have now been photographed which is over the half way mark.

The Society is indebted to the following persons who have offered to donate commemorative signposts during the year:

- Mrs E Evison of Sheffield: signpost 219 erected at Highlow Brook;
- Mr P G Warwicker of Hazel Grove: site still needed in the Kinder area;
- Colleagues of Colin Fenton: site still needed in the Kerridge area;
- Miss O Bowyer of New Mills: signpost 5 at Peep O'Day being replaced;
- New Mills and Hayfield WEA: provisional and awaiting confirmation.

I regret the delay in providing the second signpost for Manchester CHA but I am still awaiting final permission for the proposed site at Damside Farm, Peak Forest, which is being negotiated through PPPB.

There have been fewer reports of vandalism, just three this year. Two fingerposts at Derwent were uprooted, numbers 12 (199883) and 19 (187912). Signpost 88 east of Hope Mill (175837) has disappeared. From an allocation of a legacy to the Signpost Fund I have been able to buy some useful tools to assist in the erection and maintenance of signposts.

On behalf of the Society I wish to thank all those who have given active assistance with signpost work throughout the year when the following signpost work was completed:

| | | | |
|--|--------|---|--------|
| #1 Carr Meadow | 035895 | #150 Higher Disley | 981832 |
| Plate and post repainted | | Post repainted and plaque mounting replaced | |
| #27 Eccles Pike | 047810 | #159 Rowarth | 013894 |
| White letters repainted | | Plate replaced and post repainted | |
| #81 Flittogate | 707782 | #166 Cobden Edge | 991865 |
| Plate and post repainted | | Post repainted | |
| #98 Chapel Gate | 099834 | #199 Mellor | 975876 |
| Temporary repairs | | Split arm repaired | |
| #116 Bowstone Gate | 972808 | #203 Wilderness | 027016 |
| Plate/post repainted and plaque replaced | | Replacement waymarker post erected | |
| #120 Rowarth | 002905 | #214 Lumbhole Mill | 988805 |
| Post repainted | | New signpost erected for Manchester CHA | |
| #136 Agden Brow | 713862 | #215 Phoside Farm | 037861 |
| Plate and post repainted | | New signpost erected for Miss D Bellman | |
| #137 Agden Lane | 712854 | | |
| Plate and post repainted | | | |

#216 Hayfield 03398648
New signpost erected for New Mills
RA

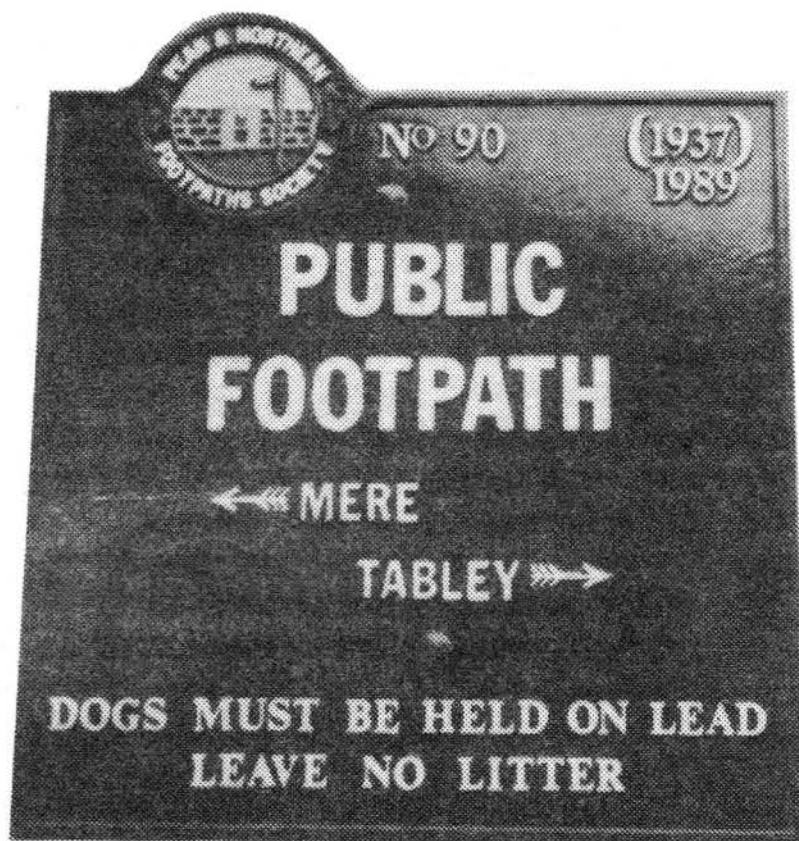
#217* Wheston 13747504
New signpost erected for Buxton
Rambling Club

#219 Highlow Brook 220796
New signpost erected for Mrs E
Evison

*Signpost #217 was the first to be fitted with the the new style cast plates;
these are also being fitted to the following signposts:

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--------|------|-----------|--------|
| #5 | Peep O'Day | 047850 | #94 | Thornhill | 197837 |
| #36 | Hope | 171832 | #122 | Hope | 173841 |
| #72 | Derwent | 171919 | #218 | Tabley | 706806 |
| #90 | Tabley | 709805 | #220 | Combs | 043792 |

P S Hutchinson



FOOTPATH REPORT

This report is a summary of new cases reported to the General Secretary during 1989 and of all clearances reported during the year. It does not cover the several hundred ongoing cases which are still receiving attention. Details of all the obstruction cases listed have been passed to the appropriate local authority for action. Grid references are shown in *italics*.

CHESHIRE

Adlington 34

A dangerous stile on this path at 93389875.

Arclid 3

Stile and signpost required where path leaves the Congleton Road at 78156183.

Ashley 12

Three problems on this path; signpost uprooted, the stile at 79908365 is also uprooted and a further stile requires a "through": 79828373 to 79798352.

Bosley 1

Diversion order of January, 1986 at last implemented, path clear: 914674 to 919667.

Brereton 14

Path does not appear to exist, nothing visible at either end: 77576368 to 77826357.

Brereton 16

Considerable re-stiling has taken place on this path but at 772628 it is still obstructed.

Brereton 29

There is an unacceptable "Keep Out" notice at the south end of this path: 78386291 to 79166339.

Brereton 30

A need for a signpost and stile at each end of this path; when this is done it might then be possible to inspect the rest of the path: 791647 to 792649.

Cranage 14

Stile erected path clear though signpost still required: 76436930 to 76056942.

Cranage 19

Obstructed by barbed wire and a "Private" notice adjacent also some evidence of obstruction by person: 767684 to 774686.

Croft 13

A number of problems on this path which in part does not appear on the ground: 66849440 to 66509330.

Gawsworth 4

Obstructed by a broken field gate with barbed wire across: 900702 to 902704

Gawsworth 7

The footbridge on the Gawsworth - Sutton boundary at 91506984 is missing.

Gawsworth 10

Eight stiles on this footpath, all require attention: 88906961 to 88946776.

Great Warford 2 / Chorley 6

Obstructed by a wall on the parish boundary: 82657711.

Great Warford 23

Previously obstructed by barbed wire, now clear: 81157812.

Great Warford 26

No stile at the fingerpost 81657985 and the adjacent gate is locked.

High Legh 7

Two sections ploughed out and not restored and a new stile is required between the two: 68288315 to 67888358.

High Legh 11

Ploughed and not restored between 68228360 and 68228400 and totally obstructed by two field gates tied together with barbed wire at 68268368.

High Legh 12

Two sections ploughed out and not restored and at 67708301 a ditch is impossible to cross; bridge required.

High Legh 14

North section totally overgrown and unusable; south section ploughed and not restored: 67308381 to 67318318.

High Legh 16

Three fields ploughed out and not reinstated: 67828354 to 67458408.

High Legh 17

Path ploughed out and not reinstated between 67308408 and 67288382.

Little Warford 3

All obstructions removed, new stile erected, path now clear: 81047630 to 81437669.

Lyme Handley 5

Obstructed step stile and new barbed wire fence are problems on this path: 96408425 to 95888318.

Lyme Handley 19

Unacceptable notice "Beware of Dog - enter at own risk"; this on a public right of way at Griffin Cottage: 952831

Lyme Handley 26

Path not on definitive line, which is obstructed at three points: 97398130 to 98048115.

Lyme Handley 38/Kettleshulme 3

Footbridge (98808054) was washed away in a flash flood but has now been replaced; path clear.

Lyme Handley 39

Previously obstructed by a two strand barbed wire fence, now clear: 983808.

Lyme Handley 40/Kettleshulme 7

Footpath obstructed by sheep wire at 98258025.

Lyme Handley 41

Obstructed by a 6ft high sheep netting fence at 98107921.

Marthall 7

Path ploughed and not restored: 78167799 to 78557728.

Marthall 8

Path ploughed and not restored from its south end to junction with 7 and 11: 78027788 to 78247850.

Marthall 10

Path ploughed and not restored from junction 9 to junction 11: 78027788 to 78247850.

Marthall 11

Path ploughed and not restored along its entire length: 78167800 to 77907826.

Millington 2

Path ploughed out and not restored between 72428411 and 72708416.

Mobberley 60

Path left in a disgraceful condition following works undertaken by the Airport Authority.

Mobberley 76

Several new stiles and signposts erected, path now clear: 78308162 to 79288106.

Nether Alderley 4

The through step of the stile at 83677709 has become detached and the upright is cracked.

Nether Alderley 6

The stile at 83897750 is in poor condition and requires replacing.

Nether Alderley 7

Allegations that the path is fast becoming a swamp are being investigated by the Society's Inspector: 84607755 to 84447690.

Nether Alderley 32

The stile at 83847672 is in poor condition and requires replacing.

Nether Alderley 51

Gate on this bridleway was securely fastened by a chain but following representations by the Society it has now been re-opened: 85297724.

Ollerton 1

Path wired at three points around 77807759.

Ollerton 4

Path very badly overgrown at its north end: 77817618 to 77837660.

Ollerton 5

Two stiles needed on this path, one at 77907595, the other at junction with FP3.

Over Alderley 12 and 13

Stile which was in bad condition now replaced; signposts still required: 85877656.

Over Alderley 16 and 19

Missing signpost arm now replaced at 86087538; path clear.

Rainow 1

Obstructed by stone wall, fence and sheet metal around "Howlersknowl": 98857618.

Rainow 11

Path completely off line, no way to cross a fenced stream in a deep gully at 98717680.

Rainow 12

Obstructed by sheep netting and PVC. wire across two stiles: 98357661.

Rainow 53

Previously obstructed by a sheet metal barrier at Marsh Farm, now clear: 943744.

Rainow 77

Builders rubbish etc., which formerly obstructed the way at "Common Barn" has now been cleared.

Rainow 81

Good new stile and signpost erected, path now clear: 95677754.

Sandbach 9

No sign of this path on the ground and there is no record of closure or diversion: 77116198 to 78196278.

Sandbach 10

One obstruction of barbed wire remains on this path: 77336288 to 77386137.

Sandbach 13

Path ploughed out and not reinstated: 77606145 to 77986118.

Sutton 11

A broken and potentially dangerous stile requires attention at 953709.

Sutton 21

Obstructed by barbed wire and a sheep netting fence: 939697 to 959698.

Sutton 27

Waymarkers show a route which is off the definitive line in the area 938695.

Sutton 31

Obstructed by a sheep fence, barbed wire and undergrowth: 93756879.

Tabley Inferior 4

Obstructed by an old metal gate topped with barbed wire: 70377806.

Tabley Inferior 5 / Plumley 8

Broken stiles and ploughed up fields obstruct this footpath: 71857626 to 71427670.

Tabley Superior 2

A large area under a covering of 6in of slurry adjacent to new farm buildings: 73187898 to 73727850.

Wildboardclough 16

Obstructed by two galvanised metal gates with catches wired up; path also ploughed and not restored: 970681 to 972682.

Wildboardclough 30

Roadside barrier obstructs the entrance to this path and a ladder stile requires attention: 00356922.

Wilmslow 53

Allegations that a large dog is so tethered as to dissuade walkers is being investigated: 858997832 to 86047820.

DERBYSHIRE**Abney and Abney Grange 7**

Dangerous ladder and step stiles require attention: 20017920 to 20207875.

Ashford in the Water 5

Electric fences across gaps in wall, way-marking required: 179681 to 1766688.

Blackwell 6

Inadequate stone stile and barbed wire obstruct this path at 12907115.

Buxton 30

Gates wired up close to Long Hill Farm.

Buxton 34

Gates wired up at Shay Lodge to Plex Farm.

Calow 3

Path has collapsed into a ditch and is badly overgrown: 41347152 to 41377140.

Calow 10

Obstructed by barbed wire at 40557058 and a signpost required.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 25

Path was obstructed by 9in of mud at Thorney Lee Farm (036786); now clear.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 26

Obstruction by person and an obstructed stile: 03217851 to 03427801.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 35 and 36

Allegations of a broken stile at Broadlee Farm 038769 and other unspecified obstructions being investigated by our Inspector.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 66

One of the many paths obstructed by the By-pass construction, now clear: 056816.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 67

Ladder stile disintegrated, adjacent gate firmly fastened, no one will accept responsibility.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 83 and 84

Stile at the junction of these paths 068814, has now been replaced, path clear.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 102

Building work is endangering this path at Goldpiece Farm: 08468088.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 104

Obstructed by a recently erected fence between Bagshaw and Maglow Farms.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 120

Stile obstructed by wire netting and the adjacent gate is securely fastened. 06667974.

Charlesworth 59

Obstructed at the north end on the A626 by a locked gate.

Charlesworth 64

Stile at entrance to Tom Wood is obstructed by barbed wire: 99799298.

Charlesworth 71

Path obstructed by a plain boarded fence where there should be a stile: 992926.

Chinley 34

Point of access from Back Road is not apparent, building work is taking place across the line: 04908480 to 04708480.

Chinley 36

Blocked by two gates tied together, stile has been relocated off line but is blocked anyway: 049842 to 044845.

Chinley 54

Allegations that this path has been unofficially diverted to accommodate a modernised farmhouse are being investigated: 05308250 to 05778241.

Chinley 55

There are suggestions that development adjacent to this path is affecting the right of way at Gorsty Low Farm; investigations are continuing.

Chisworth 4

A small bridge is required at 00459195 on this path and there is obstruction by barbed wire at 00219131.

Chisworth 5

Obstructed at the junction with 6 and 10 (00899091); waymarking required.

Chisworth 6

Path line very wet at south end where there is a stile in poor condition: 01059145.

Chisworth 9

At west end 00239135 the last 50 yards is under water.

Chisworth 10

Previous complaints of bad conditions underfoot, inspector reports now clear. 00009094 to 01339102.

Chisworth 18

Two new stiles required on this path: 98909212 to 99039192.

Chisworth 23

Path obstructed at both ends by piles of tree branches: 789210 to 98679240.

Eyam 23

The high ladder stile at 21807790 had several rungs missing and required urgent attention. Inspector reports that stile has now been repaired and path is clear.

Hartington Middle Quarter 26

Stile previously rendered useless by a large manure heap, now removed and path clear: 119675.

Hartington Town Quarter 14

Line of path obstructed by a new barbed wire fence; the stile is obstructed by a firmly wedged bucket which Derbyshire Dales D.C. say is acceptable: 127606 to 128605.

Hartington Town Quarter 16

Gap stile has been filled in at 12856130.

Hayfield 11

Path obstructed in two places between the A624 and Far Phoside, also not on correct line: 04088622 to 04058575.

Hayfield 24

New stile erected at 02308951; path now clear.

Hayfield 61

A secured gate and a missing footbridge are problems on this path: 056858 to 054856.

Hope 24

Inspector has checked this path and confirms that it is clear: 16108618 to 16608461.

Hope Woodlands 20

Path is obstructed on its definitive line at 17958750.

Litton 11

Electric fence obstructs the way and a Hereford Bull tethered in the field: 166750.

New Mills 8

Severely restricted passage in the area of Clough Farm, formerly Cloughhead Farm: 01609035.

New Mills 9

A substantial barrier has been erected across the right of way at 01278930.

New Mills 48

Previously the subject of a temporary closure order but now reopened.

New Mills 117

Path badly overgrown in parts and signposts are required: 01928688 to 01498680.

Parwich 24

Gate secured at 18135426.

Parwich 27/Tissington 18

An extremely boggy area at the junction of these paths prevents passage: 176539.

Peak Forest 30

A broken and dangerous stile requires attention at 08867888.

Peak Forest 42

Obstructed by a stone wall without a stile: 08597901.

Peak Forest 60

Path ploughed out and not restored: 10638180 to 10708135.

Stoke 4

Obstructed by a locked gate at 23407585.

Stoney Middleton 3

Stile previously obstructed by bushes is now clear: 22457462.

Stoney Middleton 5

Stream crossing in Coombs Dale is inadequate and requires improving: 22957484.

Sutton-cum-Duckmanton 6

Path line ploughed and set to crop 42257059 to 42407051; signposts also required.

Sutton-cum-Duckmanton 9

Two stiles completely obstructed by overgrowth, field ploughed and not restored and missing signpost: 43057138 to 43577133.

Tideswell 22

Obstructed by a restored wall at 14137832.

Whaley Bridge 5

Obstructed by an array of metalwork, fencing and a long scaffold pole across the stile: 00248362.

Whaley Bridge 14

Earlier in the year, two stiles required attention on this path; this work has now been completed and path is clear: 007824.

Whaley Bridge 15

A number of obstructions are present on this path in the area 008821.

GREATER MANCHESTER

Abram 26

Deep ditches and barbed wire obstruct the way at several points: 62000003 to 61870065.

Abram 27

Path surface has been destroyed by a bulldozer, reinstatement required 62010018 to 62490045.

Altrincham 14

Development adjacent to this path is causing concern, the Society maintaining a watching brief: 79698891 to 79828897.

Ashton-in-Makerfield 22

Some erosion of this path and extensive flooding at east end: 60180093 to 60680070.

Ashton-in-Makerfield 25

British Rail have removed an overbridge at 60360007 the Society cannot trace a closure order but this may have been by a Private Bill. Wigan MB are checking.

Bredbury and Romiley 4

Footbridge at "Near Cloughside" has now been repaired; path clear: 96389232.

Bredbury and Romiley 22

A short path leading off Chadkirk Road is obstructed by barbed wire and a large "PRIVATE" notice is displayed.

Bredbury and Romiley 23

Allegations that overgrowth is forcing walkers off the path on to a steep part of the canal bank: 93889030 to 93769048.

Bredbury and Romiley 34

Path much improved following motorway construction, now clear: 91099144.

Bredbury and Romiley 37

Gap provided in fence and signpost erected, now clear: 93799168.

Bredbury and Romiley 43

Following completion of motorway works this path is now clear: 91749315.

Chadderton 37

At Ferny Field Farm 89550522 a sign is displayed "Guard Dogs Roaming Loose - You Have Been Warned"; not acceptable on a right of way.

Hazel Grove and Bramhall 72

The definitive line is obstructed and walkers are using an alternative line; we have asked for the definitive line to be reopened: 94678592.

Heywood 166/Whitefield 4

Barbed wire has now been removed, path is clear: 83980820.

Irlam 6

30 six foot plank bridges are needed to make this path walkable: 68509450 to 69589500.

Irlam 8 and 10

A boundary drain some 10 feet wide obstructs the way, the only possible crossing point is an 18" diameter gas pipe: 69609494.

Irlam 11

Path not restored after ploughing in the area: 69209562.

Kearsley 30

Longstanding problems on this path following the demolition of Kearsley Power Station have now been resolved; path clear: 76100475 to 75450541.

Leigh 297

The definitive line is obstructed and therefore unused: 68789800 to 68889818.

Littleborough 61

Path totally out of repair in the area around Grime Farm: 93431830.

Littleborough 74

Obstructed by loads of rubbish tipped across the line of path: 94451905.

Littleborough 145

Bridleway out of repair by reason of a deep bog at 94651292.

Littleborough 183

Impossible to walk due to drainage problems near the A6033; path more like a stream bed: 94101729 to 94181730.

Littleborough 216

Path out of repair at commencement of year but has since been cleared: 94721897.

Littleborough 334

Path reduced in width by a fence erected down the middle; Rochdale M.B. have been asked if this is acceptable to them: 94651735 to 94851727.

Littleborough 336

A padlocked gate obstructs the way at 95001725.

Littleborough 355

A very dangerous stile requires attention at 95371723.

Littleborough 363

Path through Lydgate Clough has been illegally diverted. The reasoning is good but a legal Order should be applied for: 95271673.

Littleborough 370

Obstructed by barbed wire at junction with the A58: 95311720.

Littleborough 404

Gate padlocked and two upright poles have been driven into the ground on the north side of the gate: 95481614.

Littleborough 599

Bridleway out of repair by reason of a deep bog at 956013400.

Longdendale 11

Obstructed by a two strand wire fence at 99579755.

Longdendale 50 and 51

Fencing removed and a stile substituted; paths now clear: 98809575.

Longdendale 99

The area surrounding 99519498 is a swamp and the path cannot be travelled.

Marple 5

Some doubt as to the correct line of this path; Stockport have been asked to advise: 97979061 to 98349078.

Marple 8

Obstructed by an electrified fence at 988912.

Marple 18

Obstructed by a recently erected mesh fence topped with barbed wire at 99699065.

Marple 71

Awkward stile adjacent to Wood Farm and some clearance work required: 94408815.

Marple 92

Signpost erected on Chatterton Lane, now clear.

Marple 100/101

Signposts erected where paths leave Shiloh Road, now clear.

Marple 109

A good quality stile has now been erected to negotiate the locked gate close to Mellor Church 98228898.

Marple 132

Signpost erected and path now clear: 98578754.

Marple 154

Path obstructed by a wire fence and not on its correct line: 977872 to 981873.

Marple 154

Fencing and lack of stiles previously caused problems on this path; fencing has now been removed and stiles erected. path is now clear.

Milnrow 17 and 18

A misleading notice and a padlocked gate are problems on this path: 96251240 to 96351130

Milnrow 182

Line illegally diverted and a padlocked gate topped with barbed wire obstructs the way: 93901288.

Milnrow 200

Path blocked by wire and a garage built across line of path.

Milnrow 204

Obstructed by a 3ft high breeze-block wall.

Milnrow 214

Line of path totally obscured by tipping which is possibly illegal: 93221364.

Radcliffe (Christ Church) 7

On Bradley Fold Road the stile has been demolished and replaced with barbed wire.

Radcliffe (Christ Church) 18

At 75830976 there is barbed wire across the stile and no exit to Ainsworth Hall Road.

Radcliffe (St Andrews) 5

There is a dangerous stile at 78300822.

Radcliffe (St Andrews) 6

The exit stile from the field at 78400810 requires replacing.

Radcliffe (St Andrews) 9

Path is unusable from the west side of the canal to its junction with footpaths 8 and 30: 79080822 to 79000850.

Radcliffe (St Andrews) 14

Path surface in poor condition and cratered along its entire length.

Radcliffe (St Andrews) 17

Obstructed by sheep netting at 77950950.

Radcliffe (St Andrews) 26 and 12

Barbed wire and a secured gate obstruct the way at 77980930.

Radcliffe (St Saviours) 3

Obstructed by electrified fence, barbed wire and other obstacles in the area: 77450632.

Ramsbottom 6

A dog, tethered in such a way that the chain allows the dog access to the path; there is no escape route: 75981580.

Rochdale 30

A misleading and illegal notice "Private Footpath" is displayed at 90191595.

Rochdale 46

Gateway blocked with fencing at 85181445 also trees down across path line.

Rochdale 59

Path uses a sunken lane 854451450 to 85121463 which is totally out of repair, the Society's Inspector was subjected to verbal abuse when attempting a higher line.

Saddleworth 115

Gate previously padlocked, now clear though signposts are still required at each end of path.

Saddleworth 116

A flimsy tubular gate, firmly wired obstructs the way at 98550549; a Peak and Northern signpost stands adjacent.

Saddleworth 131

Allegations that this path cannot be found are being checked by the Society's Inspector: 97150818 to 97170828.

Saddleworth 139

Obstructed by a stone wall; path runs from 97200803 to 97310800.

Saddleworth 168

Obstructed by several strands of rusty barbed wire at 95820623.

Saddleworth 170/Lees 1

Obstructed by heaps of shale adjacent to a development site and by wire at a stile: 95950555 to 95630621

Saddleworth 171

Obstructed by a heap of bricks and a strange flimsy enclosure: 96150612 to 96150579.

Saddleworth 207

Gate on this path can only be opened with some difficulty; clearance of adjacent undergrowth is necessary: 97950510.

Standish-with-Langtree 8

One of the cases we took to the Ombudsman after 13 years of inaction by the council; this bridleway has now been culverted at a cost of £40 000: 56421063 to 56431098.

Tottington 18

A stile has now been erected at 76421445; path clear.

Turton (Bradshaw North) 9

Path badly overgrown, stiles required: 73921381 to 73611366.

Tyldesley 69 and 72

Steel gate erected across the right of way at the junction of these two paths. 70100308; this obstruction was removed late in the year after representations by the Society.

Tyldesley 172

Temporary barricades have now been removed and path is clear.

Tyldesley 183

Path obstructed by a garden and house extension: 69410149 to 69570120.

Tyldesley 189

Adjacent building works have destroyed the line of path which needs to be re-established: 69300154.

Wardle 14

Path out of repair due to badly overgrown trees in the area: 91471580.

Wardle 28

Gap stile blocked with barbed wire at 90771606.

Wardle 43/Rochdale 3

The bridge which should allow passage across Ash Brook is missing: 91341464.

Wardle 69

Obstructed by a wall and wooden fence at 89951702.

Wardle 71

Path out of repair in the area 90001695.

Wardle 73

A misleading notice "Private Road - No Access" is in position at 90041670 and a fence obstructs the way at 90071695.

Wardle 75

Obstructed by a fence which purports to be a stile: 90201700.

Wardle 88

Gap stile blocked by barbed wire at 90221732.

Wardle 100

Piles of rubbish and building materials have been dumped on the line of path at Stid Slack 89771745.

Wardle 130

Obstructed by a wooden fence at 90331732.

Wardle 144

Obstructed by a three strand barbed wire fence at 92301693 as the year commenced, but a stile has now been erected and the path is clear.

Wardle 152

Obstructed by a wooden fence at 91721733.

Worsley 71 and 74

Footpath 71 ploughed out and not restored and 74 is obstructed by a deep water channel, no bridge. 75700035 to 75730020.

Worsley 87

Contractors working for Peel Homes have destroyed the path at 73070126.

LANCASHIRE

Bacup 293

Gap stile, previously obstructed by barbed wire is now clear: 87352600.

Bacup 310

Barbed wire fence erected so close to a wall that there is insufficient room to pass: 88552535 to 88452530.

Charnock Richard 12

North end obliterated by quarry workings, at 563167 obstructed by a secured gate and a long stretch is completely waterlogged.

Darwen 144

The stile at 705184 was broken and required replacing; this work has now been completed, path clear.

Haslingden 327

Previously reported as an "obstruction by person" but this same person now allows people to pass with a civil greeting: 77751999 to 77921980.

Livesey 1

Previously obstructed by fencing but now clear: 65992569 to 66002600.

Pleasington 6

Previously reported as "obstruction by person" but landowner now allows passage though dogs are still a nuisance; recorded as clear: 63602790.

Yate and Pickup 56

Stiles and steps now in order, path clear: 71952340 to 71952345.

Yate and Pickup 57, 58 and 59

Exit at the north end of 59 is obstructed at 72152338 so access to 57 & 58 is not possible.

Yate and Pickup 62

All obstructions cleared from this path, now clear: 71912280 to 73102315.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Dinnington St John's 8

Path ploughed out and not restored at Brands Farm: 54848463.

Firbeck 6/Letwell 2

This continuation path has been ploughed out and not restored: 56358835 to 56158708.

Harthill with Woodall 8 and 23 - Thorpe Salvin 6

Broken stile requires replacing and several signposts required: 49528067 to 53120802.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Alstonefield 0.1683

Previously obstructed by barbed wire at 11025901, now clear.

Alstonefield 5

There is a stile in poor condition at 107581.

Blore with-Swinscoe 12

Path is completely overgrown with bramble and nettles to a height of some 6ft, progress not possible: 12954848 to 13204885.

Blore-with-Swinscoe 14

Stile completely obstructed, being buried deep inside the hedge on the A523; signpost also required.

Blore-with-Swinscoe 31

The steeply descending steps into Cuckoo Clough are in poor condition and require attention: 13194728.

Blore-with-Swinscoe 32 and 33

On 32 a barbed wire fence obstructs the way at 13124780 and on 33 the approaches on both sides of the stile obstructed: 13004790.

Blore-with-Swinscoe 34

There is a possible illegal diversion of this path in the area: 13154807.

Blore-with-Swinscoe 37

Obstructed by a hawthorn hedge and by piled up tree trimmings: 12934820.

Grindon 1

Diverted onto a new unofficial line and new stiles provided: 08495455 to 07805525.

Hollinsclough 0.1746

Wire fence erected across path at 032667.

Leekfrith 2

Obstructed by a newly planted hedge and a new timber fence at Lower Foker Farm: 987215838.

Quarnford 0.1828 (c)

No obstructions found on this path, judged to be clear though in parts difficult to find.

Sheen 3

Obstructed by a new wooden fence in front of and across the stile at 10606434.

Sheen 14, 15 and 16

All obstructions on these paths have now been cleared though signposts still needed.

Sheen 38

A wall previously obstructed the way at 10506221 but when overgrowth was cleared, steps were revealed; now clear.

Stanton 18

Path completely overgrown in Cuckoo Clough: 13194728 to 13004658.

Stanton 25

Path blocked at several points 11674556 to 12484581.

Stanton 26

Stile serving FP25 is blocked: 12554595.

Warslow and Elkstones 16

Path obstructed by an unopenable gate at 057585.

Warslow and Elkstones 17

Path obstructed by barbed wire at 061592.

Warslow and Elkstones 20

Sheep netting removed and stile erected, now clear: 056503.

Warslow and Elkstones 30

Inspector reports no obstructions on this path, it seems likely that complainant was taking the wrong line: 09105968 to 09985938.

Warslow and Elkstones 31

Footpath now clear of obstructions: 09075967 to 08605948.

Waterhouses 28

A number of improvements have been made on this path and the inspector reports it clear: 08455178 to 09205168.

Waterhouses 107

Footbridge and new stile erected, path now clear: 08255153 to 08705156.

WEST YORKSHIRE**Blackshaw 28**

Previously obstructed by a fence and wall, now clear: 96772793.

Blackshaw 39

Sections of this bridleway are out of repair in the area 97402718.

Erringden 10

Vicious dogs are allowed to roam loose across this path at Heights Farm: 96962516.

Erringden 22

Gateway boarded up with old timber 97412597.

Erringden 24

Obstructed by fence across lane at 96812587.

Erringden 25

Wall topped with barbed wire, no stile. 97332565.

Hebden Royd 46

Wire and branches placed across right of way at 00022532.

Hebden Royd 68

Obstructed by a wire fence at 00252527.

Hebden Royd 82

Path obstructed by sheep netting topped with barbed wire: 990240.

Hepstontall 8

Obstructed by fencing at 95162956.

Ripponden 1

Numerous obstructions including a missing bridge previously caused problems on this path, now clear: 02262177 to 01952167.

Ripponden 3

Path out of repair, badly waterlogged, not possible to proceed: 02772151 to 02502140.

Ripponden 51/62

A number of problems exist around the property known as "Little Haven": 046212.

Ripponden 89

Path heavily wired near Lodstone House: 05322103.

Sowerby Bridge 130

Gap stile built up, no alternative route: 03472170.

Todmorden 31

Two strong bridges have been erected on this path which is now clear: 95532524 to 95862574.

Todmorden 107

Obstructed by a locked gate at 93022420.

Todmorden 116

Not possible to locate this path as it crosses Inchfield Pasture: 91222300.

Todmorden 120

Barbed wire has now been removed from stile, path clear: 92502191.

Todmorden 143

A broken stile requires attention at 94162052.

Todmorden 177

Stone roofing slabs have been piled against the stile and gate on this path: 95540246 to 96052420.

Todmorden 178

Path totally obstructed by large tree branches: 96202414 to 96222412.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year has again been a successful one, ending with a financial surplus. We have received during the year legacies of £1100, of which £750 has been applied to the Defence Fund, with the balance showing under Donations. Also shown in this year's accounts is the 50% grant towards office equipment which was mentioned last year.

While our equity investments account for only a small part of our funds, they have shown a satisfactory increase in market value, and income derived from them has also increased satisfactorily. As the economy remains insecure and yield gaps strongly support cash holding, we are following a course of action supported by a recent FT commentator and maintaining rather higher "cash" balances than might usually be seen - we are obtaining an excellent rate of return on these. At year end the return on the Premium account was 13.55%.

Although the amount of surplus income may seem unduly large, it represents a real increase in fund value of only a little over 4% at a time when the footpath network faces pressures for closure and diversion which continue to increase very rapidly.

The Society remains too small to consider paid employees and exists thanks to many hours voluntarily given in footpath inspection, signpost maintenance and sundry office tasks. We very much appreciate such assistance, and welcome all offers of help - we are sure to have some work suitable for you! To continue to provide the support which the footpath network really requires, we do need more volunteers to spread the workload as much as possible. It would be helpful if our membership base could be expanded much more and all members can assist with this task. The AGM this year is to be asked to increase the subscription levels, to be effective from 1991, some nine years after our last increase. I am sure our members will be only too aware of how much prices have risen in nine years and will appreciate our need to make a substantial increase in subscription levels to maintain a steady real membership income. We have decided not to ask for an increase in line with inflation but to ask for a smaller increase, in the hope and expectation that we can thereby increase our membership levels. We are only too aware of the need not to increase membership fees to a level some of our members may find difficulty in paying.

In the last Annual Report you were advised that Annual subscriptions would be due with effect from the AGM rather than from January 1st. Members will note that we are this year asking the AGM to confirm increases in subscription fees, which we will confirm to you in the next Annual Report. Should you wish to pay your subscription for 1991 before you receive that report, please would you pay at the increased levels notified in the Notice of Motion enclosed to avoid us having to expend time and funds in asking for extra. Should the AGM fail to confirm the increases your additional payment would be accounted for as a donation. When making donations, members are again requested not to make any contribution to the "Survey Fund" which is not presently operative■

Stephen Shaw

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for the year to 31 December 1989

| INCOME | 1988 | 1989 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Subscriptions | | |
| Ordinary | 364.00 | 352.00 |
| Joint | 315.00 | 303.00 |
| Transfer from 10 year suspense | 425.40 | 496.20 |
| Junior | 4.00 | 3.00 |
| Affiliations | 508.00 | 535.00 |
| <i>total subscriptions</i> | <i>1616.40</i> | <i>1689.20</i> |
| Donations | 529.95 | 859.98 |
| Investment Income | | |
| Received net | 654.97 | 769.63 |
| Tax recoverable | 227.86 | 256.55 |
| <i>sub total</i> | <i>882.83</i> | <i>1026.18</i> |
| Received gross - bank | 799.94 | 1349.59 |
| investments | 2349.12 | 2349.12 |
| <i>total investment income</i> | <i>4031.89</i> | <i>4724.89</i> |
| Profit on refreshments | 0.00 | 30.90 |
| Sales of badges | 25.15 | 20.00 |
| Sundry | 0.00 | 10.70 |
| <i>total ordinary income</i> | <i>6203.39</i> | <i>7335.67</i> |
| Grant received | | 1840.00 |
| Sale of Scrip Issue | | 64.31 |
| Sale of equipment | | 80.00 |
| <i>total income</i> | <i>6203.39</i> | <i>9319.98</i> |

| EXPENDITURE | 1988 | 1989 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Annual Report | 395.81 | 442.02 |
| Stationery etc | 233.17 | 227.70 |
| Maps | 25.90 | 36.72 |
| Postage and telephone | 672.34 | 648.64 |
| Gen Secretary: expenses of office | 125.00 | 125.00 |
| honorarium | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Typist honorarium | 50.00 | 0.00 |
| Travel | 487.09 | 528.59 |
| Room rent: meetings | 101.15 | 80.00 |
| Room rent: Archive Centre | 334.02 | 351.41 |
| Archive Centre expenses | 69.66 | 122.46 |
| Subscriptions and donations | 45.00 | 32.00 |
| Publicity | 32.72 | 62.13 |
| Bank Nominee charges | 49.00 | 33.00 |
| Losses on refreshments | 8.90 | 0.00 |
| Purchase of badges | 68.77 | 0.00 |
| Insurance | 0.00 | 26.50 |
| <i>total ordinary expenses</i> | <i>2798.53</i> | <i>2816.17</i> |
| Office Equipment | 2232.75 | 1446.93 |
| Transfer to Defence Fund | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| <i>total expenditure</i> | <i>5031.28</i> | <i>4513.10</i> |
| Surplus income | 1172.11 | 4806.88 |
| | 6203.39 | 9319.98 |

FUNDS of the Society as at 31 December

| name of fund | 31.12.88 | + income | - expenses | = 31.12.89 |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| General funds | 33 016.32 | 9 319.98 | 4 513.10 | 37 823.20 |
| Defence | 2 890.90 | 1 075.50 | | 3 966.40 |
| E Royce Memorial | 54.66 | | | 54.66 |
| H Wild Memorial | 250.00 | | | 250.00 |
| Dr F S H Head Memorial | 132.00 | 10.00 | | 142.00 |
| Signpost | 524.64 | 766.05 | 510.11 | 780.58 |
| Survey | 398.53 | | | 398.53 |
| | 37 267.05 | + 11 171.53 | - 5 023.21 | = 43 415.37 |

●The Defence Fund is available to meet legal expenses relating to the defence of the footpath network both as regards the cost of obtaining legal advice and meeting any expenses relating to legal actions.

●The Memorial Funds are remnant funds held to meet maintenance costs of the relative memorials prior to calling on the general funds; these funds are closed.

●The Signpost Fund relates to the costs of the erection of and maintenance of footpath signposts by the Society.

●The Survey Fund is a remnant fund relating to the initial right of way survey work. As it has no significant current usage, it is requested that no further donations be made to this fund.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1989

| Assets | 1988 | 1989 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Investments | 30 140.72 | 30 140.72 |
| Current Account | 49.19 | 48.52 |
| Deposit Account | 1 780.06 | 1 240.09 |
| Premium Account | 5 993.04 | 12 821.80 |
| NSB Investment Account | 1 226.63 | 1 359.94 |
| Cash float for Archive centre | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Tax Recoverable: Inland Revenue | 227.86 | 256.55 |
| | 39 437.50 | 45 887.62 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Funds of the Society as above | 37 267.05 | 43 415.37 |
| 10 year Suspense Fund | 2 170.45 | 2 472.25 |
| | 39 437.50 | 45 887.62 |

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Investments

All investments are quoted.

| Equity investments | 1988 | 1989 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cost of purchase | 11 474.43 | 11 474.43 |
| Market Value at 31 December | 13 085.00 | 16 009.43 |

Government Stock

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cost of purchase | 19 998.38 | 19 998.38 |
| Market Value at 31 December | 21 035.17 | 20 356.57 |
| Maturity Value | 18 666.29 | 18 666.29 |

Equities are shown in the accounts at the lower of cost or current market value. Government Stock which is held to maturity, is shown at the nominal maturity value which is less than current market value.

Assets purchased by the Society are fully written off to income in the year of purchased as they are not held with the intention of sale, and are composed mostly of assets which ordinarily depreciate rapidly or have only specialist value. We are most grateful for donations of equipment, furnishings and materials which we receive from time to time.

Office equipment purchased in 1988 and 1989 was partly financed by a generous grant from the Countryside Commission which is shown in 1989 Income. The Treasurer was not aware of any capital commitments at the year end. Accruals of income and expenditure vary little from year to year and are not of a significant nature. The Income and Expenditure details above are on the basis of actual transactions and exclude 1989 expenditure which had not been claimed and authorised prior to the year end.

Auditor's report

I have examined the Society's Accounts and in my opinion and to the best of my knowledge and belief the Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet here given provide a true and fair view of the revenue and transactions for the year ended 31st December 1989 and of the state of affairs as at that date.

date 20th January 1990

Signed: E Mc Cormick, Honorary Auditor.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

TEN YEAR MEMBERS

There are now 411 members including 84 married couples. This is an increase of 37.

ANNUAL MEMBERS

The membership is 389 including 101 married couples. This is an decrease of 3 over last year. We recruited 71 new members. Forty five did not renew and 6 members died or resigned. The balance is accounted for by transfers to 10 year membership.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

There are 109 Societies affiliated at 31.12.89. This is an increase of five over last year. Eight new Societies joined, but three did not renew during the year.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

The Society has 14 honorary life members and the total at the end of the year stands at 814. A net increase of 35.

Donations amounted to £824 and the generosity of members and clubs is much appreciated. The money will certainly be needed to carry on the Society's vital work in preserving our Footpath Heritage.

TED.WHITTAKER
