

SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Protecting Footpaths



& Helping Walkers



Since 1894

www.pnfs.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 212219

PEAK & NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

Protecting footpaths and helping walkers since 1894

This is where our teams exert their influence



...including the Peak District National Park

Our volunteers look after:

- Footpaths and bridleways
- Our signs, waymarkers and bridges
- Stiles and gates
- Public inquiries
- Planning applications

www.pnfs.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 212219

The View from the Chair

David Hurrell



Walking around the Peak District and ambling around my patch as a Footpath Inspector, I never thought that one day I would become Chairman of Peak & Northern Footpaths Society, but that has now happened following the AGM at the end of April. I feel rather over-awed following in the footsteps of so many distinguished people who have held this office.

Firstly, I would like to thank Gavin Miller for leading the Society this past 18 months with such a steady hand. I am pleased that Gavin will remain as a Trustee and continue to assist with the work of the Society. During his tenure, I have had the opportunity to learn much about how the Society 'ticks', particularly the legal side of footpath work, but I realise there is much more to learn.

Secondly, I would like to thank the Officers, Trustees, and the whole of the volunteer team, without whom the Society would cease to function. I have come to recognise the vast knowledge and experience that so many people possess in the field of footpath work.

I wish to express my thanks, and that of the Society, to a number of people who are stepping aside after many combined years of service. To Bill Buckley (Membership Secretary), John Harker (Courts & Inquiries Officer and Trustee) and Neil Collie (Bridges Officer). All have contributed much to the running of the Society.

We have been particularly fortunate in the last few months in receiving offers of help from four new volunteers and I extend a warm welcome to them all.

- **Ian Salvage** has taken the position of Publicity Officer and Editor of 'Signpost'. This is an important role, particularly as we try to increase membership levels in order to be an effective Society in the preservation of footpaths.

- **Martin Hampar** has stepped forward to join the Courts & Inquiries team, where he is busy learning about the 'legal stuff'.

- **Mel Bale** has replaced Bill Buckley as Membership Secretary. Mel brings significant IT experience, which will be of value to the Society.

- Last but not least, **Bob Proctor** has taken over from Neil Collie as Bridges Officer.

It is important that we all work as a team. As individuals we may be insignificant, but as a team we can achieve much.

As Gavin pointed out back in Signpost 48, the Society faces many challenges, particularly those posed by financial cutbacks at Local Authority level, where funding for footpath works gets less and less. We need to maintain our vigilance and continue to report deteriorating footpaths and stiles.

Summer will soon be with us, so get into the countryside with all it has to offer and enjoy the sunshine, the trees, the flowers and the birds. Try to walk those little used Public Footpaths (you may need your scythe and your cutters, while only cutting sufficient to allow you to pass!).



Front cover: Two of the new boards created to better publicise PNFS at presentations and shows.



The PNFS AGM

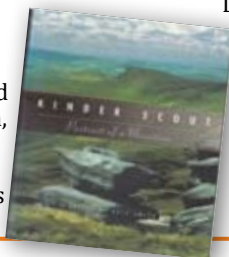
Saturday 30 April

The meeting started with the official AGM business. Following this, a discussion on common footpath problems and a talk by our guest speaker, Roly Smith, gave much food for thought. The meeting ended with an open forum, allowing members to address the committee. Audience participation throughout was positive, varied and lively.

Our guest speaker Roly Smith is a travel writer and former National Park Information Officer. He spoke about the Peak District National Park, his love for it and involvement with it, and the importance of groups such as PNFS.

He also referred to the recent severe flooding experienced in the UK, especially in the North of England, and the need to focus on flood prevention measures. In this context, Roly discussed the measures being taken to “re-wild” and “re-wet” our upland moors, for example on Kinder and Bleaklow. This is an area that Roly is passionate about and he has kindly offered to write an article for the November edition of Signpost on the subject.

Roly also donated a copy of ***“Kinder Scout, Portrait of a Mountain”***, a book which he has edited. It was accepted by the new Society Chairman, David Hurrell, and will be added to the Taylor House library, from where members will be able to borrow it.



Across the day, many other topics were raised, including:

- *issues caused by government cuts;*
- *the Kinder Trespass and annual commemorative events;*
- *the issues caused by the absence of a top predator such as the wolf;*
- *the damage caused to National Parks by heavy sheep grazing;*
- *John Muir’s importance (1838-1914) to the establishment of US National Parks;*
- *the need for improved public transport in all National Parks to reduce car use.*

Specific to the Peak District National Park, did you know that it survives on a budget of less than that of the average school, while visitors who drive into the park typically do not venture further than 50 yards from their cars?

The next members’ meeting will be the Half-Yearly event, to be held on Saturday 19th November 2016 at the Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK2 6AG.



The Role of the PNFS Inspector

The Society currently has 95 footpath 'inspectors' - volunteers who check Rights of Way (RoW) in a parish, or in several parishes, which they have agreed to 'inspect'. Approximately 30% (440 parishes) of the PNFS geography has designated inspectors. Although more inspectors covering more areas is always desirable, it is worth remembering that in 1970, there were only 17 inspectors, while back in 1960 there were as few as 10. So in this respect, the Society is stronger now than it was 40 or 50 years ago.

So what do inspectors do? They walk the paths and bridleways designated as rights of way in their parishes over a two year period and identify problems, or 'faults'. A fault could include: a path blocked by vegetation; a broken stile; or a footpath with no sign from the highway. Faults are notified to the relevant highway authority (HA). A copy of this contact with the HA is sent to Taylor House so that the office can track reported problems.

Many inspectors also carry a 'toolkit' with them to record faults or take simple remedial actions. While what is carried will vary, above is an example of what you might find.

David Gosling
Footpaths Coordinator

The Society asks inspectors to use a standardised report form and to include a digital photo if possible, simplifying fault recording and enabling more consistent records.

At Taylor House, the 'faults team', led by Hilda Bowler, still receives fault reports with no grid reference or path number, making its task much harder. Most inspectors now use email to notify faults and their phone to photograph the fault.

Discretion over what to report is important, especially as RoW staff use strict criteria to prioritise which faults they address. A stile that is fine for most people, but difficult for less able walkers, or a path that is muddy after a wet spell, but satisfactory at other times, are examples.



Inspectors use their judgement on whether to report such faults. The absence of way-markers is another difficult area, since these are not required by law, but can be very useful to walkers.

Serious issues should always be reported, especially faults which meet the following criteria:

- *Dangerous (i.e. walkers are at risk from injury)*
- *Totally or substantially prevent access along the path*
- *Was reported to the council two or more years ago*
- *Where the date given to an inspector to remedy the fault has been exceeded*
- *Causes inconvenience or acts as a deterrent on a well-used or well-promoted route.*

All inspectors use these criteria to determine the most serious faults and the Society will also consider serving a notice to the relevant HA. This may be followed by further legal action.

Inspectors are not left entirely to their own devices, though they mostly work independently, in their own time and at their own pace. They can attend a training session held annually in March, and they have an experienced area officer for difficult cases and from whom they can get legal advice. If necessary, area officers can refer cases to the Courts and Inquiries Committee which includes the most experienced officers in the Society. It is this Committee which decides whether to take legal action against an authority.

Inspectors are also asked to check sites where the Society has been notified of a creation, diversion or extinguishment order. Sometimes such orders are within the designated parishes of the inspector, but sometimes they are in areas where there is no designated inspector.

The Equality Act 2010 provides for the rights of elderly and disabled walkers. The Society has declared that it will oppose any action of an Authority which does not comply with the Equality Act.

For example, objections will be made to creation and diversion orders which specify the installation of structures on the new route that are not the least restrictive option; stiles are only acceptable if the order-making authority documents a compelling reason for their use; gates are only acceptable if they are necessary for stock control or the safety of users, otherwise there should be gaps. Objections will be made to creation and diversion orders which do not specify the standard of a structure.

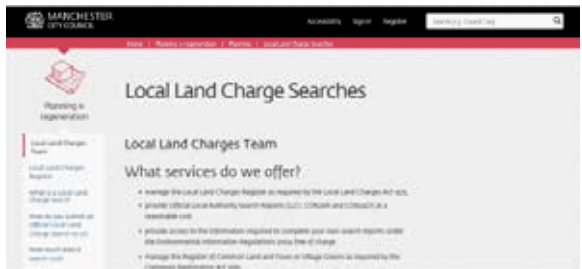
Inspectors are encouraged to work supportively with RoW staff in the Highway Authority. Mostly, we are all on the same side, wishing to preserve footpaths and bridleways which form what Robert Macfarlane has called the 'labyrinth of liberty'. Attendance at RoW Forums is a useful way to discuss ongoing issues. But sometimes the RoW staff hold different views and priorities from PNFS. In recent years, local authority cutbacks have started to erode RoW staff numbers, often resulting in slower response times and delays in getting the problem resolved. This is one reason why an inspector requires patience. We have to take the long view on protecting and maintaining the network of footpaths in our area.

In order to build a better picture of the condition of paths, inspectors will soon be asked to record and note the state of all paths they walk, whether there is a fault or not. A new database, being built by a PNFS member Roger Fielding and to be piloted later this year, will then record the information. Helpful information is also available to Inspectors on the PNFS website, on its Facebook page and via the Inspectors' electronic newsletter.

So the role of the inspector is always evolving and modernising, but there is a continuing commitment to the founding ideals of the Society. To quote the very first Annual Report in 1894:

"The preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of public highways, footpaths, bridle-paths, bye-ways, and other ways, vacant spaces, waste lands, and roadside slips, and to right of recreation over commons in the Northern and Midland Counties, particularly in the Peak District."

Local Land Charges – New Form CON 29



Rhoda Barnett

Local land charges registers are kept by district, borough and unitary councils; in them are recorded all local restrictions or charges affecting individual properties. The CON 29 form was introduced over 50 years ago to aid prospective purchasers to discover information, already in existence or being proposed, about a property. This includes information on public registers held by county councils such as the Definitive Map and Statement. The form is divided into compulsory and optional sets of questions. It is completed by the relevant council which, if it is not a unitary authority, liaises with the county council to provide information from, for example, the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way, and financial charges which can include charges resulting from enforcement for rights of way matters.

The Local Land Charges Institute has worked with the Law Society to revise CON 29 to reflect recent changes in planning and other legislation, and other improvements that enable purchasers to be better informed. The revised form comes into force on 4 July 2016.

It is especially good news with respect to rights of way, as there are three improvements:

1. *The public rights of way question is currently optional but will become compulsory. This means that the excuse of landowners "I didn't know there was a right of way across my land when I bought it", will no longer be valid.*
2. *Additional rights of way compulsory questions will be asked: "are there any pending applications to record a public right of way that abuts, or crosses the property?", and "are there any legal orders to stop up, divert, alter or create a public right of way which abuts, or crosses the property not yet implemented or shown on a definitive map?; if so, please attach a plan showing the approximate route."*
3. *An optional question covering landowner deposits in Registers under s31 Highways Act 1980 and s15A of the Commons Act 2006 has also been added.*

Use of the new forms will ensure that all prospective purchasers of property are better informed, and the rights of the public to use public paths should be better protected.

Farewell to a very supportive PNFS member

It is with sadness that we report the sudden death of **Rosemary Fox** in July 2015. Rosemary was a long-time member of PNFS and was a keen walker with both Peak & Northern and with Trafford Ramblers. She walked with both the short and longer walks groups within PNFS, and was a regular leader for the short walks. She led a walk in Marsden, West Yorkshire, just two weeks before she died.

Although both David Bratt and John Fisher offered to represent PNFS at her funeral, the family decided on a private ceremony.

PNFS Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

Notice

Walks Programme

This notice is being issued on 01 July 2015

WALK: "Peak & Northern Footpaths Society" - Wednesday July 8

Our walk leader, Rosemary Fox, has sadly passed away. She was a long-time member of PNFS and was a keen walker with both Peak & Northern and with Trafford Ramblers. She walked with both the short and longer walks groups within PNFS, and was a regular leader for the short walks. She led a walk in Marsden, West Yorkshire, just two weeks before she died.

Although both David Bratt and John Fisher offered to represent PNFS at her funeral, the family decided on a private ceremony.

WALKER: Rosemary Fox

Wednesday July 8

Leader: Rosemary Fox

Marsden Circular via Standedge & Pule Hill

8 miles, ascent 1300ft

Manchester Victoria 10:57

Walk starts Marsden station 11:30

Working more closely with our affiliated organisations

Many organisations have chosen to be affiliated to PNFS. At the current moment, we have 84 affiliates, with organisations covering a diverse range of areas including footpath societies, local councils, mountaineering clubs, conservation societies and a retired teachers' association.

Below is a map showing the locations of our affiliates.



The benefits that affiliates receive include regular newsletters, invitations to major PNFS meetings, inclusion in our walks programme, receipt of our Annual Report and Accounts, and access to our extensive map library and to expert advice on rights of way matters.

The affiliation programme has been very successful and we are keen to offer affiliated groups a good service. We believe that there could be benefits on both sides from building closer relationships.

For our part, we would like to:

- *encourage individual members from affiliated groups to join PNFS;*
- *seek out individuals within those groups willing to become more active in PNFS activities;*
- *inspire the groups to become more involved in actions PNFS takes in their particular area.*

The way the liaison works will vary from group to group; however, the sort of activities that we have in mind are:

- *Talks / presentations / meetings with groups (if the group is largely engaged in outdoor activities, we would ask if we could join them on one of these to chat with members);*
- *Exchange of items for posting on PNFS's or the groups' Facebook pages or websites;*
- *Possibly a conference for affiliates hosted by PNFS, where different groups could meet and talk, with presentations and discussions on relevant topics;*
- *Opportunity to confirm the details we have of affiliates' website addresses and to include a synopsis of their organisation on our 'affiliates' website page.*

Would anyone be interested in helping to establish links with some of the groups? This would not be hugely onerous. I have divided the affiliates geographically into six areas. With myself + 5 other people, each person would have around 12 affiliates to contact and establish relationships with. If you could help, please contact me, Ian Salvage, either via email (publicity@pnfs.org.uk), or telephone me on 01663 746979.



Ian Salvage

Lost Ways Training

Raph Murray

In Signpost 50 (Jan 2016) Rhoda Barnett highlighted the challenge to find 'Lost Ways' before it is too late and David Gosling provided an example of lost ways in Pott Shrigley near Bollington. Rhoda's article also suggested a training course on 'Lost Ways'. This was duly organised and the Quakers Meeting House in Manchester was the venue for a very interesting, informative and inspirational session on 9th April 2016.

Training was provided by Sarah Bucks and Phil Wadey (Authors of the book 'Rights of Way: Restoring the Record'). There are literally hundreds of unrecorded public rights of way (PROW) across the country; unless these are restored to the record before the 1st Jan 2026, there is a danger that they will be lost forever. These lost routes include totally unrecorded ones and ones that have been recorded as footpaths which should have higher rights (e.g. bridleway status). It was also noted that the objective is simply to ensure that existing PROW not previously recorded, or which have been recorded incorrectly, are included on the Definitive Map.

Phil and Sarah outlined their 'route-led' and 'systematic research' approaches to identifying lost ways. An example of the route-led approach involves identifying missing current links shown on old maps, while the systematic research approach might involve systematic comparison of the current map with the Inland Revenue Valuation map of 1910. Phil reviewed more than 20 sources of documentary evidence of lost ways including old maps, tithe records, inclosure records, OS 1st edition maps and area books and 1910 Inland Revenue valuations. He also described a star rating system (ranging from 1 to 5 stars for most documents) used to denote the strength of evidence provided by each of these sources. Phil explained that the criterion for recording rights on the Definitive Map is the normal civil law test of 'balance of probabilities' and that his criterion for submitting an application was that his research indicated that the route had seven or more stars.

The location of these documentary records was also described: Public Libraries; Country Records Offices; National Archives; the British Library; and increasingly, online sources (e.g. Cheshire Archives online Tithe maps and the National Library of Scotland (NLS) website).

In Rainow, near Macclesfield, comparison of current and old maps reveals a number of unrecorded, or under-recorded routes. For example, books such as *The South West Peak: History of the Landscape* (Eric Wood, 2007) describes a Saltway from Macclesfield to Harrop, Charles Head and Kettleshulme. Although parts of this route are recorded as footpaths, there are sections that appear to be incompletely recorded. Further research is likely to reveal other routes that have not been correctly recorded and Phil and Sarah provided a comprehensive guide to evaluating and collating the evidence, along with practical guidance on preparation and submission of Definitive Map Modification Order applications.

PNFS could be significantly involved in the restoration of PROW that are not currently recorded on the Definitive Map, as well as in ensuring that the status of PROW are correctly recorded (e.g. that bridleways are recorded as bridleways rather than simply as footpaths). The enthusiasm of Phil and Sarah for ensuring that PROW are correctly recorded before the cut-off date of 1st Jan 2026 was truly inspirational.



Signposts Report

David Morton

Since our last report in December 2015, the team have added 11 new signposts, with 5 more planned, and performed maintenance on 8 existing signs.

SP	Location	Additional Information
S021	SK 12908 85259, Edale FP17 / 23, by Skinners Hall, Edale Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First erected 1905. - Disappeared between then and 1908 - Replaced by Royal Label Factory fingerpost. - Finger was then broken off. - Landowner attended our PNFS S500 ceremony and agreed with me that we could replace it
S504	SK 19807 87397, S end of Whinstone Lee Tor, Derwent Edge	IMO "Beverley Bob" Dodds
S509	SK 18791 85499, at path junction 400m N of Win Hill, Hope	IMO PNFS member and benefactor John Pickstone
S508	SK 17259 86120, on SE side of Wooler Knoll	IMO David Lionel Cohen
S510	SK 19045 86001, on SE side of Wooler Knoll, S of Ladybower Res'r	With the kind help of PDNP Rangers Paul Wetton and Helen Parry (based at Fairholmes) and their volunteers
S512	SK 03897 83045, below Cracken Edge, Chinley	Commemorating the 50 th anniversary of Blackbrook Conservation Society
S513	SJ 85888 76558, near Finlow Hill Farm, Over Alderley	For Alderley, Wilmslow & District FPS. IMO Anita Armstrong Lee and Frank Scott
S514	SE 02785 34711 on Millennium Way, West Shaw, Oxenhope, Keighley	With the help of Bradford Countryside Services and Darren Hinchcliffe
S517	SJ 92623 89819 near Goyt Hall Farm, junction of Midshires Way & SK-BRE, BW56	
S518	SJ 92340 90160 at Goyt Hall Farm, junction of SK-BRE BW56 & FP59	
S524	SK 10385 53953 on the Manifold Way, W of Beeston Tor Farm, Grindon, Staffs	
S025	Originally erected 1905, close to Win Hill	Awaiting erection
S519	Close to Win Hill	Awaiting erection
S520	Mosley Hall Farm, Horwich End, Whaley Bridge	Ready for erection
S521	Mosley Hall Farm, Horwich End, Whaley Bridge	Ready for erection
S522	Mosley Hall Farm, Horwich End, Whaley Bridge	Ready for erection
S219	Green Moor CC, Stocksbridge	Re-posted, re-painted, re-erected
S251	Gradbach Mill, Dane Valley	Re-instated on a 3" square steel post by the builders refurbishing the former YHA hostel – new, narrower plaques were fitted and "badge" repainted
S302	Near Flash	Re-painted
S309	Near Flash	Re-painted
F008	Near Bullshaw Farm, Pennine Bridleway	Moved 20' onto Pennine Bridleway by PDNP (many walkers mis-led by sign as to correct route)
S038	Made 1908 by Rowland Mower, at Brough	Re-painted
S323	At Moscar Lodge	Moved 20m back from A57 road to reduce salt damage
S030	By steps on Kinder Road, Hayfield	Shot-blasted, re-painted, with the help of Alex at Leander Architectural (also now have a blank pattern of R Mower's design in case it is ever needed)

Signposts under trees often need a clean.

Please take care of one or two for us. Phone me evenings on **0161 283 7824** if you have any questions, or wish to donate £300 and "adopt" any one of **21, 25, 487 (Chinley), 506, 507, 514, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520/1/2/4.**



PNFS fund a much-needed new bridge

Neil Collie

I am pleased to report that the Society has funded a small, but immaculate, new bridge (B37) across a Gigg Brook tributary near Etherow Country Park, north of Compstall. A S Treeworks of Disley performed the work, under direction from Stockport MBC Public Rights of Way Unit.

Fred Ogden, our distinguished former PNFS Signpost Officer, raised the issue with me some years ago. The photos show how Gigg Brook had eroded the footpath line when in spate, making it very difficult to cross the tributary to reach PNFS Signpost 205, with its directions to Werneth Low or to Bardsley Knoll (which I have not managed to locate on any OS map).



The project included extensive bank protection work to provide a firm foundation for the bridge. The main channel of the brook was also re-aligned to reduce the likelihood of future erosion. The footbridge is in popular walking country and we hope it will encourage even more people to use these footpaths without the need to get their feet wet.



Our new Membership Secretary -

Mel Bale



Like many people, I first became aware of PNFS through their classic signposts, which my wife and I discovered whilst walking in the Peak District. For years, I would stop and photograph them! When I was lucky enough to retire early, I contacted PNFS to volunteer as a footpath inspector, taking on the parishes of Edale, Derwent, Hope Woodlands, Wortley and Thurgoland.

Earlier this year, Bill Buckley decided to stand down as Membership Secretary and I decided to volunteer for the post. The Chair and Vice-Chair felt that my experience as a systems manager in the steel industry was a good match for the role. I shadowed Bill prior to the AGM, where my post was confirmed. I've also been persuaded to be a Trustee. Over the last few months, I've been getting to know the PNFS team and also trying to understand the society's workings. As I learn more, I hope I can increase my responsibilities and make a larger contribution.

It is already apparent that our membership levels may be a cause for concern. Over the last few months, we have lost more members than we have gained. As a society we need to understand our existing membership better and discuss how we might encourage more people to join.

Since retiring, filling my time hasn't been a problem. It's a cliché, but however did I find time for work? Like many involved with PNFS, my passion is all things outdoors, including archaeology, geology, natural history and landscape. In fact, I have enrolled on a course at Sheffield University looking at natural and human environments. All being well, I should graduate at 65!

Short Walks Programme

Wednesday July 13

Leader: Ian Mackenzie (01663 742920)
New Mills circular
6 miles, some inclines and probably muddy
Walk starts New Mills Central station 11:15
Train from Manchester Piccadilly 10:49

Wednesday August 10

Leader: John Fisher (01625 439298)
Congleton circular via summit of The Cloud
7 miles, one steady climb
Walk starts Congleton station 10:30
Train from Manchester Piccadilly 09:46

Wednesday September 14

Leader: Colin Williams (0161 748 2147)
Irlam circular
8 miles, climb of 128 feet
Walk starts Irlam train station 11:00
Train from Manchester Oxford Road 10:44

Wednesday October 12

Leader: Martin Riley (01706 848408)
Ashton to Oldham
7 miles
Walk starts Ashton tram stop 11:00
Tram from M'chr Piccadilly approx. 10:25

Wednesday November 9

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846412)
Details to follow

Wednesday December 14

TBA
Possibly joint walk with the Longer Walks group



March short walk – the smiles have been forcibly arranged beforehand

Long Walks Programme

Wednesday June 29

Leader: Ken Brockway (01949 843572)
Uttoxeter circular
10 miles undulating
Walk starts Uttoxeter station 11.00
Man Picc station 09.35 -> Stoke on Trent 10.11 -> Stoke 10.33 -> Uttox 10.57
Walk concludes at Wetherspoons!



The longer walk in May – Edale circular

Wednesday July 27

Leader: Bill Buckley (buckley@fairfield75.plus.com)
Linear 12 miles Stockport to Disley
Walk starts Stockport station 10.30
Man Picc station—several trains suitable

Wednesday August 31

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846412)
Marsden circular of Colne valley
10 miles undulating
Walk starts Marsden station 10.30
Man Picc station 09.41 (change Stalybridge) or Man Vic station 09.57

Wednesday September 28

Leader: Judith Halman (01565 421423)
Hope circular, 10 miles hilly
Walk starts Hope station 11.45
Man Picc station 10.49

Wednesday October 26

Leader: Phil Gadsby (0161 748 5757)
Linear walk Mytholmroyd to Littleborough
11.5 miles and 1500 feet - uppy
Walk starts Mytholmroyd station 11.00
Man Vic station 10.16.

Wednesday Nov 30

Leader: Ian Salvage (01663 746979)
Chinley Circular via Hayfield, 11m hilly
Walk starts Chinley station 11.30 Man Picc station 10.49



Access you won't see on any Ordnance Survey Map




Users of the path network usually rely on their trusty Ordnance Survey map, either in paper form or some electronic derivative. However, that is not the full picture. There are many permissive footpaths and bridleways available to walkers, but unless you know where to look for them you will never be able to take full advantage. Successive governments, through various schemes administered by what was the Countryside Agency and is now Natural England, offer incentives to landowners to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive fashion. One option for landowners is to offer either permissive linear routes, or areas of open access. In return, the landowner is paid an amount per metre of permissive route for a 10 year period with an option to extend for a further 10 years.

How does the average path user find out about these available routes? Today, the easiest way to find out if there is a route near where you are planning a walk is to go on the Natural England website and use the menu for the county you are living or walking in. The link to this web-page is given at the end of this article.

Why are these routes not shown on O.S. mapping? Ordnance Survey consider these routes too vulnerable to being closed at the end of the 10 year agreement, which would present difficulties for them when publishing maps which might only be revised periodically in less popular walking areas. Showing routes no longer available to the public could cause trouble for landowners and walkers. The closure of some paths at the end of a particular agreement has caused problems in some areas, as locals who have been using a particular path for 20 years or more cannot understand why the path has been blocked off. There are permissive routes shown by Ordnance Survey, but these were created under different agreements which last longer, so Ordnance Survey does show them. Some counties are well endowed with these 'ghost' paths, Derbyshire for example. So try the link and happy discovering!

<http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/>



Walks and Rides

On this web site you can find details - and maps - for more than 1800 walks, rides and areas of open access provided under the Countryside Stewardship, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Environmental Stewardship Schemes.
For example, [Holbank Farm \(B\), Northumberland](#)

Find a Walk

To find a list of walks in a particular county, please select a County from the drop down list below

Choose County

Alternatively, [Search for a Walk or Ride](#) by Name, Region or options, e.g. Bridle Path, Historical Interest, using the relevant icons.

Every effort has been made to keep the information on this site up-to-date. However, the countryside is continually changing and this may affect the areas you visit. Circumstances occasionally alter the public access available. In the interests of safety and conservation an area may be closed for short periods. The map information on this site is based upon the Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2009

Walks and Rides

Search for a Walk or Ride

Educational Access Sites

Further Information

Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ESS)

John Harker

Self-help maintenance of paths

At the recent Society AGM, there was a discussion about whether or not you could remove brambles, nettles, barbed wire, walls, fences and anything else which was obstructing your safe and convenient passage along a public right of way. The answer is a qualified yes. The main relevant points are:

- *if you can bypass the problem safely and reasonably conveniently, you should*
- *you need to be sure that you are on the definitive, legal line of the path - a GPS or official waymarker helps, but if you are confident that you are reading the OS map correctly, that suffices*
- *you may only remove enough of the obstruction to allow you to pass safely and reasonably conveniently*
- *you should be sure that your action would not result in the likelihood that animals would escape from a field*
- *to facilitate such clearance as is “reasonably necessary”, it is appropriate to carry with you the “tools for the job”. However, common sense should apply; for example secateurs are reasonable items to have with you for this purpose, but spades and pick-axes would not be. There is a grey area here - for example it has been suggested that a saw would equally not be appropriate, but there is obviously a world of difference between a small hand saw to remove a thick branch and a chainsaw.*



Rhoda Barnett

PLEASE NOTE:

If you go beyond what is allowed by the law, you may be guilty of the offence of damaging property without lawful authority (popularly known as “criminal damage”), or be sued for damages by the landowner or occupier; however, if you had an honest belief that you needed to do what you did to facilitate passage along the path, you have a defence to any criminal charge; if you are in real doubt, it does make sense to simply report the matter to PNFS and/or the local highway authority.

Members' Favourite Cafes



–the No Car Café at Rushop Hall

Whilst you won't be sent packing if you turn up here in a car, the great thing about the No Car café is the special welcome given to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. There are safe storage and wash-down facilities for bikes and an enclosed tying-up area for horses, with drinking water and water buckets available. Given this emphasis on the, let's say, less well-groomed clientele, you might be excused for expecting a basic environment. Not so. The interior of this well converted farm building is immaculate with a beautifully tiled floor and plain painted walls. Solid wooden tables and chairs add to the ambiance and the wood burning stove is very welcome on a cold or wet day.

The menu is basic but top quality. Soup, welsh rarebit, sandwiches and a good selection of homemade cakes. I had a bacon sandwich – quarter inch thick local bacon on a ciabatta-type bread – and a pot of tea so generous that even I – a notorious "tea belly" – could not finish, for just over a fiver.

Dave Brown



The café is also licenced, selling wine by the glass and bottled local beers at very reasonable prices.

The café is on the Pennine Bridleway and is but a small diversion from The Roych track, Chapel Gate and Lords Seat paths. Although Neil and Jan are normally closed on non-Bank Holiday Mondays and on Tuesdays, they will open, by prior arrangement, on those days for organised groups. Well behaved dogs on a lead are also welcome.

The No Car Café, Rushop Hall, Rushup Lane, Rushup, Derbyshire SK23 0QT. NGR SK 095 821.

Telephone: 01298 816 218

Mobile: 07957 829 828

www. thenocarcafe.rushophall.com/

Open Bank Holidays and Wednesday to Sunday 1000-1700 and by special arrangement at other times.

We hope that members will write in with their own favourite walking cafes or pubs, so that we can make this a regular feature. If you would like to contribute, please send articles to Ian Salvage either by email (publicity@pnfs.org.uk), or by post to Taylor House. Many thanks.



Peak & Northern Photo Archive



The Society involves itself in a range of publicity activities such as: presentations to interested groups; stands at events; Facebook and web information on our web pages; and publications such as this newsletter. Alongside our aims to encourage new members to join, to appeal to younger generations and to build a sound future for PNFS, being able to call on a selection of appropriate pictures and photos to include in our material becomes increasingly important.

We already have a reasonable store of photos relating to the Society's work, but would like to expand this archive. If you have photos that you think we could use and are happy to allow us to display them in PNFS publicity activities, we would be very grateful to receive them.

The photos would be employed in many ways. Examples include: on display boards or in presentations, in one of our publications, or on our website or Facebook page.

The content of the photos could be very varied, but ideally relating to the geographical area that PNFS serves. Some examples are:

- *a view of a particular landscape or habitat*
- *a photo of a species of animal or bird*
- *a view of a footpath or bridleway*
- *a problem that you have found on a footpath or bridleway, especially where there are 'before' and 'after' photos to provide a good story*
- *a photographic link to a topical news story (e.g. the work to stabilise peat bogs on our upland moors)*

If you have any photos that you would be willing to share, please send them to Ian Salvage either by email (publicity@pnfs.org.uk), or by mail to Taylor House.
Many thanks.



A reminder that membership renewals are due. Membership subscriptions are due within one month of each AGM, so all members who have not yet renewed this year (2016) should do so at the appropriate rate (see below).

A renewal form is enclosed with this issue of 'Signpost', or can be downloaded from our website, but unless any of your details have changed in the last 12 months, you only need send us a cheque payable to 'Peak & Northern Footpaths Society' with your postcode on the reverse.

Members paying the subscription for an affiliated organisation using a personal cheque should include the name of the organisation. 5 and 10-year members whose membership expires this year will also be notified separately. Members who pay by direct debit or standing order should ignore this note. Your subscriptions will be processed automatically as usual.

Subscription rates are:

- Individual - £15.00
- Affiliated organisations - £22.50
- Household - £25.50 (for 2 or more people living at the same address)

The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society
Taylor House, 23 Turncroft Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4AB
Reg Charity No 212219

0161 480 3565

mail@pnfs.org.uk.



*The Footbridge Team consider whether
they have taken on rather too much.*

Signpost is edited and published for the Society by Ian Salvage,
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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the Society