

SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



Before



After

A long-standing flooding problem on Crich Footpath No 24 (grid reference SK 3518 5687) has been rectified following the serving of a s56 Highways Act 1980 Notice on Derbyshire County Council by the Society.

Here are the 'Before' and 'After' photos.



A word from the Chair

Photo by D.E. Toft

Summer has been and gone, and we have been left with confusing memories as to whether it has been hot and dry, or cold and wet. My recollection is that it started well with some hot days and a lengthy dry spell, followed by a much cooler and wetter period.

There was one day in particular that left me feeling it must be late October rather than late August, when it conspired to rain all day and blow a gale on top of the hills.

Earlier in the summer during the hot dry spell, I was out in Staffordshire walking some little used paths and wearing shorts, when I found myself walking along a path overgrown with stinging nettles. I don't need to say more, other than we never seem to learn.

Your Trustees, along with other members of the Managing Committee, are to hold a 'Strategy Meeting' to consider how the Society is currently functioning and to see what things need to be changed to help us achieve objectives. It is a very necessary part of the ongoing functions of the Society to consider how we are doing and how we may wish to proceed in the future.

When considering our 'Strategy' it may well be that some good ideas are thrown into the pot that will deserve further thought. The overall view could be wide ranging, and help us develop the most efficient way to do things.

For instance there are volunteering opportunities coming along all the time, but sometimes the candidates are not happy filling those vacancies.

As an example, we are currently looking for someone to fill the post of Vice Chairman, not an onerous position, but it is often perceived to be. The work consists mainly of assisting the Chairman in his duties.

If you feel able to fulfil this position or any other function, please get in touch with a Trustee, or e-mail the Society at Taylor House.

Work goes on behind the scenes to determine changes to various clauses and wording to make things more defined and clearer in the Constitution. We need to keep the Society 'fit for purpose' to reflect the many changes that are taking place in the way that Public Rights of Way operate with much reduced staffing. The Trustees hope to bring a draft of the proposed changes to the Half Year Meeting to be held on Saturday 18th November 2017.

Of course, any changes to the Constitution will have to be approved by an Annual General Meeting of the Society.



David Hurrell (Chairman)



Walking & Health - a close-knit relationship

David Toft, PNFS Member

Photo by D.E. Toft

It won't come as any surprise to members of PNFS, but walking is now officially and scientifically recognised as being seriously good for your overall health. In fact, since 2015, the media have been reporting on wide ranging scientific research that points to the profound physical and mental health benefits of walking, even for quite modest durations each day:

*'Scientists...found that people who engaged in moderate levels of daily exercise – equivalent to taking an energetic 20-minute walk – were 16% to 30% less likely to die than those classified as inactive' (Jan 2015 *Guardian*).*

Sadly, two years on, further research shows that *'4 out of 10 (41%) adults aged 40 to 60 in England do not achieve 10 minutes of continuous brisk walking over the course of a month (Public Health England, Aug 2017).*

While this underlines the need for further health education programmes, as with all statistics caution should be exercised because conversely, far more people now walk (and run and cycle) as a leisure activity in our towns and cities and out in the beautiful countryside that surrounds them. To existing walkers / hikers / ramblers, the benefits need no rehearsing – physically, the low impact exercise reduces the risk of heart disease and diabetes, helps lower weight, increases overall energy levels and recent studies even suggest, improves memory. In terms of overall health, it also improves mental well-being, calmness and relaxation – walking in groups is great for the comradeship and the 'craic', while roaming the hills alone allows for solitary reflection amidst the beauty and solitude of our great open spaces.

We must never forget the proud role played by walkers' groups, foremost among them the PNFS, in establishing, securing, extending and protecting access to our wonderful countryside, a role celebrated earlier this year at the 120th anniversary of the victory to secure the Snake Path out of Hayfield, in 1897. It is the tireless campaigning and legal action of walkers' groups which carved out the access we all enjoy – helped occasionally in dramatic form by crucial radical interventions such as the Kinder Mass Trespass of 1932, which helped to jolt landowners out of dragging their feet. This was a controversial event both then and now but one which Tom Stephenson, who originally opposed it, later agreed had played a critical role in focussing the minds of the landowners in his negotiations – something he recognised by choosing the 24th April anniversary of the Trespass to formally open his Pennine Way in 1965.

What is for sure is that, taken together, our hard-won gains are now paying big dividends for the nation and it is really great to know that as PNFS members we continue to play such a crucial role for the benefit of all.



House of Lords Select Committee on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERCA) 2006

Rhoda Barnett, Courts & Inquiries Officer

This Committee was set up in June 2017 to consider and report on the effectiveness of the provisions in the NERCA 2006, and how improvements could be achieved by new guidance or legalisation. Section 67 of the Act was aimed at stopping the expansion of the number of unsurfaced routes on which public rights for use for mechanically-propelled vehicles (MPV rights) were being legally recognised, based on the existence of ancient rights for the public to use horse-drawn carts. The 2006 legislation extinguished public MPV rights on all routes which were not shown on a Definitive Map and Statement, or were shown as footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways. However, provision was made for certain exceptions to this extinguishment, one of which was if the route was shown on the highway authority's List of Streets, which is a list of highways maintainable at public expense.

This exception was included to prevent public MPV rights from being extinguished on the "ordinary roads network", which would of course have been nonsensical. Unfortunately, many unsurfaced routes, used and enjoyed by walkers, are not on Definitive Maps, but are termed "unsealed, unclassified county roads" or UUCRs, and are included in Lists of Streets and shown as "ORPAs" on OS maps. MPV rights over these routes have not been extinguished, so they can be, and are, used by motorised vehicles. On some routes which are wide, relatively straight, and naturally stone-surfaced or well maintained by the highway authority, this use does not seriously affect non-motorised users, but the surfaces of many routes are easily damaged and the authorities do not have the resources to maintain them properly. Walkers, cyclists and horse-riders can be placed in danger, or their enjoyment greatly reduced by difficult surfaces, dust, fumes and visual and noise intrusion, or they are prevented from using the routes.

The government wishes to promote countryside recreation for health and well-being, and the use of non-vehicular routes for safe, sustainable transport, but recording public rights for use by motorised vehicles on UUCRs acts directly against these laudable aims.

The PNFS response to the Select Committee consultation has therefore included the suggestion that all UUCRs are automatically legally reclassified as restricted byways, with no rights for public MPV use - private rights for landowners would be retained. We have also asked for better guidance on the making of Traffic Regulation Orders by highway and national park authorities, so that MPVs can be more easily excluded where necessary from vulnerable Byways Open to all Traffic (BOATs) which do carry MPV rights. Many other organisations, such as the Peak District Green Lanes Alliance, of which PNFS is a member, have made similar comments.

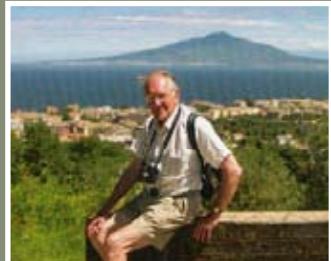
We wait to see if anything changes as a result.



UUCR reclassified as a BOAT
with public MPV rights

DEREK WILLIAM SEDDON – *An appreciation*

David Bratt, President



Our Vice President Derek died on Sunday 20th August aged 93. He made a most notable contribution to our Society, both as its Chairman from 2000 to 2004 and then as its President from 2005 to 2008. Derek was Chairman during a particularly challenging period in the Society's history of declining membership numbers and influence, not helped by some internal discord. His tenacity helped us survive as an independent entity, as discussions were in train to merge the Society and its assets into the then Ramblers Association. Derek used Signpost, which he lovingly edited, to skilfully leverage the threat to the Society's future with supporting purple prose, at which he excelled, persuading new blood into the Society's management - I should know as I was one of them!!

There was a consistent thread to Derek's activities for the good of the public—he was passionate and committed and prepared to step forward and take office, whether it was Cheadle Civic Society or the Karabiner mountain club or Environment Secretary for PNFS on top of his other duties.

At his funeral service where we were represented by Peter Burns, David Morton, Keith Wykes and myself, we heard of Derek's awesome walking achievements from Jim Gregson, himself a Karabiner extraordinaire and longstanding friend of Derek: Derek in one walking session scaled all the Scottish 4000 footers; and completed the Tancat challenge, a 120 mile "walk" with 20,000 ft of ascent between England's 2 highest pubs (Tan Hill & The Cat and Fiddle), in would you believe 64 hrs. (lesser mortals, and I'm one, took 5 days!!). But Derek didn't stop there... he walked on to England's third highest pub in Flash!! Then at the age of 80 he walked the Hadrian's Wall route, coast to coast.

Derek as a person was kind, modest and positive with an impish sense of humour, passionate about protecting the environment and preserving our heritage, and a real pleasure to work with. Our Chairman, David Hurrell, has already written to Pat and family to express the heartfelt sympathies of all in the Society and they are echoed herewith. We mourn the passing of Derek Seddon - truly a Man for all Seasons who would literally and figuratively always go the extra mile.

***'Walking Britain'* website**



The Walking Britain website (www.walkingbritain.co.uk) has 'over 19,000 pages of free walking information'. The website provides information on specific walks and walk routes, with National Parks & Trails, Long Distance Paths and individual walks of differing lengths covered.

Selecting the Peak District as an Area produces over 180 walks. For each walk, the length, ascent and grade (difficulty) are given, as well as a Walk Description (with Route Map and downloadable file). OS maps of the area and nearby walks (which could be built into a bigger walk if required) are listed. GPX files, for use with GPS applications, are available for some walks. You can also search by post code or place name to find local walks. So a valuable resource, alongside other walking maps and documents, to help you make the most of your rambling, particularly if you are in an area that you do not know so well.

Tougher policy for dealing with path faults in Derbyshire

Rhoda Barnett, Courts & Inquiries Officer, Derbyshire



You will be aware that most, if not all, highway authorities have, over the past few years, drastically cut the resources which they give to the management of public rights of way (PRoW) and other countryside access. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is no exception: a 33% reduction in staff and a 50% reduction in finance for the rights of way section. It is inevitable that the Council must prioritise its activities. However, DCC and the Society do not agree about the priorities which DCC has adopted. We feel that the duties of the Council, especially the s130 Highways Act 1980 duty "to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment" of highways, including PRoW, should have priority over powers, such as the power to make diversion orders in the interests of landowners where there is little or no public benefit.

I have exchanged many emails with the DCC rights of way manager about this, but his view remains that DCC does not have to provide resources to exercise its duties fully; nothing is forgotten, but some things will wait because "overall the public and locals are not bothered". This ignores three things. Firstly, the courts have consistently stated in a variety of contexts that it is no defence in law to fail to carry out a legal duty that there are no resources to do. How the Council carries out its duties is another matter. If DCC produced to the court a clear schedule indicating a plan of works to resolve a problem on a path, the court might be satisfied, and the Society would welcome this as well. However, that's a long way from saying that lack of resources can be a blanket defence. Secondly, the Society's Inspectors quite reasonably have an expectation that their concerns about path faults will be taken seriously, even if the Inspectors are not "locals", and not dismissed as of little importance.

Thirdly, if the Society, on behalf of walkers, acquiesces in such a reduction in the PRoW service, the people who set the Council's budgets, the elected members, will assume that we do not care, and will never know the depth of feeling among the public for the importance of PRoW.

The Courts and Inquiries Committee has, in light of the attitude of DCC, decided that many more legal notices should be served on DCC to try to secure the removal of obstructions (s130A notices), and the repair of surfaces (s56 notices), where Inspectors and officers consider that faults seriously affect the use of paths by walkers, and DCC appears to have no intention of taking steps in the foreseeable future to resolve matters. This process has already begun.

We will report on its effectiveness in subsequent editions of Signpost.

If you have any comments or queries, then please do contact me via mail@pnfs.org.uk.



Fence across FP33 Denby; s130A notice served to try to secure removal

Getting Started with Lost Ways

David Gosling
Lost Ways Co-ordinator

Have you wondered how to start finding possible 'lost ways' (public rights of way not shown on the definitive map and therefore carrying no legal protection)? One start point is a current OS map showing recorded rights of way and 'Other Routes with Public Access' (ORPAs). Look for PRoWs stopping at a parish boundary, or if there is a gap between two footpaths with nothing to link them. Another useful tactic is to compare modern and older maps to look for discrepancies (e.g. where an old path has disappeared from the modern map). The National Library of Scotland's website is very useful for this - <http://maps.nls.uk/>, with historical 'Series maps for England and Wales'. It allows overlay of OS 6" maps from 1888-1913 onto Google aerial photos with varying degrees of transparency. By sliding the transparency button you see more or less of either the historical map or the modern aerial photo. Therefore, you can zoom in to find any modern path and then see the historical map for the same area.

You can also view two different historical maps of the same area side by side. In the picture below, two maps of Whaley Moor (in Disley parish) are side by side - OS 1" 1885-1900 and OS 1:25000 1937 - 61. The older map shows a path going over the summit of Black Hill which has disappeared on the later map (and is not on any modern maps). *Prima facie*, this is a candidate to be a Lost Way.



Further back, there are old county maps e.g. for Cheshire and Stockport look at Burdett (1777) Greenwood (1819), Bryant (1831). The website 'Genmaps' is a good source of old maps for other counties. Tithe maps are another important source of historic routes. The Cheshire Archives website allows tithe map comparison with a modern map <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/TwinMaps.aspx>.

Finally, here's an example of a piece of research by PNFS Courts and Inquiries Officer, John Harker, who was looking at archives of the old West Riding of Yorkshire.

I was researching the 'National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 - Draft & Provisional Map objections, appeals & decisions', plus deposits made by landowners with West Riding County Council under the 1932 Rights of Way Act. This Act is now superseded by later Highways Acts in 1959 & 1980, but the fundamentals are the same. A landowner could deposit a statement & plan admitting which paths had been dedicated as public and, by implication, which ones not. The effect was to prevent use of paths leading to claims as public rights of way.

What I found for our area was that Mr Rimmington Wilson of Broomhead Hall had his Estate Manager send in a detailed map, on cloth folded in a leather bound cover, showing rights of way he acknowledged as public. Cross referencing them with OS maps revealed at least 2 routes above Stocksbridge that he conceded were PRoW, but that are not shown currently on the OS map, so not on the Definitive Map. Applications to add these paths to the definitive map should be made.

So I hope this inspires you to make a start looking for Lost Ways. Remember we only have until 2026 to claim old routes using historical evidence. If you find a path which you think is a 'lost way', do get in touch with me, David Gosling at inspection@pnfs.org.uk. We want to establish a database of possible Lost Ways, but we can only do so with your help



The Other Pennine Trail

The Trans-Pennine Trail and the Pennine Way are designated via the word 'Pennine' as operating in the same region of England. However, they are very different in nature.

Some may consider the Trans-Pennine Trail a 'soft' option in comparison to its namesake.

Yet in terms of length and points of interest along the way, it is every bit a rival. From Southport in the West to Hornsea in the East is 215 miles (346 km) according to the official Trans-Pennine Trail website (<http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/>). However, adding in all of the Trail's path network increases its total length to 370 miles (595 km). The Trail is relatively 'young' as a complete entity, yet came together quickly once work started. Between 1999 and 2004, with £60m of expenditure, much of it from a grant provided by the Millennium Commission, the entire trail was completed.

The walking is certainly across easier terrain than the Pennine Way, with access points directly in towns and cities, and much of it using canals, riversides, disused railway lines and urban cycle paths. However, around 70% of it is free of motorised traffic, and it boasts some dramatic scenery along its way, both natural and man-made. The Trail reaches its highest point at Windle Edge (435m / 1427ft) in the Peak District National Park.

Towns and cities that are on the route include Southport, Liverpool, Manchester, Kirklees, Barnsley, Leeds, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Hull and Hornsea.

The website has large amounts of information, including maps, guides and leaflets, a special section for young people and information on reaching the Trail. Alternatively, the Trail's office can be contacted: telephone number is 01226 772 574, or postal address is Trans-Pennine Trail Office, PO Box 597, Barnsley, S70 9EW. The Office also arranges various events related to the Trail. As a small sampler, recent delights included an introduction to bats and moths at Oakhill Nature Reserve, seed gathering at Danes Dyke LNR, bat box viewing at Millington Wood, fungi searches at various places, bird-watches, orienteering sessions, a geocaching treasure hunt, walks, volunteer workdays – in fact, a huge variety of activities for all ages and inclinations.

Ian Salvage
Signpost Editor



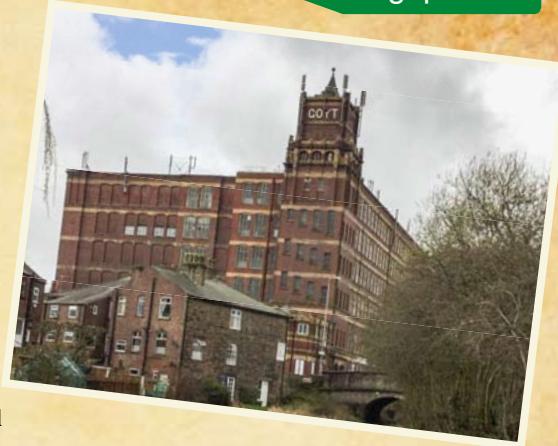
PNFS 50 years ago

A look back at the Society's activities 50 years ago reveals a variety of concerns, with some familiar themes interwoven with issues more related to the specific time.

Quotes are from either the 1967 PNFS Annual Report or the PNFS booklet 'A Century of Footpath Preservation'.

In 1967, a major Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak was ongoing, concentrated in the UK in North Wales and Shropshire. The Society was concerned to ensure that 'the willing co-operation of this [PNFS] and other voluntary societies, and the self-denial of very many walkers, will not be taken for granted by the farmers, and that there will be some measure of appreciation'. It also recognised that in preparing 'for the return of normal conditions and for the future, we need to examine whether our resources – individual or collective – are being used to the best advantage'. Sound familiar? The Footpaths Survey of Rights of Way, which came out of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, was still a focus. This nationwide survey appears to have been largely completed by voluntary bodies such as PNFS during the 1950's, who provided results to the necessary statutory bodies for action. However, by 1967, action in PNFS's geography was still slow, albeit the Annual Report noted a step forward in Cheshire, where the Provisional Map had been published, although 'at this stage only objections from landowners or tenants are allowed'.

Canal towpaths had featured in our Annual Reports since 1955, when the British Waterways Board (BWB) claimed that 'they were not public but merely sufferance paths.' In 1967, 'the [BW] Board appealed to Quarter Sessions against the scheduling of the towpath of the Peak Forest Canal as public and we produced enough witnesses to establish the status of all of the towpath, except for 1.5 miles between Hyde and Dukinfield.'



The Board subsequently yielded with other sections of the Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canals.'

The UK government set up the Gosling Committee in 1967 after a white paper 'Leisure in the Countryside' caused widespread objections by proposing 'rationalisation' of the footpath network. PNFS wrote to the Government, concluding that 'we regard 'rationalisation' as the New Speak word for robbing the public of their traditional rights in the countryside.'

According to the 1967 PNFS Annual Report, 'its [the Gosling Committee] findings were still awaited when the Countryside Bill appeared without any reference to rationalisation, but with a number of alterations to footpaths law, some of which would be very welcome, if enacted.' However, the Society observed that its members should not drop their guard, specifically requesting that they write to their MP's, 'asking them to oppose any substantial reduction in the number of footpaths, and to support the Clauses designed to give greater protection to public rights of way.' It concluded 'This we do most earnestly, believing that Britain's footpaths are in great danger.'

Finally, the 1967 Annual Report included its usual roundup on donations to PNFS from Local Authorities! Apparently, 22 authorities donated £159 10s to the Society that year. This is estimated to be worth just over £2000 today.

The PNFS website

It is just over a year since I was asked to take over looking after the society's website, www.peakandnorthern.org.uk, after the very sad death of its former webmaster, Mike Barnes. I was fortunate to spend a little time with Mike as he guided me through how the website functioned and how he maintained it. Despite a career spent developing computer systems, website software was completely new to me but I have enjoyed learning how the website works and I've even been bold enough to make a few changes and additions to it!

Looking through old copies of the Signpost newsletter, I discovered that the website was launched in Spring 2002. Websites are a landscape to be navigated and explored, users discover their own routes through them just as walkers do in the physical landscape. Every so often though it is interesting to wander down an unfamiliar path to see where it leads. The same can be true of a website, so I thought I would describe some areas of the website that members may be less familiar with.



Signpost locations

Many people join the society because they have seen our famous green signposts whilst out walking. The website has an entire area dedicated to our signposts and other commemorative structures and there are a number of ways that information about them can be viewed, www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/signposts/where-they-are.htm. One of my favourites is Style 4, when this is selected the website produces a file and downloads it to the user's computer so that it can be opened by programs such as Google Earth or ArcGIS Earth. The file is called signpostlocations.kmz and should appear in the user's Downloads directory.

www.peakandnorthern.org.uk



Another area of the website that is worth spending time exploring is the one that covers the society's newsletter, Signpost, www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/pnfs-publications/back-copies-of-signpost.htm. Users can view and download copies of previous editions of the newsletter, they make fascinating reading and contain a wealth of information.



The society has a long history of working with other organisations who share our aims, many of these groups are formally affiliated to the society and the website is an ideal place to find out more information about them, www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/useful-links/affiliated-walking-groups.htm.

The website has two key functions. Firstly it should inform all those that visit it what the society is about and how it is going about its business. Secondly it should provide information that helps visitors explore and enjoy the areas that the society covers.

If anyone has thoughts about improvements or additions to the website, please contact me at webmaster@pnfs.org.uk, I'll be delighted to hear from you.

Mel Bale

Membership Secretary & Webmaster



Signpost Report, September 2017

David Morton

In the four months since May we have:

- Installed 8 more signposts and a plaque on a post, giving a total of 485
- Plaque 5 now stands on its post by the second kissing gate at Twenty Trees on the Snake Path (Hayfield BW 64). It commemorates the 120th anniversary of the re-opening in 1897 of the path, by landowner James Watts III of Abney Hall, Cheadle, under the threat of legal action by PNFS. Funded jointly by Hayfield Civic Trust.
- F208 is now S208 with a cast alloy plate, as the finger had deteriorated somewhat.
- Plaques have been fitted: i) in memory of David Barras (S520), Margaret Ledger (S550) and M. Robinson and four other former members of Altrincham & Dist. R.C. (S211); ii) to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Halcyon Rambling Club (S509); iii) to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Eccles Rambling and Social Club and; iv) to mark the sponsorship of S551 at Bronte Falls, Haworth, by Bradford CHA Rambling and Social Club.
- All signposts have been inspected within the last three years. The 8 Bowland signs are on the "to do" list.

New Signposts:

S549 SJ 99576 95423 on Mottram footpaths 86 and 93, in memory of member Dave Frith;
S550 SJ 95217 87808 on Marple footpath 75 in memory of Margaret Ledger, Altrincham RC;
S551 SE 00272 35969 on Keighley footpaths 137 and 187 at Bronte Bridge – see Plaques;
S552 SK 34759 66442 on Ashover footpaths 1, 5 and 6 at Hazelhurst Farm;
S553 SK 34727 66334 on Ashover footpaths 6 and 7 at Hazelhurst Farm;
S556 SK 34288 63192 on Ashover footpaths 53 and 57 at Butts Quarry;
S557 SJ 96365 74156 on Rainow footpath 67 near Vale Royal farm;
S558 SK 35037 63244 on Ashover footpath 42 on Milken Lane.

See www.pnfs.org.uk for photos of these signs in the Signpost Gallery.

N.B. Ashover is a new area for our signs. We have been aided in this by our inspector Keith Feltham and his friend Richard Felton.

Maintenance:

Peter Ash has repainted signposts 35, 114, 201, 319, 320, 222, 223, 236, 217, 204, 312, 34, 43 and 78, removed a graffito on S472 in Ormskirk, and inspected 473 and 474 nearby. "Before and after" photos below show the difference his painting makes. I have also retrieved S024 from Eccles Road for shot-blasting and powder-coating.



Finally, those who walk on Blacka Moor on the Totley side of Sheffield will have noticed that S276 has been cut down to half its former height and had its memorial plaque removed. This has been taken up with Nabil Abbas of Sheffield Wildlife Trust, who manage that area on behalf of the City.

Short Walks

John Fisher

Wednesday November 8th

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846412)

Slaithwaite to Holmfirth, 7 miles

Train from Manchester Victoria 09:57 (book

Huddersfield return), or Huddersfield 10:15

Walk starts Slaithwaite station 10:35

Wednesday December 13th

Leader: John Fisher (01625 439298)

Glossop circular, 7 miles

Train from Manchester Piccadilly 10:18

Walk starts Glossop station 10:50



Wednesday January 10th

Leader: Tony Little (01270 587956,
mobile 07812 069869)

Broadbottom circular

9.46a.m. Piccadilly to Broadbottom.

Walk to start 10.15a.m.

Wednesday February 14th

Leader: Brian Lomas (0161 688 5237)

Walk details will be on website.

Xmassy meet up with Longer Walk group in
Wetherspoons 15.00



*August Long Walk,
Slaithwaite to Huddersfield*

Longer Walks

David Bratt

Wednesday October 25th

Leader: Phil Gadsby (0161 748 5757)

Linear Bromley Cross to Kearsley.

11m undulating

10.03 Manchester Victoria

Walk starts Bromley Cross stn 10.30

Wednesday November 29th

Leader: Ian Salvage (01663 746979)

Edale to Chinley via Rushup Edge

10 miles, 1500 ft ascent

Walk starts Edale Station 11:35

Manchester Piccadilly 10:49

Wednesday December 13th

Leader: Paul Easthope (01457 855015)

Circular walk Glossop.

10miles/1700ft ascent (inc Cown Edge)

09.18 Man Picc.

Walk starts Glossop stn 10.00

Xmassy meet up with Short Walk group in
Wetherspoons 15.00



Justice delayed in Wigan

Terry Norris
Courts & Inquiries Officer



In October 2015, a new land owner closed a well-used track from the Bridgewater canal to Hall House Lane in Leigh, Wigan.

Unfortunately, this route was not recorded on the Definitive Map, so the Society and the Council had no powers available to remove the obstruction. The Society was asked to make a claim for a Definitive Map Modification Order to add the path to the map, on grounds that it had been used as a public right of way (PRoW) for more than the 20 years required by section 31 of the Highways Act 1980. Evidence forms were collected, testifying to the path's use by generations of Leigh residents, some dating back more than 50 years. The route is also shown on OS Maps back to 1849.

In early 2016, the PRoW officer for Wigan refused to accept the application, as it was, "considered to be for a cul de sac order terminating on private land over which there was no public access." This refers to the canal bank on the opposite side of the canal to the towpath, where there is a clear path linking Leigh Marina to a canal bridge to Leigh Town Centre. Peel Holdings, who run the Bridgewater Canal, had confirmed to the Council that all users were directed to use the towpath side of the canal. The canal bank was considered narrow and dangerous and not appropriate for public use.

While most public footpaths end at a road or another public footpath, this is not legally required. Providing one end of the route leaves a public right of way, as does our claimed path, the other end may be a place of 'public resort to which the public has access'. This could for example be a cliff top or summit of a hill. The Society was asked to obtain confirmation from Peel Holdings that they were happy for the public to use the northern bank of the canal for access purposes. Despite repeated telephone calls and letters this was not forthcoming, even though all our witness statements testify that the persons concerned had used the canal bank to travel to and from the claimed path.

The Society then sent the Council photos showing the path furniture along the north bank. This included a notice that dogs must not foul the ground which, assuming it was not solely addressed to the dogs themselves, implies a permission to bring dogs onto the path. Similarly, a notice prohibiting certain activities along the canal bank acknowledges that the public is expected to walk there. Use of the canal bank is not 'as of right' but 'by right', as it is not unlawful to be there. It cannot be claimed as a PRoW but there is no reason in law or fact why we cannot claim the path leading up to the canal bank as a PRoW.

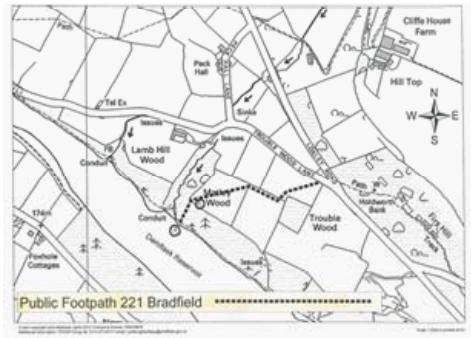
In response, the Council retreated; perhaps it was the first time they had actually looked at the canal path on the ground and realised that it was very well used and that the arguments being made by Peel Holdings were a farrago of nonsense.

The Society was then informed that, "the PRoW officer will now carry out an assessment in line with the Council's guidelines to determine the Application's priority". We have since heard that the application has been prioritised as no 16 on a list of 20, where the Council aims to determine two a year. So it will be at least 8 years before the application is determined. I consider this unreasonable and an affront to Leigh residents, who continue to be deprived of a useful pleasant path.

In view of the delay, the Society has applied to the Secretary of State for a direction that a decision happens far more quickly. At present such an application is free and is decided by a Planning Inspector. Soon, this simple, free procedure will be replaced by a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court, with a hefty fee and probably a decision by a body of persons whose common characteristic is likely to be their complete ignorance of rights of way law.

A brand new footpath for Bradfield

John Harker, *Area Officer*



A new public footpath (number 221) was recently opened by Sheffield City Council (SCC) on their own land, in the National Park near Low Bradfield. It links to a permissive footpath along Dam Flask Reservoir, created years ago by Yorkshire Water. Legally it is a cul-de-sac, as it does not link to another public highway. However, SCC have said that the reservoir is a "place of public resort" - not a point to argue when we have a new path to walk.

This is the fruit of a policy where SCC have consulted with the Ramblers and PNFS when council-owned land comes up for sale or for a new tenancy. We are asked to suggest new footpaths to be created from scratch. This is one of them.

There is a new signpost on Trouble Wood Lane & ladder stiles in intermediate walls.

I queried the stiles, but apparently ground levels between fields meant no other structure was feasible.

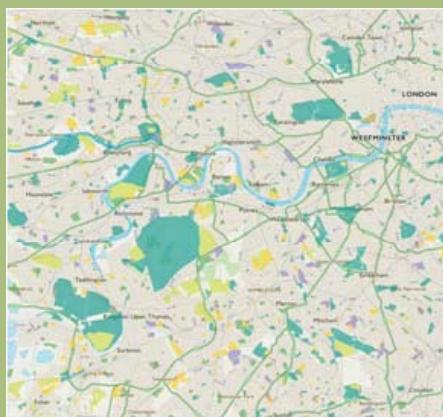


Ordnance Survey Map of Greenspaces

Ordnance Survey recently published a new "layer" to their OS Maps, showing publicly accessible recreational and leisure green-spaces across Great Britain. You can access this at: <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getoutside/greenspaces/>.

The layer is for finding greenspaces and other leisure facilities in towns and cities, not in rural areas or national parks. It seeks to promote healthier lifestyles on the doorstep, without needing to travel long distances.

The PNFS Facebook page (see July 18 2017 entry) indicates possibly misleading elements. For example, areas with no right of access, such as golf courses, allotments and playing fields, are shown. Showing these does however fit with a greenspace's formal definition, even though PNFS would probably prefer a more complete view of public access areas and ways freely open to the public.



The Oxford English Dictionary definition of a greenspace is 'An area of grass, trees, or other vegetation set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.'

My Favourite Café

Cobbles Coffee Shop Longnor

David Morton,
Signposts Officer

On Tuesday 26th September, I led a small walking group of eight OAPs. We met at Earl Sterndale, walking via Dowel Dale and Hollinsclough to Longnor, a very attractive former market town. On the market-place is a small café called "Cobbles Coffee Shop", with a 5 star rating on Trip Advisor, based on 111 reviews, many by cyclists, who spoke of generous quantities and low prices. I checked that it was open on Tuesdays and made a booking. Its food hygiene rating is also the maximum 5.

We all agreed that food, quality of service and value for money were exceptional. Our food choices ranged across oatcakes stuffed with bacon and cheese (2 for £3.50), an enormous ham, mustard-mayo bap (£2.50) and a large baked potato stuffed with most of a tin of tuna. Tea was available by the mug or the pot. The friendly senior waitress/cook reassured us that those who chose mugs (£1.50) would "not lose out, as you get free top-ups". Those who had tummy-room, tried the large scones, which came with lots of butter and jam. The full menu can be seen on their Facebook page - <https://en-gb.facebook.com/cobblecafe/>. Until last Tuesday our favourite walkers' café was probably Vaughan's Country Café at Tockholes near Darwen. It is now second to Cobbles, which also included warm weather and outstanding scenery in Chrome and Parkhouse Hills. Telephone number for Cobbles is **01298 832218**.

Please send articles on your own favourite to Ian Salvage (email publicity@pnfs.org.uk) or post to Taylor House



Blocked Footpath at Mottram-in-Longdendale

On a recent walk in this area I came across a blocked path, caused by building work on the site of the old Waggon and Horses pub at Mottram. I have used this unofficial path for many years. It leaves LON84/20 at SJ 991 946, heading down to Broadbottom road.

It is of course not on the definitive map.

However, all is not lost. The builder showed me how they are moving the path to run between two of the new houses, linking up with the stile that has been blocked whilst building work takes place.

After consulting Terry Norris, one of our Courts & Inquiries Officers, we hope to have the path added to the definitive map by means of a Footpath Creation Agreement under Sec 25 of the Highways Act 1980. This agreement is between the landowner and the local authority. There is no provision for objections or duty to consult. Thank goodness for a fair and responsible builder, who had no legal obligation to reinstate this path.

Paul Easthope,
Treasurer



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Reg Charity No 212219

0161 480 3565

mail@pnfs.org.uk.

The PNFS Half-Year Meeting is on Saturday 18th November

At the Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport

Buses: 383 from Stockport; 384 from Marple station;

192 runs frequently along the nearby A6

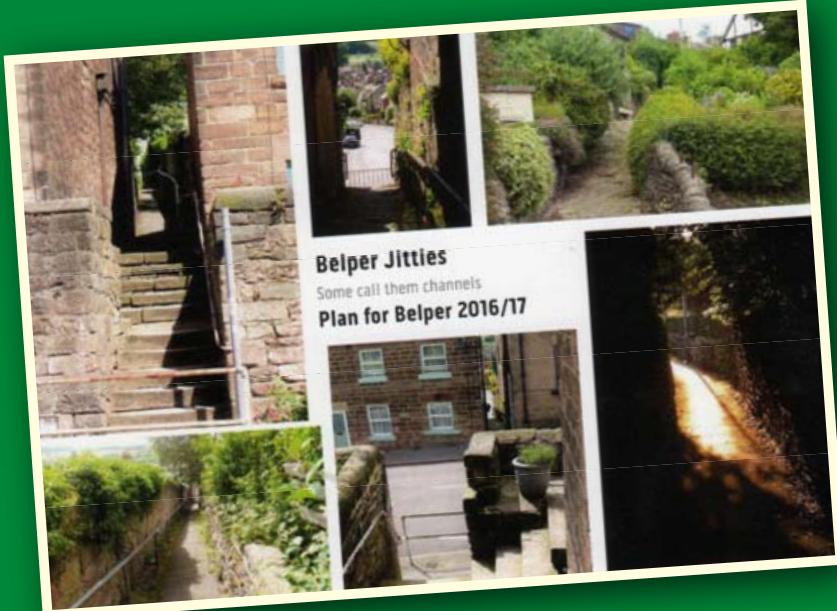
For further details, go to:

<http://www.peakandnorthern.org.uk/members/meetings.htm>

Below is a postcard used to publicise the 'Plan for Belper'
(thanks to Ken Brockway for sending this in).

What names do you know of for 'jitties' in other parts of the country?

Contact publicity@pnfs.org.uk with your favourites



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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Society