

SIGNPOST

Magazine of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

Number 59 - Spring 2019



Black Hill

Photograph by Paul Easthope



All around us are trees. Many trees are found in city and town centres, adding to the feeling of the country side alongside our houses and factories. For those of us able to walk in the country side we see trees everywhere, from avenues of trees along our lanes to full woodlands in many of the areas in which we walk. Situated where I live on the east side of the pennines there are many areas of woodlands around the reservoirs which serve our cities with drinking water. Many were planted in the 1950s, and being mostly coniferous, they are now ready for felling.



Felling of trees are now taking place on a regular basis, not on too large a scale, but in fairly discrete segments, followed by planting of new saplings, again mostly coniferous. But what does

this felling of trees and replanting of saplings do to our footpaths? In many places footpaths are closed, sometimes for quite long periods, whilst the area is prepared for replanting. No longer is the ground cleared, but the tree debris is stacked into large piles along the lines of future planting. Then the replanting happens. I suspect that those who carry out this work do not appreciate the fact that there are public footpaths involved, and that they have already been disturbed, and in some cases completely annihilated, so do not concern themselves with the restoration work.

There are a number of cases that I know of where there have been prolonged closures, and where in one case the path has not been restored at all. The public footpath sign at the road side proudly points the way across the replanted wood, but there is no sign of the actual footpath. Neither will there be as the trees grow larger year by year, and it is not possible to determine the line of the path. In this particular case Barnsley PRoW have promised to replace the path. We wait to see how long this will take. We shall be hearing more of woodland planting at our AGM in April.

It is now a few weeks since we held the Half Year Meeting at the Britannia Hotel in Stockport. Following this meeting a number of complaints were received by the Trustees, concerning the heating in the venue and the standard of the meal. In addition the hotel was concerned at the small number of people taking the prepared hot lunch, when it as necessary to engage a chef to prepare a meal. In view of this the Trustees are looking for a new venue to hold our public meetings, as well as a review of the format for the

Half Year Meeting. Because the rooms are booked well in advance, our AGM in April will again be held at the Britannia Hotel, with a cooked meal as previously, and a guest speaker in the afternoon



The Trustees will be looking for a smaller venue, in view of the reduced number of members attending recent meetings. Stockport seems to fill the bill, rather than, say, Manchester, where parking could be a problem, and public transport not as convenient. Venues are more expensive in a large city, and finding one that is suitable on a Saturday more difficult.

A number of suggestions have been received, and these suggested venues will be investigated for their suitability and their availability at serving hot lunches, if these are desired. Other alternatives could be for a cold lunch, or even no lunch at all at the Half Yearly Meeting, and also dispensing with a guest speaker. We shall await the outcome of the current discussions.

If you have any strong feelings about the format or venue of the public meetings, please contact myself or any other Trustee, and we will consider those proposals.

David Hurrell, Chairman and Trustee

Editorial

As this is the first edition of *Signpost* since I became its editor, it provides a good opportunity to introduce myself.

I joined the PNFS over three years ago and immediately became Footpath Inspector for the Ribble Valley. I have now become only too aware of the problems we walkers encounter wandering along footpaths and bridleways. Readers will realise that I am not alluding to ubiquitous winter mud but missing signposts, hazardous stiles, chained gates and obdurate obstructions. I have now reported over 150 such issues affecting PROWs but I still love exploring routes in my parishes that I have not previously walked. That's what PNFS is for!

I am currently voluntary editor for two other society magazines, and have also written and published several books. I plan to put this experience to good use in *Signpost* over the next few issues and hope its readers will approve of my efforts.

I would like to thank all our contributors for their enthusiastic efforts, and encourage other members to send me articles for publication in *Signpost*. That way *Signpost* can continue to be an interesting and informative magazine. My contact details are on the last page.

Happy walking!

Shirley M Addy, BA, Editor and Footpath Inspector

High Inspectations

PNFS has five footpath inspectors who have some strenuous paths in open and wild moorland areas of the High Peak to inspect. These paths are the highest paths in the whole of the PNFS area, all in the region of 600 m. We do have another peak in the PNFS area in north Lancashire, Gragareth (627 m) bordering on our boundary with North Yorkshire, but there are no public rights of way to inspect, though there are plenty of unofficial routes to use.

The northern most area is Black Hill (582 m) inspected by myself and Andy Leader. On the south side paths Tintwistle FP25 from Crowden via Laddow rocks following the Pennine Way and FP23 via Tooleyshaw moor, lead to the summit in my parish. From the north side inspected by Andy Leader, Holme Valley FPs 205 and 224 from Wessenden Head and FP206 from the A635 2.5 km to the west of Wessenden Head lead to the summit. Black Hill (*see cover photo*) has been much improved over the years. The highest part of the Pennine Way is flagged to the trig point and the area has been seeded by Moors for the Future transforming the area from knee deep bogs to pleasant grassy areas.

Bleaklow (633 m) is inspected by Nigel Hackney who covers Charlesworth parish and Mel Bale who inspects Hope Woodlands parish. FP100 climbs steeply from Torside to the Wainstones in Charlsworth parish. On the south side FP102 in Charlsworth parish goes from the Snake road on the Pennine Way along the Devils Dyke finishing south of the Hern Stones. FP29 in Hope Woodlands parish also follows the Devils Dyke from the Snake road on the Pennine Way all the way to the Wainstones.

Kinder Scout (636 m) (see photo) the highest point is not actually accessed by a public right of way. The nearest being Kinder Low End (633m) and Crowden Head (631m). Kinder is inspected by Mel Bale Edale parish and David Eaton Hayfield parish. In the Hayfield parish FP78 goes from the top of Williams Clough via Sandy Heys, Kinder Downfall to Kinder Low End. How this area around Kinder Low End has been transformed by Moors for the Future



is amazing. Large areas of grass where stark peat bogs used to be. From Kinder downfall FP79 leads to Crowden Head at 631 m. The southern access is via Edale FP38 from the top of Jacob's Ladder to Kinder Low end and FP37 from Edale via Grinds brook to Crowden Head. Hayfield FP79 and Edale FP37 used to be the start of the Pennine Way, old route to the Kinder Downfall. Finding these routes through the peat hags and mist was not an easy task. It's understandable that the route was made easier using Jacob's Ladder and Kinder Low End.

Paul Easthope, Treasurer and Trustee

Signpost Report

It has been a bumper autumn. Twenty-two signposts have been installed from October to early December. No more were stolen or vandalised and S019 at Kinder Reservoir has been modified and reinstated, so we now have a total of 512. Several are in the outlying areas of Ashover, Holymoorside and Brampton, NE Derbyshire and Blacko, near Colne. See the website's Signposts and Bridges Gallery for photos.

S563 at GR: SK 02761 96728 at Bottoms Res'r, Hadfield on Cha'sworth FPs56 and 77
S564 at GR: SK 32583 63849 at Vernon Lane Farm, Ashover on FP120/ BW140
S565 at GR: SK 32296 63994 at Robridging Farm, Ashover on FP120
S566 at GR: SK 31787 66092 at Peasunhurst, Ashover on FPs100/105/106
S567 at GR: SK 31835 66084 at Peasunhurst, Ashover on FPs100 and 106
S568 at GR: SK 32681 64889 south of Uppertown, Ashover on FPs 111 and 112
S569 at GR: SK 32719 64354 at Yew Tree Farm, Ashover on FPs116 and 117
S570 at GR: SK 33160 64277 on Easton Lane, Kelstedge, Ashover, FP121
S571 at GR: SK 34636 62510 near Overton, Ashover FPs 59, 60 and BW145
S572 at GR: SK 33939 67719 at Stanedge GC, Holymoorside FPs 16 & 61
S573 at GR: SK 33623 72257 at Linacre Res'r on Brampton FP24 and BW28
S584 at GR: SK 19476 73460 at Longstone Moor, on FPs21, 30, 32
S576 at GR: SK 33729 68726 on Holymoorside & Crompton FPs 17 and 26
S577 at GR: SK 06827 59019 at Wardlow and Elkstones FPs17 and 25
S581 at GR: SK 06352 66709 at Hollinsclough on FP27 and BW1
S583 at GR: SK 04547 68444 at Brand Top, Dove Head, on H/ton Upper ¼ 30/32
S585 at GR: SD 83314 42489 at Mountain Farm, Blacko on FPs 15, 19 and 20
S586 at GR: SD 83330 42490 at Mountain Farm, Blacko on FPs 15 and 19
S587 at GR: SD 83482 42415 at Mountain Farm, Blacko on FPs 14 and 19
S588 at GR: SD 83389 42325 at Mountain Farm, Blacko on FP 23
S578 at GR: SK 08572 55578 below Hillsdale Hall Farm, on Grindon BW4
S579 at GR: SK 08653 55604 below Broadmeadow, on Butterton FP31 & BW13 & 24

Peter Ash repainted signpost 251 at Gradbach and has sourced stainless steel fixings for T3, which is on order. We have re-posted Ramblers Association sign 1 at Anglezarke Moor, in return for a donation. S019b, which was the sole survivor of the vandalism to S019, has replaced the smashed cross plate on S002/29. I also wedged S002's post and fitted a new JUP, after shifting several closure notices. I gather that the bridge over the dangerous bog on the bridleway to Carr Meadow needs major repairs, so brace yourself for long delays, as per Shelf Brook bridge 10 near Doctor's Gate in 2015-2016. I also have landowners' consent for one sign at Norden, Rochdale and four at Higher Gills Farm, Rimington near Clitheroe, Lancs.

Footpath Inspectors are encouraged to follow the example of, inter alia, Keith Feltham, Bill Parke, Shirley Addy, John Harker, Jack Burling, Harry Scott and Joe Park in contacting me to suggest locations for PNFS signposts, particularly in walking areas where we have few or none.

David Morton, Signpost Officer and Trustee

Ripley Footpath 76

Two pictures of a stile on Ripley footpath 76 at Butterley Park. On inspection in February 2018, it looked like a large vehicle had taken the corner too tight and had demolished the stile and steps, having moved the soft ground at the edge of the track. It was a report to Derbyshire County Council and while out walking late in October 2018, I was delighted to find the new stile, steps and handrail. Thanks have been sent via DCC to the land occupier for the high standard of this job.

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector



PNFS Badges

PNFS has a new **pin badge** available. It is 25 mm diameter with a single pin with a secure clip on the back. The cost is a minimum donation of £3 including p&p. Send your order with payment to the Treasurer at Peak and Northern Footpaths Society, 23 Turncroft Lane, Stockport SK1 4AB. Alternatively order online treasurer@peakandnorthern.org.uk.

A **cloth rucksack badge** is also available for £3 including p&p. Ordering details are as above.



PNFS Funds New Boardwalks in Chee Dale

On a rather dull day last November, our chairman, David Hurrell, and I met Julia Gow of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) and presented her with cheque for £1,130 as a donation to fund the materials for new lengths of boardwalk which were recently installed on Wormhill footpath 5 which runs through the Trust's Chee Dale Nature Reserve near Miller's Dale. *See photograph.*



The footpath follows the River Wye from Miller's Dale to Blackwell Mill from where the A6 can be reached near Topley Pike. It is a popular walk following the river through the wonderful dale where a wide variety of wildlife, together with limestone-loving plants and can be seen. The path can get very

muddy after wet weather and the DWT decided to extend the timber boardwalks making the path more enjoyable and reducing erosion. The Society offered a donation in line with its policy of preserving and improving rights of way for the enjoyment of walkers. The boardwalks were built and installed by a team of volunteers under the guidance of Julia Gow, the Trust's Reserves Officer.

The support from the Society has enabled the Trust and its volunteers to do an excellent job in making the use of this footpath a more pleasing experience for all who visit the area. Julia said, "The new boardwalks mean that people who are less mobile can now walk further along the river before they come to any difficult sections."

*Bob Proctor,
Footbridge Assessor*

*Julie Gow and Bob Proctor in
Chee Dale*



Identifying and Claiming Unrecorded Rights of Way

Ken Brockway writes about his experience of identifying and claiming unrecorded rights of way in Derbyshire.

At the end of a busy day the wife and I enjoy settling down in front of the i-player to watch a detective drama or during long winter evening place pieces into a jigsaw puzzle. These aids to relaxation may explain my interest in researching unrecorded ways, piecing together evidence and following leads from one document to the next.

Perhaps like me you love looking at maps. I've become addicted to the DCC online mapping portal - see <https://tinyurl.com/DCC-Mapping>. This, DCC claim, shows the definitive map and adopted highways so it is possible to check if a route is recorded and see if there are gaps between footpath and road. Do not assume that a route you know *and use* is recorded - check.

Having identified an unrecorded route I log it on the British Horse Society site DOBBIN see <https://tinyurl.com/Project-2026>. It is also important to look on the register to check an application has not already been made see <https://tinyurl.com/Application-Register>.

I've just completed an application in Matlock parish where unusually the Tithe Award apportioned the roads to the parish, offering very strong evidence for the claim. The 1910 Finance Act map supported this along with physical evidence on the ground and early maps such as Sanderson's and Ordnance Survey.

The next step was to identify landowners who need to be informed of the application. Most of the claims I'm investigating are along routes that have in the past, and may still be, roads but are unrecorded. So who owns the land becomes a little more complicated and we move to notification of adjoining landowners. However the process is much the same.

The DCC online map offers useful information for adjoining addresses which can be checked off at the District Council office by looking at the full Electoral Register. Don't be fobbed off with the shortened copy. An officer of the Council will need to stand over you to make sure you only make a hand written copy of entries. This offers occupiers but not owners but the HA may be willing to accept this.

Google or other search engines may well offer pointers. Looking at farms, having got what information you can from a site visit, try a search. They may run a B&B or similar and farmers tend to have a web presence. Again it doesn't prove ownership so the next stage is Land Registry and this costs so use it with care. See <https://tinyurl.com/who-owns-land>. A mapping search is free and can offer pointers towards choosing the right field for a title search. A copy of the associated plan is another fee so I try to avoid this. If and/or when the new regulations come into force, it will become the responsibility of the HA to notify existing landowners which will be a great help, but when?

Five applications done but lots more to go.



Extract of Matlock Tithe Map 1848 (Derbys CRO ref. D2360/3/28a) showing roads with apportionment number 2981

LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	No. referring to the Plan.	Name and Description of Land and Premises.	State of Cultivation.	Quantities in Statute Measure.	Amount of Rent-Charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and payable to the Rector.
Parish of Matlock (continued)	In hand (continued)				A. R. P.	£ s. d.
		1492	Brought forward		21 1 14	
		2136	Part of River Derwent		6 4 19	
		2237	Stone Quarry		0 3 25	
		2781	Part of River Derwent		9 2 12	
		2802	Part of River Derwent		6 3 13	
		2913	Part of River Derwent		1 0 39	
		2981	Part of River Derwent		6 1 31	
			<u>Roads</u>		<u>82 3 12</u>	
					135 2 5	

Matlock tithe apportionment schedule (Derbys CRO ref.D443/2) showing 82 acres of roads allotted to the Parish of Matlock.



The end of Ripley FP151 at Heage. The path across the field beyond the stile is unrecorded although it shows on OS maps. The next section of the path is Ripley FP121. Do not assume the OS map is correct.

The Highway Handover schedule of 1929 shows Denby Flamstead Lane as 0.9 mile long; the adopted highway today is just 0.7 mile. The 0.2 mile would provide a link to other footpaths.

27 a.	Allestree "ard Lane, from Road A 6 to Little Eaton boundary.	.9
28.	From boundary at Denby Common (Dunor & Looose junction) to Denby Village, Little Brook, Hurston (crossing) & Little Denby Hill, Low Level Road to Cuckoo Station joining A 61.	4.3
29 a.	Flamstead Lane, Denby Common.	.9
29 b.	Chapel Street, Alburn from No 29 to A.6015.	.9
29 c.	Horsley Village from 26 at Cuckoo & Horsley Inn to Road A.6015 at Alburn.	1.5
29 d.	New Road, Chalfy, from post 29 at Alford to "Less & Green" Inn, Chalfy joining A.601.	1.0

Old Brampton's Sign

On 24 October 2018, PNFS signpost number 573 was erected. Located south of Linacre reservoir, Old Brampton, it is a special one for me because it is in memory of my much-missed parents, John David and Kathleen Addy.

Since I joined the PNFS in November 2015, I have wanted one of the Society's green signposts to commemorate my parents. However, its location had to have some connection or meaning that they would have recognised.



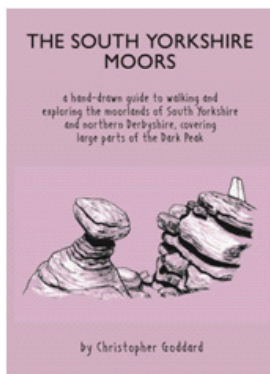
My paternal Addy forebears hail from Old Brampton. My father's grandfather John and great-uncle Edward lived at Moorhay Farm. Later, John and some of his relatives lived in the row of cottages known as Henpark, at Hollins. Edward emigrated to North America. My father, who was born in Ashton-Under-Lyne, visited Henpark as a child and often he used to explore the nearby countryside near Linacre reservoir.

Although I am the last twig of this particular branch of Addy - I have kept my maiden name - I am hopeful that some distant Addy relative may twig at seeing signpost 573's commemorative plaque.

I have yet to see the signpost but we have booked a week in the Peak District during the summer. I look forward to seeing it and on the way I shall sit on the stone chair on the A619 in Wigley. That's another story, but if you can read the carving on it, *Sit ye down on chair by John Furniss of Moorhay Farm Wigley 1888*, you can make yourself comfortable!

Shirley M Addy, Editor and Footpath Inspector

Book Review: The South Yorkshire Moors by Christopher Goddard



One of our bookshelves has over twenty books of walks in the Peak District. So when I first heard that yet another was about to be published I was intrigued to see if it would add anything new to

our already extensive range. I'm delighted to say that the answer is a resounding YES!

Christopher Goddard, who some of our readers may already know from his earlier books about West Yorkshire, has now turned his attention to what he describes as the 'landscape of his youth'. His new book is titled *The South Yorkshire Moors*. It is a true guide book rather than simply a collection of walks. Despite its title, the area covered stretches from Snailsdon Moss in the north to Beeley Moor in the south, by way of Bleaklow, Kinder Scout and the Eastern Moors.

The author has a detailed knowledge of these moors, having explored many of them with his dad from a very young age. These early experiences sparked an interest in the landscape and how it is portrayed on maps. Chris has drawn his own maps since childhood and now describes himself as 'an obsessive cartographer'.

The book begins with an extensive introduction which explains the geology and gives a detailed history of the area along with an account of the struggle for free and unfettered access to it. The main body of the book comprises thirteen chapters, each covering a different moor. A total of thirty five hand drawn maps illustrate these areas. These maps are accompanied by a further twenty one showing routes by which to

explore the moors. The walks vary in length from 7 to 15 miles, most are classified as moderate and are suitable for walkers with experience of the terrain covered. All the maps are illustrated and annotated to show both contemporary and just as importantly historical features of interest.

The chapters are separated by a number of short pieces covering topics ranging from moorland birds, the Eyam Plague and peat cutting. The book concludes with a wide ranging bibliography and a comprehensive index, ideal features with which to delve even deeper into the character and history of this fascinating part of the country's first national park.



Extract from Kinder Scout - Central Map

Chris has produced a remarkable book. It is full of wonderful illustrations, maps and a wealth of information. I can't recommend it highly enough.

The book is published by Gritstone Publishing. PNFS members can purchase a copy of the book at a discounted price from <https://christophergoddard.net/product/pnfs-offer>.

Mel Bale, Trustee, Membership Secretary and Webmaster

Walks for PNFS Members

Please check all train times after 18 May (new timetables)

Check pnfs.org.uk for any updates

Short Walks

John Fisher, Walks Co-ordinator



Hope Valley, November 2018

Wednesday, 13 March

Leader: Peter Burns (01744 893432)

Hindley circular, 6-7 miles

Manchester Victoria 10:28

Walk starts Hindley station 11:00

Wednesday, 10 April

Leader: Brian Lomas (01616 885237)

Daisy Nook Country Park, 7 mile circular, gentle

Walk starts Ashton West Metro station

11:00, tram from Manchester Piccadilly

Wednesday, 8 May

Leader: Dave Rigby (01484 846412)

Sowerby Bridge to Hebden Bridge, 7 miles, some ascent

Train from Manchester Victoria at 09:37

Walk starts Sowerby Bridge station 10:30

Wednesday, 12 June

Leader: Martin Riley (01706 848408)

Godley to Stockport, 8 miles, one short climb

Manchester Piccadilly 10:59

Walk starts Godley station 11:15

Wednesday, 10 July

Leader David Hurrell (01142 886474)

Hope Valley, details to be on website (or from leader)

Wednesday, 14 August

Leader John Fisher (01625 439298, 07432 825624)

Greenfield to Marsden via Standedge Trail, 7 miles, one steady climb

Manchester Piccadilly 10:17

Walk starts Greenfield station 10:36

Wednesday, 11 September

Leader David Gosling (07841 647275)

Disley circular via Whaley Moor and Lyme Park, 6 miles, one moderate climb

Manchester Piccadilly 10:11.

Walk starts Disley station 10:40

Longer Walks

David Bratt, Walks Co-ordinator

Wednesday, 27 February

Leader: Tony Littler (07812 069869)

Linear walk Kidsgrove to Congleton, 10 miles undulating

Manchester Piccadilly 09:44

Walk starts Kidsgrove station at 10:35

(any Congleton station joiners: train is at 10:25)

Wednesday, 27 March

Leader: Phil Gadsby (01617 485757)
Linear walk Entwistle to Hall i'th Wood,
10 miles undulating
Manchester Victoria 09:41 (Salford
Crescent 09:48).
Walk starts Entwistle stn 10.20. Note!
It is a request stop

Wednesday, 24 April

Leader: Bill Minshall (07518 926031)
Circular walk Congleton, 10 miles hillyish
Manchester Piccadilly 09:44
Walk starts Congleton station 10:30

Wednesday, 29 May

Leaders: David Hurrell (01142 886474)
and Dianne Fortescue (07796 954930)
Circular walk Hathersage, 11 miles hilly
including Stanage Edge
Manchester Piccadilly 09:40
Walk starts Hathersage station 10:40

Wednesday, 26 June

Leader: Vince Joyce (01942 603 626)
Circular walk Greenfield, 11 miles,
2,300 ft ascent
Manchester Piccadilly 10:17
Walk starts Greenfield station 10:40



Atherton to Wigan Pier

Photographs Wanted for *Signpost* Cover



Members are invited to
submit photographs for
Signpost's cover.

Photographs showing
footpaths or bridleways
would be preferred as they are
PNFS's *raison d'être*.

They must be in jpg format
and may be in either portrait
or landscape format, but they
may be subject to some cropping.

Please email your photograph
with some brief location
and/or PROW details to
Signpost editor
at editor@pnfs.org.uk.

Note that only photographs taken
by members can be used so they
are accepted on the understanding
that this is the case.

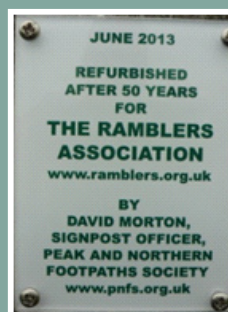
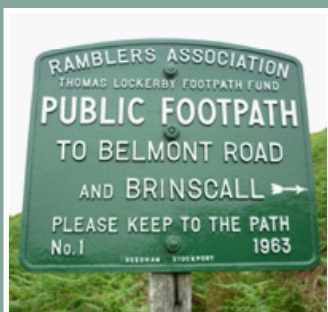


Ramblers Association Signposts



The two signs near White Coppice were made for the RA by Needhams Foundry in Stockport in 1963. By 2013, when I became aware of them, they were in a pretty sorry state. Plate No 2, which is more exposed, had been bent and split by strong winds. I

contacted the RA and offered to repair and repaint the plates. Both posts were still serviceable, although No 1's spindly post showed its age. The RA's Thomas Lockerby Fund had been wound up, as interest rates were very low and the terms of the fund only allowed spending of the interest. I duly did the work and the RA then covered the expense. Plate No 2 was used to produce a pattern for a new plate, which I reinforced. The new one has the wavy pattern of the old one.



I found the photo showing the unveiling of No 1 on 14 July 1963 in a box at Taylor House. It shows that No 1 then had a robust post like No 2's. I like the contrast between E E Stubbs, the portly, elder statesman with his written notes in his double-breasted suit, and the somewhat younger ramblers wearing their varied outdoor gear and a range of expressions. Where are they now?

David Morton, Signpost Officer and Trustee



The Continuing Saga of The Heights

The last edition of Signpost contained a report on the removal of a long-standing obstruction on Bradshaw North 63 at The Heights, thus reopening the public right of way, and part of the Rotary Way, through the back gardens of six houses. This seemingly was a success for PNFS and Bolton Council, who promised to waymark the route. However since then, and before waymarking could be carried out, the footpath was again obstructed by the same householder who caused the original problem.

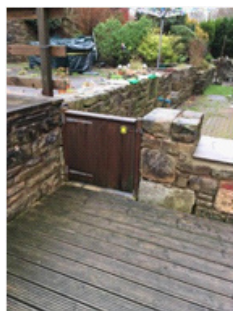
This latest obstruction was brought to the attention of Andrew Smith, Bolton's PROW officer, who immediately arranged for it to be removed and for extensive waymarking of the route through the gardens to be carried out. Although the waymarking should make walkers feel more comfortable about passing through the gardens it is still not an ideal solution. Andrew agrees that a diversion of the footpath away from the gardens and through an adjacent elevated field would solve the problem and hopes to gain the co-operation of the various householders and neighbouring landowner for this to happen.

*Jim Foster,
Footpath Inspector*

(L) The approach to The Heights;

(C) The previously obstructed gap;

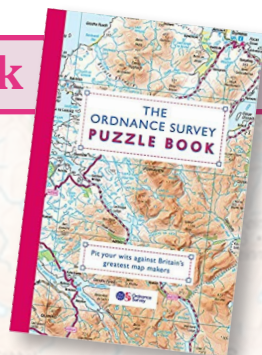
(R) Garden waymarking



The Ordnance Survey Puzzle Book

This attractively-presented puzzle paperback will keep keen walkers and footpath inspectors entertained in their armchairs. Contained in its 240 pages are over 200 questions, which range from easy to challenging, and 40 maps to scrutinise for answers.

Each map has been carefully chosen and its significance is explained. As well as being great fun, the book gives historical information on the OS maps. If you suffer withdrawal symptoms between walks, this book is just for you. Published by Orion Publishing Co at £14.99. ISBN 978140918467

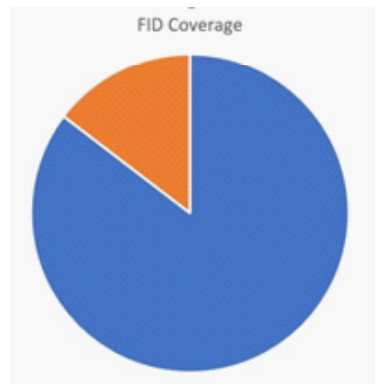
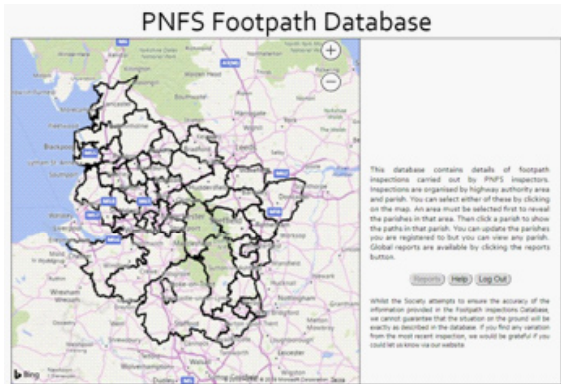


*Image of cover
reproduced with
kind permission*

The Footpath Inspections Database - An Update

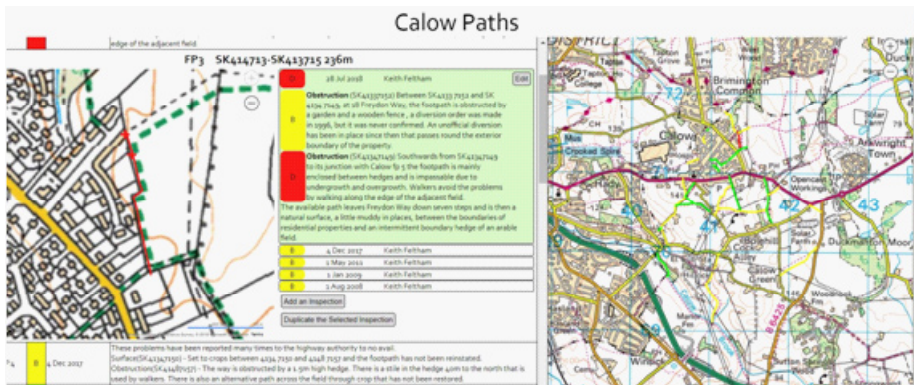
This article has two purposes. First it is an update on the tremendous progress that has been achieved in the roll-out of the Footpath Inspections Database (FID). Secondly it is about how the FID can be made more useful to PNFS members and PNFS footpath inspectors. We are convinced that thanks to all the hard work that has gone into designing and populating the database it is a really useful tool for all walkers - and a unique benefit for PNFS members.

Almost all the PNFS area is now covered by the FID as the picture below shows. In fact, it covers all Highway Authorities where we have any inspectors. Faults data from the old faults log have been transferred to the new database with only a few old reports still to be recorded (from the period after Hilda Bowler retired).



In November last year, the FID was re-launched with a new design. Now you can see an overview map on the right of the screen as well as the list of paths on the left side. The new font is clearer, and various changes behind the scenes by Roger Fielding make the experience of using the FID quicker and more robust. It can be viewed on a smart phone or tablet, though it is primarily designed to be used on a PC or laptop.

Most inspectors have found the FID easy to use and have recorded thousands of inspections. Just to give you some examples. In North East Derbyshire 73% of 1,266 paths have been inspected and reports entered on the FID. The database shows that 611 paths were found to be clear, 309 had a fault of which 5 made the path dangerous or impassable. (shown red on the map). Derbyshire Dales has a huge number of paths - 2,096 - but nearly half have been inspected (the gaps are mainly in the south of the district), and in Derbyshire High Peak 1,382 paths have been inspected and entered on the database out of a total of 1,614 paths (85%).



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Of course recording of inspections is variable. The Society cannot require inspectors to record their inspections on the FID. It can only make the case for its value and let each inspector decide whether to use it. Fortunately most say they love it and believe it is a big asset for the future work of the Society.

Now, coming to the second point. The FID could be better used by members. You only have to get a password from Mel Bale (email: webmaster@pnfs.org.uk and you will have full access to all the data on the FID. The maps show you all the rights of way in the parishes covered by the FID, and also the information about the state of the paths. This is an invaluable tool if you are planning a walk. Many reports include a photo as well as a description of any problems. All members are entitled to full read-only access to the FID - but you will need to get a password.

For inspectors, the FID is obviously a great way to keep a record of the paths you have inspected, when they were last inspected and whether any problems were found. But there is another facility, which is not being used as much as it might be. This is the ability to record an event relating to the path. What is an event? Examples of an event are:

- when a fault was reported,
- the response from the HA including a reference number,
- any further correspondence relating to the path,
- any closure or diversion of the path.

Events like these can be added to the FID using the 'Add an event' button. This button appears when you click on 'edit' on a report. Remember you can always go back to a report and edit it by adding a photo, adding an event or amending the description or the location of the fault.

A record of events like those listed above is invaluable if ever the Society needs to present evidence to the Highway Authority about a failure to respond or if it is considering legal action.

Finally, a big thank you to Roger Fielding, the PNFS member who has designed the database and made it available for our use.

David Gosling, Footpath Inspection Co-ordinator and Trustee

Parish Notes

Wilpshire, Ribble Valley

The pleasant parish of Wilpshire is in the south-western part of the Ribble Valley, which comes under Lancashire County Council. Situated a few miles north of Blackburn, it was part of Blackburn Rural Council until 1974 when the Ribble Valley Borough Council was formed. I am the PNFS footpath inspector for the Ribble Valley which has forty-eight parishes.

The A666, an old turnpike road running from near Manchester to Langho, runs through the parish as does a railway line. A few milestones still exist on this road. The original station was closed during the Beeching era, but a new one, Wilpshire with Ramsgreave, was built in a different location in 1995. The railway bridge was nicknamed Stiff Street bridge because when fatalities occurred during the construction of the Wilpshire tunnel, the dead navvies were laid out in a room under the adjacent Wilpshire Hotel. The tram into Blackburn had its terminus at the parish's boundary on the A666.

Wilpshire Golf Club is the oldest golf club in East Lancashire and has several footpaths crossing its course. Wilpshire Methodist Church, built in 1887, had an organ which was powered by water. The Blackburn Orphanage was built in the village by benefactors in the 19th century and still looks after children. Wilpshire once had two grocers, a post office and newsagents, but still has a butcher's shop.

Wilpshire is blessed with wonderful countryside with great views of Pendle Hill and has thirty PROWs amounting to over eleven kilometres. My inspection of this parish revealed

about five faults, but thankfully they are nearly all signpost-related faults. There is a trig point 235 metres high on Wilpshire Moor. On a clear day, from our balcony, we can discern Longridge Fell, Parlick, Fairsnape, Beacon Fell, Waddington Fell, all of which are the most southerly fells of England, the turrets of Stonyhurst College and, further afield, Ingleborough.

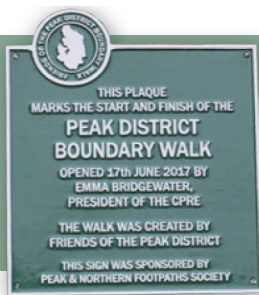
Wilpshire Parish Council joined the LCC Parish Paths' Partnership to enable the parish council to take a more active role in improving and maintaining the local footpath network. It uses a LCC grant for path maintenance such as laying gravel on boggy paths and cutting back obstructive foliage. I know that at least two of the parish councillors are keen walkers, and the council has devised two walks in Wilpshire. It has even placed several benches for walkers to admire the views of the Ribble Valley.

*Shirley M Addy,
Editor and Footpath
Inspector*

*Overgrown signpost:
Wilpshire suffers from
few and minor PROW faults*



This article is part of a series of Parish Notes which will be published both on the website and in future editions of the newsletter. Readers who would like to contribute are encouraged to contact Mel Bale at webmaster@pnfs.org.uk



Peak District Boundary Walk Plaque Unveiling in Buxton

It was on a cold and windy day in December 2018 when the Peak District Boundary Walk plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of the High Peak, Councillor Linda Grooby (see photo). The plaque is fixed to the outside wall of the Kings Head, adjacent to the Town Hall. It was unusual in that the unveiling was carried out by the lowering of a rucksack.

It was in May 2017 that the walk was officially launched by a series of 20 walks around the whole of the perimeter of the walk, beginning and finishing in the square at Buxton. This was a day to be remembered by the members of the Friends of the Peak District who had worked hard and long to achieve the walk around the boundary of the Peak District National Park, following the boundary as far as possible using public footpaths.

The Peak District National Park covers 555 square miles and is one of the most accessible and popular of our 15 parks reaching into the counties of Derbyshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Yorkshire, as well as the urban fringes of Sheffield and Greater Manchester. To celebrate this diverse and special place, this new 188-mile long distance walk has been devised which follows the boundary first drawn up by the Haythornthwaites all those years ago. The route stays close to the edge of the national park, following existing paths tracks and quiet lanes.

The Boundary Walk enjoys a wonderful mix of Peak District landscapes and different terrain - from dramatic crags, cloughs and open moorland to quiet woodlands pasture and hidden dales.

Friends of the Peak District have produced a wonderful and detailed account of all 20 walks, each around 10 miles in length, in the book 'Peak District Boundary Walk'. The book is available from www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk or local stockists at a price of just £10. A great book at a fantastic price.

A number of Peak and Northern Footpaths Society members took part in trial walking of the route to prove it was all feasible, and every one enjoyed this unique experience. Peak and Northern Footpaths Society made a contribution towards the manufacture of the plaque - notice the similarity of the design - and so have an interest in the maintenance of the walk, many paths being covered by our Footpath Inspectors.

David Hurrell, Chairman and Trustee



The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

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AGM

The annual general meeting is to be held
at the Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane,
Offerton, Stockport, SK2 6AG at 11 am on
Saturday, 13 April 2019.

To book lunch please
email pnfs.meetings@gmail.com
or phone or text David Brown on 07732 682026.
A donation is invited to defray
the catering costs of £9.

Further details will be sent
with the Annual Report

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