

SIGNPOST

**Magazine of the
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**

Number 62 - Spring 2020



**Dethick, Lea and Holloway FP6 climbing to
the main street The Row and The Jug and Glass Inn**

Photograph by Ken Brockway



Some of you will know that our chairman David Hurrell has been ill since the end of last year. Unfortunately this has prevented him from writing his usual Chairman's Piece for this edition of *Signpost*.

As this issue goes to press, David is recovering in the stroke rehabilitation unit at Beech Hill Centre, Norfolk Park Road, Sheffield, S2 3QE, where he is in the Shrewsbury Ward. This excellent facility is only a few minutes walk from Sheffield station and David would welcome visits from his friends at Peak and Northern. It would, however, be prudent to check with his son Andrew, who many of you will know from AGM and half-year meetings, on David's up-to-date situation before visiting. Andrew can be contacted at andrew@ahemsltd.co.uk.

I am sure we all wish David a speedy recovery and look forward to his resuming his chairman's piece and returning to full health and strength as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Society's activities continue as normal under its team of dedicated officers.

As you will read in more detail elsewhere in this issue, since the last issue of *Signpost* we have agreed a letter which will be sent to the chief executives of all local authorities in our area advising

them that the Society has funds available to support meaningful improvements to footpaths and rights of way. We hope by this means to cast the net as widely as possible without overloading our own human resources.

As usual, some of the many activities of your Society are described in the following pages and our thanks go to the volunteers who are making these things happen and to Shirley for her work as editor in bringing them to our attention.

No doubt those of you who enjoy walking will be hoping for an end to the recent wet weather and the onset of spring to help dry up the mud which currently plagues many of our footpaths, especially in low-lying areas. However, as we splash our way through the puddles and mire, we may think of those less fortunate whose homes and businesses have been severely affected by floods, some of them in our area, such as the Calder Valley in West Yorkshire.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all at our forthcoming AGM in Stockport on Saturday 18 April.

Gavin Miller, Vice Chairman and Trustee



Just in case you are short of water
Photograph of village pump in Alstonefield by David Hurrell

WANTED: Photographs 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.

Editorial

I would like to start my second year of *Signpost* by thanking members for sending their encouraging comments, reproduced below:

~ *Just a line to say how much I enjoy reading Signpost; a lot of substance in it, almost surprisingly so given its small size!*

~ *Thanks for producing such a first class magazine.*

~ *Just read your latest. In my considered opinion it is the best edition to date (not just by you) in terms of volume, scope, detail and interest and with great supporting piccies. Just keep doing it!*

~ *I thought the last issue was excellent. A good variety of content and length of pieces.*

Thanks also go to thank all those enthusiastic members who contribute to *Signpost* and also Mel Bale for checking every issue.

Happy walking.

Shirley M Addy, BA, Editor and Footpath Inspector

AGM

The annual general meeting is at the Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK2 6AG at 11 am on 18 April 2020

Open at 10.30 am for tea and coffee, a pre-meeting chat and a chance to meet old friends

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



Path Checkers Scheme

A simple way of reporting issues you find on rights of way

Path Checkers is a new way of reporting footpath issues to PNFS, alongside but distinct from the work of Footpath Inspectors. The Path Checkers scheme is intended for people (both members and non-members of PNFS) who are not Footpath Inspectors but who would still like to report problems when they find them.

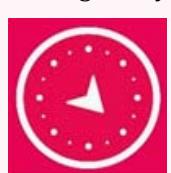


If you are someone who walks, runs or rides in the countryside, there is now a simple way you can report any issues you find affecting your right to use a footpath or bridleway. We hope it will appeal to all of you who care for our countryside and want to protect our precious freedom to access rights of way.

All too often when we are out walking, running or riding we find broken stiles, overgrown and obstructed paths and bridleways. Scenes like these are all too familiar.

Now there is a simple way you can tell us about issues such as these.

The Path Checkers scheme will operate across the PNFS region. You don't have to be a member of the Society to be a Path Checker, but we encourage you to register with us as a Path Checker (see below). The key idea is that someone with a smart phone who finds an issue can take a photo and send a report immediately from the location. All reports will be logged on a database and your report will be acknowledged. At PNFS we will do our best to get the issue investigated as soon as possible by one of our footpath inspectors, who will contact the relevant Highway Authority if he or she considers this necessary. We will tell you how the society is dealing with your report and when progress is made.



If you wish to register as a Path Checker you can do so via the webpage or by email to pathcheckers@pnfs.org.uk. Please provide your email address, name and phone number, and your postcode would also be useful. Registration is not essential but as a registered Path Checker, you will have access to the Society's Footpath Inspection Database. This will show you all the rights of way and whether the problem you have encountered is already on our database.



How to report a problem as a Path Checker

There are three ways of reporting a problem as a Path Checker:

1. From your phone using OS Locate
2. By email to 'pathcheckers@pnfs.org.uk'
3. By using the form on the webpage
www.pnfs.org.uk/pathccheckers

1. From a smart phone

Firstly, you will need to install the phone app 'OS Locate'. It is free and works on Android and iPhones. When you open OS Locate, it will identify your location as a six figure grid reference. OS Locate has a simple way of emailing the location with a photo. Incidentally it also gives your altitude and direction of travel.

Secondly, when you find an issue on what you think is a right of way, take a photo of the problem on your phone.

Thirdly, open OS Locate and click on 'Share' or 'Share my location' and then click on 'Email' and enter 'pathcheckers@pnfs.org.uk'. Most phones will remember this address for future use.

Fourthly, add a brief description of the problem such as 'broken stile' 'path overgrown' and add your photo.

Fifthly, include your name and a contact phone number if you wish. Then just click 'send'.

2. By email

Although most walkers and runners have smart phones with them, this may not be true of everyone. This is an alternative way of reporting what you think may be a problem on a path or bridleway.

When you find the problem out in the countryside, if possible, take a photo and note your location preferably as grid reference. When you email from your PC or laptop to pathcheckers@pnfs.org.uk providing the following:

1. brief description of the issue
2. attach your photo
3. the location of the problem as a grid reference
4. your name and contact phone number (if you wish).



3. Use the form on the Path Checkers web page

Just complete the details on the form and press 'submit'. The advantage of using the form is that you will automatically receive a reference number when you submit your report.



That's it! It's very simple. You can view these instructions on our website at www.pnfs.org.uk/pathcheckers or download a copy of our Path Checkers flyer which you can share with your friends. The flyer is included with this issue of Signpost. Please contact us if you would like more copies. If you would like someone from PNFS to come to talk to your walking group about the Path Checkers scheme and/or any other aspect of the work of the Society please do get in touch via the pathcheckers email address.

David Gosling, Footpath Inspection Co-ordinator



Peter Bowler: An Appreciation

Peter Bowler died on 31 Dec 2019 aged 86. Like wife Hilda, he was a long serving and valued volunteer at Taylor House HQ regularly on Monday mornings. Keith Wykes and I represented the Society at the funeral in the lovely and cosy Gawsworth Methodist Chapel on 23 January 2020.

Peter's expertise and career was in Electrical Engineering via Imperial College, London and service in the REME. His role at Taylor House was as postmaster general responsible for receiving, logging and directing onward the copious volume of mail coming in weekly. If time permitted he was also happy to assist the assessors in considering proposed diversions, etc.



He was also along with Hilda an inspector and both were a great support to me when I became chairman in leading walks for our newly-fledged bespoke PNFS programme. Initially walk attendees were so few in number that to bulk them we devised the "total legs divided by 2" scheme - and dogs were very welcome!

Outside of PNFS Peter was long active in the Cheshire Tally Ho Hare and Hounds running club and he was an acknowledged specialist in growing, showing and judging orchids in competitions.

Ewan MacColl's moving poem, Joy of Living, was read at the funeral beginning and ending with the lines:

*"Farewell ye northern hills, ye mountains all goodbye
Moorlands and stony ridges, crags and peaks ,goodbye*

*I'll be riding the gentle breeze as it blows through your hair
Reminding you how we shared in the joy of living"*

We gave on the day the Society's and our own personal commiserations to Hilda and family in memory of Peter - a good man and truly a man for all seasons.

David Bratt, President



Derby Nomad Way

The Derby Nomad Way is a circular walk of 50 miles around the City of Derby. It was created in 2010 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Derby Nomad Ramblers Club see www.berbynomads.co.uk/dnway.html. A gpx file of the route can be found at www.walkingenglishman.com/ldp/berbynomadway.html

It's great to get out on the wild hills but how to get there? While PNFS do their bit to access the countryside by train starting walks at the station. Others take the easy option of the car and are forced to start and end at a car park. The Derby Nomad Way is well planned for linear sections with a good choice of bus services radiating from the city centre. The least frequent service is one an hour and the best every ten minutes so it might be advantageous to walk some sections in reverse.

Our walks at the end of 2019 were during or after some very heavy rain. There was a lot of mud. Now this is not a complaint to the route planners it's a gripe to 'the powers that be'. On the east side especially the paths are very heavily used and I was reminded of music festivals where the grass is lost in a sea of mud. In days gone by, road users had to tolerate similar conditions but for motor vehicles things have improved. We are frequently being urged to walk for health and to save car journeys but this muddy morass is unlikely to encourage a change. The walk is well waymarked, for the guide book clockwise direction, it would have been a simple addition to add waymarks in the opposite direction.

Where Derbyshire County Council have installed a bridge it is of a very high standard and generally water courses are bridged. Public funds well spent but where DCC fall down to my mind is there failure to encourage or require a higher standard of boundary crossing. I very much like the traditional squeeze stiles but even these may need maintenance where ground movement leans the stones so that even the legs of Lowry people would not pass through with convenience. Stiles to climb are another failing with little evidence that H&S is a high priority, dare I say more claims for falls might change things.

Submit a report about a cross field path in autumn and you are taken to be a crank. But study the HA sec.134, reinstatement starts here, making good the surface to the minimum width and indicating the line on the ground. It's not the task of path users to tramp a line across the field. Finally, for now at least. Study of the map shows that in places the Nomads had no choice to wander freely. The A38 south of Derby is like the Berlin Wall for walkers. Paths meet the road with no provision for safe access to paths on the opposite side, barriers for the protection of motorists prevent convenient and safe crossing if one were brave enough to find a gap in the endless traffic.

Having had a moan I admire the Derby Nomads for creating this walk which I enjoyed and accomplished by bus from home. I especially enjoyed the more remote and neglected west section.

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector



Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT) 11

Ballidon, Derbyshire - Minninglow and Gallowlow Lanes

These lanes form a long route leading south from the National Park's Minninglow car park via the High Peak Trail. It is potentially very useful for walkers, especially the less able, when the field paths are impassable due to mud. Views of the quintessential White Peak landscape from the lane are wonderful, and access to the Minninglow scheduled monument is possible via a permissive path.

The state of this byway in November 2017 is shown in the photograph above. There were 4 or more parallel ruts in most places, many 1 to 2 feet deep, some with water in the bottom, separated by very slippery grass strips, and with narrow sloping grass verges up to the walls and fences. This made it impossible to walk along without slipping into the ruts or against the walls. I reported this to Derbyshire County Council on 6 November 2017. No commitment to repair the lane was forthcoming, although I was asked what PNFS expected to see in terms of the repairs, a rather surprising response, since the legal duty of the council is clear: to ensure that the route is "reasonably passable for the ordinary traffic of the neighbourhood at all seasons of the year". After further warning, I served a s56 Highways Act 1980 Notice on the council on behalf of PNFS, seeking the repair of the route. Lack of resources is not a defence against such a Notice, although PNFS does take account of this if the circumstances warrant it. In this case, the council admitted liability for repair, and after the seemingly inevitable delays, repairs were started last autumn, hampered by the wet weather, but finally almost completed before Christmas. I walked the route again on the lovely sunny day at the end of December, and it was a real pleasure - such a contrast to its state two years ago. Our thanks are due to the county council for carrying out this work. I wonder if it would have been done without the serving of a legal Notice?

Rhoda Barnett, Courts and Inquiries Officer (Derbyshire)



Coastal Path: Silverdale to Cleveleys - Consultation on Proposed Route by Natural England

A matter of great interest to the Society is the proposal in relation to the path now recognised as definitive, in front of Brown's Houses behind the sea wall. Those with long memories may recall that the status of this path was first called into question some 20 years ago when it was to be part of the Lancashire Coastal path. The report from Natural England is now available on line (www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath).

The answer is set out in England Coastal Path Stretch: Silverdale to Cleveley, Report SDC1 Cove Well, Silverdale to Wild Duck Hall, Bolton-le-Sands, section 1.3.3 (page 21 of the document):

"Subsequent to the completion of our ECP planning work in this area, we were made aware of the outcome of a public rights of way enquiry, which confirms the existence of a public footpath on the access road between Brown's Houses and the top of the foreshore. We considered aligning the trail in front of the cottages at Brown's Houses. We opted for the proposed route because although the recently confirmed public footpath would allow walkers to avoid the most difficult area of the foreshore, it would still involve crossing an area of foreshore below an exposed sloping limestone pavement that is regularly inundated at high tides. We therefore concluded that, overall, the proposed route struck the best balance."

The 'proposed route' passes around Brown's Houses and then rejoins the path along the estuary shore. See the map SDC 1b: Jack Scout to Quaker's Stag on page 69 of the report. Disappointing but any walker has a right to use the public footpath above the sea wall and then pass through the gate onto the foreshore to pick up the official route parallel to the shoreline.

The public can respond to the report by making a representation by filling in the document on Natural England's web site. This must be submitted by 4 March. The Society's response has been to argue that the official route should follow the access road in front of Brown's Houses. Further that the Society would have preferred the proposed newly created path around the rear of the properties at Brown's Houses to be available as an alternative should the tide be unsuitable to follow the access road and then continue along the foreshore. We have also asked that as a minimum the official guidance for users of the coastal path makes clear that there is another route along a public right of way which enables walkers to remain closer to the coast.

Terry Norris, Consultations Manager at Taylor House

PNFS Can Help Improve a Path Near You

I am sure we all know places where a footpath could be improved, for example, by the addition of some steps on a steep slope (see illustration), by a boardwalk over some marshy ground, or by replacing a difficult stile with a gate.

Thanks to a change to our constitution in 2018 PNFS is now committed to “Creating, preserving and improving open spaces, public access rights and rights of way”.

When this change was being debated, some feared that PNFS would be overwhelmed by Highway Authorities knocking on our door to seek funding for improvements to rights of way. But that has not happened. In fact, since the change to the constitution the Society has funded only a few, small improvement schemes, but not as many as the Trustees would like.

At a recent meeting Trustees agreed that we would make a concerted effort to contact Highway Authorities, and other bodies such as Wildlife Trusts, to advertise that the Society is open to proposals for funding footpath improvement projects. A letter is being sent which explains that the Society may now offer donations towards the cost of making improvements to an open space or public access rights, including definitive rights of way. Improvements may include replacing stiles with gates, steps, board walks, drainage and ditch crossing (ie draining the path/digging a ditch alongside) pitching / levelling. We do not fund maintenance of footpaths which is the responsibility of the Highway Authority.



This picture shows a project carried out by Calderdale Community Rights of Way Service (CROWS) above Hebden Bridge, but this project was not funded by PNFS. Maybe in the future similar projects will be funded by the Society

Members can play an important role in identifying potential improvement projects which could be considered for funding. A Footpath Improvement Advisory group has been set up to consider all proposals and to make recommendations to the full meeting of Trustees. Suggestions from members for improvement projects are welcome.

If you wish to make a proposal please provide a brief description of the improvements you have in mind, the location (parish and path number) with grid refs and photos of the current situation which show the issue to be addressed. Ideas will need to be converted to fully costed proposals which have been agreed by the Highway Authority. However, the Society's officers can help with translating your ideas into a realistic project.

The trustees will be using these criteria to select projects:

1. the path or open space is of importance for the enjoyment of walkers
2. proposed improvements are feasible, sustainable and at a realistic cost
3. the improvement satisfies the public benefit test as set out in Charity Commission guidance

We are particularly keen to support volunteer groups, affiliated clubs, and local Ramblers groups who have ideas for footpath improvements but who lack sufficient funding to turn good ideas into something that will actually benefit walkers. Of course, we also continue to fund bridges and signposts and our bridges and signpost officers are also interested in potential new projects.

So why not get in touch and we can discuss how the Society can help you develop a footpath improvement project. Contact us on improvements@pnfs.org.uk.

David Gosling, Footpath Inspection Co-ordinator

Stanton by Dale FP18

Members who came on the long walk from Ilkeston in 2017 will recall with horror the walk across a stockyard of concrete pipes on Stanton by Dale FP18. On my last inspection, September 2019, I was pleased to see some progress. The line of the path had been delineated by placing said concrete pipes along the line of the path with waymark arrows attached to the pipe ends (see photograph).



This improvement was reported to DCC along with a further complaint that a significant man made change in ground level needed improving with steps. DCC has now reported: "The landowner has now carried out some work to make access easier (see photograph), but I shall advise them that it needs a properly constructed set of steps with a handrail in respect of Occupier's Liability. They may apply for a diversion in any case to take the path around the perimeter of the site."



The steps are shown in the picture supplied by DCC. It's difficult to imagine what H&S would say if steps such as these were provided for use by the site workforce. So how come the site owners consider they are safe for us?

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector

Cat and Fiddle

Reading Mark Cocker's Country Diary in *The Guardian* of 4 February 2020, I came across several points of interest relating to Buxton in the PNFS heartland. The first was the very good news for walking groups and bikers that the Cat and Fiddle pub, which has been standing empty for quite a long time, is due to reopen in April with a distillery attached.

The second was that in the 18th century, Buxton miners had to trudge out to Axe Edge and the upper Goyt Valley in all conditions to work down some of the 238 mine shafts, producing low-quality coal with pick and shovel from the shallow seams. For working 12 hours per day, six days a week, they were paid a meagre £32 per annum. Remains of shafts can be found just north of the A537, where Hartington Upper Quarter footpaths 83, 84 and 85 converge. Footpath Inspector Derek Bodey has suggested that we put a signpost there on what may have once been well-worn miners' tracks. On my visit I assumed that I was looking at old lead workings. Thanks to Mark Cocker for putting me right.

Mark also refers to Alan Roberts's and John Leach's book *The Coal Mines of Buxton* (1985). They describe the effort of two men hauling the coal up the shafts to the surface in 1790. The pair hauled a hundredweight (112 lb or approx 50 kg) basket of coal, called a corf, every two minutes over a period of 144 hours, almost 200 tonnes. Could this have been the outcome of a foolish bet in the Cat and Fiddle? They also note that many of the miners' surnames in 1790 are still to be found in modern Buxton directories.

Little did those 18th century miners know of how year on year production of hydrocarbons would accelerate and lead in little more than two centuries to today's climate catastrophe of extreme weather events all over the world from Australia to Mytholmroyd.

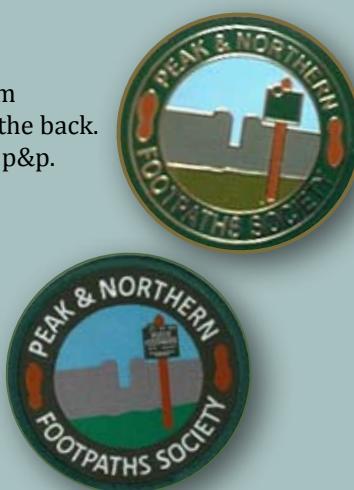
David Morton, Signpost Officer

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.





Book Review: Why North Is Up

Mike Ashworth, published by Bodleian Library

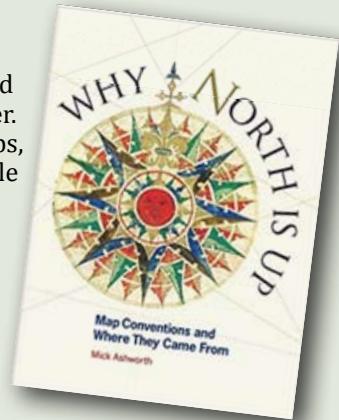
Mike Ashworth's book 'Why North Is Up: Map Conventions and Where They Came From' does exactly what it says on the cover. It is lavishly illustrated with over 100 high quality colour maps, many of which are drawn from the publisher's own remarkable collection. The book could easily have been a dry academic tome, simply explaining why conventions are necessary on maps and why particular ones have been chosen. Happily this is far from the case. The text is peppered with fascinating stories that lie behind many of the mapping conventions that we now take for granted. An example is the use of vertical lines on maps to enable distances to be represented and to aid navigation. One such line, the Greenwich Meridian, agreed in 1884, is the accepted international standard. As early as 100CE, Ptolemy used the position of the Canary Islands as the prime meridian on his maps because they were the most westerly known point on the Earth at that time!

The book is comprised of seven main parts which cover the entire range of conventions that people are likely to come across when using a map. These sections cover Map Structure, Symbols, Representation of Relief, Names and Boundaries through to examples of Thematic Maps and Special Conventions. The final part briefly covers Post-Convention Mapping and describes some of the ways that technology is changing how maps are generated and used. The author argues that map making is now being democratised. Projects such as OpenStreetMap (OSM) are driven and controlled by its own users and have proved immensely powerful, especially in parts of the world that historically have been poorly mapped.

The main reason the book initially caught my attention was its title. The statement, Why North is Up is key to the use of conventions in maps. They are necessary so that information can be shown with consistency on a map thus enabling it to be understood and used reliably. The fact is that north isn't actually up at all, it is just a convention that has been adopted. The point of the title is to illustrate that unless we know the orientation of a map, i.e. that north is at the top then it is next to useless. The author points out that this has not always been the case. A clue is in the word 'orientation' itself, its origin is the Latin word *oriens* which means east and many historical maps had east at the top.

Many conventions have stood the test of time but the world around us is constantly changing and from time to new conventions become necessary. Two of the most recently devised Ordnance Survey symbol conventions identify the location of electric car charging points and solar farms. (Reproduced here ©Crown copyright 2020 Ordnance Survey. Media 028/20.)

I can't recommend Mike Ashworth's book highly enough.
Mel Bale, Webmaster and Trustee





Besides the main archive at Taylor House, the Society has accumulated a variety of other material that has both current and historical interest. Much of the material produced by the Society itself, such as Annual Reports and Signpost magazines, is already on the website. We also have a number of books and other publications which could be of interest to members. In the near future listings of the material available will start to be added to the website and members will be able to borrow most items. There are a few rare/irreplaceable items and certain key modern reference items which might have to be restricted to being used only at Taylor House. It almost goes without saying that several copies of the Blue Book (Riddall and Trevelyan) are available, as well as two copies of Restoring the Record (Bucks and Wadey).

The table below lists a selection of the books available. Just in this short list there are items that cover:

- The practical aspects of building paths (Agate, Radford).
- Historical sources and research techniques (Beech/Mitchell, Hollowell, West).
- OS maps (Harley, Oliver).
- General histories about the development of roads and tracks (Dodd, Hey, Hindle, Raistrick).
- Walking, access, and footpath issues in a wider context (Purkiss, Roberts, Shercliff, Shoard).

Author	Title	Date	Publisher
Elizabeth Agate	Footpaths - a practical handbook	2004	BTCV
Geraldine Beech and Rose Mitchell	Maps for Family and Local History	2004	The National Archives
A E and E M Dodd	Peakland Roads and Trackways	2000	Landmark Publishing
J B Harley	Ordnance Survey Maps – a descriptive manual	1975	Ordnance Survey
David Hey	Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads	2001	Landmark Publishing
Paul Hindle	Roads and Tracks for Historians	2001	Phillimore
Stephen Hollowell	Enclosure Record for Historians	2000	Phillimore
Richard Oliver	Ordnance Survey Maps. A concise guide for historians	1993	Charles Close Society
James Purkiss	Reclaiming our Rural Highways	2001	Dorset AONB Partnership
Andy Radford	Building Countryside Paths and Tracks	2006	Crowood Press
Arthur Raistrick	Green Roads in the Mid-Pennines	1978	Moorland Publishing
Michael Roberts	Gates and Stiles. The History and Design of British Gates and Stiles	2001	Gold Cockerel
W H Shercliff	Nature's joys are free for all. A History of Countryside Recreation in North East Cheshire (Includes a section on PNFS)	1987	Self-published
Marion Shoard	A Right to Roam	1999	Oxford
John West	Village Records	1997	Phillimore

If any member has items they would be prepared to donate to the Society please get in touch at library@pnfs.org.uk. Because of limited space we can only accept items that are likely to be of lasting value to other members and/or have significant historic value. You may have quite a few treasured guidebooks that have seen you through many an enjoyable walk which you would like to pass on - sorry, but we cannot accept items like this unless they are of special significance. For example, *My Ten Favourite Walks around Buxton* is unlikely to contain anything that is original or not available in numerous other books (or nowadays on websites) and so would be unsuitable for the Library. By contrast, *The South Yorkshire Moors* by Christopher Goddard would be suitable for the Library because of its outstanding detail, presentation, and historical research. (I have already donated a copy.)

If you want to borrow anything, or receive a fuller listing of what is available - prior to the listing going on the website - please use the email address given above. Borrowers will have to come to Taylor House as it will be impractical to send things out by mail.

Andrew Harter, Footpath Inspector and Taylor House Volunteer

Memorial at Drinkwaters

Recently whilst walking to inspect PNFS signpost S527 on Great Hill, situated between Chorley and Darwen, I came across an unusual and discreet memorial at Drinkwaters. A bench has been formed out of two large stone blocks, undoubtedly from the ruins of the adjacent farm, which are decorated with stainless steel silhouettes of eleven runners and next to it are two short upright stones: one has a black silhouette of a runner inscribed with "Joe", and the other has the inscription "Joe fell runner 1939-1991".



Investigation on the internet reveals that Joe Whitter was a fell runner well known for his ultra-distance runs over the moors. A spring runs through Drinkwaters and its water was frequently drunk by him on his runs.

Shirley M Addy, Editor and Footpath Inspector

New Public Path in Sheffield

The photographs show new public footpath signposts erected recently by Sheffield City Council on a non-definitive footpath not far from where I live. It is well used by locals and has had 'A' frame stiles at both ends for years. The Car Brook, which runs through the site, is part of the historic boundary of the Sheffield Deer Park at Manor Lodge which was owned by the Earls of Shrewsbury and the Dukes of Norfolk. Mary Queen of Scots stayed at the Lodge during her time as a prisoner in Sheffield.

The footpath runs from Fishponds Road to Spinkhill Avenue on the Woodthorpe estate, through part of Car Brook Ravine Nature Reserve which is council owned and managed by the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. I am also a Trust volunteer who monitors the Reserve.

I persuaded the Council to dedicate the footpath as public and it will be adopted by the Rights of Way Unit and added to the Definitive Map and Statement (DM&S) by means of a Legal Event Modification Order. It runs from SK3933 8558 at Fishponds Road to SK3935 8578 at Spinkhill Avenue.

John Harker, Area Officer Sheffield



Fed-up with finding paths obstructed or overgrown? Become a footpath inspector for PNFS!

Monitor rights of way on behalf of the Society

- in an area you have agreed to inspect
- at your own pace
- in your own time
- find the paths on our unique database
- record your inspections
- report problems

Have the satisfaction of supporting the work of the Society and protecting our right to walk public footpaths.

If you are interested contact Footpath Inspection Coordinator, David Gosling
07841647275 or by email inspection@pnfs.org.uk.



Seven Signposts Walk

I am an inspector of PNFS signposts that have grid references beginning with SD - as well as a footpath inspector - and early last year I devised a walk that would involve seven signposts in the Darwen area of the West Pennines. It is 5.6 miles long, moderate walking on clear paths on excellent ground with very little mud and great views. My directions are very brief so you need to carry Ordnance Survey's Explorer 287 map, but you should have no difficulty in following the signposts' directions.



Start at the Royal Arms pub, Tockholes, Darwen, BB3 0PA, grid reference SD66531 21496. Take your pick of two large free car parks here. From here follow the south-east bridleway over open moorland for nearly a mile to the first sign S537 at the edge of a wood.

Walk the path between the wood on the right and contours on the left. Once on the moor, follow the second path on the right which goes above Duckshaw Clough on the right. Turn onto the sharp right hand path to cross the brook onto White Hill. The second sign S306 is soon ahead of you.

From this signpost take a footpath on the left going south to the first of three signposts that are close to each other, S305, S304 and F30. The last one is a fingerpost with two green narrow plates.

After pondering upon plaque below the fingerpost commemorating the 'Tragedy on the Moors' of December 1917, continue walking east to the sixth signpost S303.

From this penultimate signpost of our walk, take the footpath north towards a gate onto a road. Do not go through here but instead to through another gate higher up on your right. This takes you onto a permissive and safer route to the road further on, where you cross over to enter Roddlesworth woods. Walk the footpath and soon you come onto the ruins of Hollinshead Hall and the seventh signpost S538.

As you pass this signpost, pick up the track north. After nearly a mile of woodland, a footpath rises east. This climbs to the road opposite the Royal Arms, where they served excellent local beers and light meals. Nearby is a cafe and information centre.

I enjoyed my walk, which was the first time in the West Pennines for many years, so much that my husband adopted it when he led a group of about 15 former colleagues on a monthly walk.

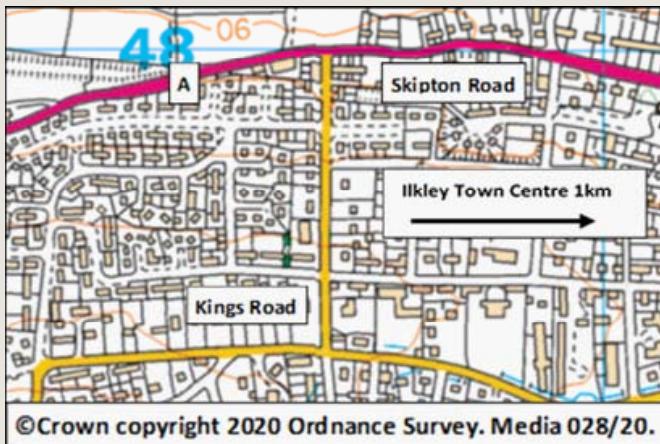
For more details of each signpost's location, go to peakandnorthern.org.uk/signposts/where-they-are.htm.

Shirley M Addy, Editor and Footpath Inspector



The Long, Slow Lingering Death of Ilkley 8

This OS Explorer extract of the Ilkley area shows a short length of Public Footpath leaving Kings Road and abruptly ending between residential properties. So what happens at the north end of the path? Is there perhaps a non-definitive path carrying on northwards that is too narrow to show at 1:25k scale? I could not find any path leading off Kings Road, nor is one shown on Bradford's on-line ROW map.



An enquiry to the ROW Unit revealed that the path was originally part of a much longer path (Ilkley 8) that extended to Skipton Road at point A. The entire path was extinguished in 1964, but a short length has survived on modern OS maps – apparently without anyone noticing until now. What makes this doubly strange is that at the time of closure Rights of Way were not routinely shown on 1:25k maps. When the first local Pathfinder was published in 1974 the fragment of Ilkley 8 was shown, so the original mistake must have happened then. I have also found three lengths of Public Footpath (totalling a few hundred metres) on the current Explorer map that were actually closed in the 1980s when the dual carriageway Aire Valley Road was built near Keighley (also in Bradford). The ROW Unit said they would alert OS to all these errors – that was several months ago.

Just prior to submitting this article I checked the on-line Explorer map at <https://www.bing.com/maps/> and found that all the paths mentioned above are still shown. However, when I checked the Explorer map on the MAGIC website (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>) I found they had been removed. Hopefully the corrections will filter through onto the Bing Maps site in the not too distant future. In a previous Signpost article I reported how I had found various errors affecting Rights of Way in Leeds on the Explorer map. None of those errors have yet been corrected on either of the websites.

Andrew Harter, PNFS Inspector and Taylor House Volunteer

Parish Notes ~ Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley

This parish lies mostly in the Bowland AONB and boasts the greatest total length of public rights of ways as well as the longest name in the Ribble Valley. Its name comes from three ancient hamlets but Hurst Green, which is popular with visitors, is its only village.

The world-famous Stonyhurst College is just outside the village. It was founded by the Jesuits in St Omer during the 16th century but moved to Hurst Green two centuries later.



Many of its pupils became well known, such as Arthur Conan Doyle, Charles Laughton, Henry McGee, and Bill Cash. It is believed that Doyle got the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes' arch enemy from two brothers

named Moriarty. Photo shows one of the college's three crosses that is near a PROW.

J R R Tolkien's son, Christopher was also a pupil, although it was not until after the blockbuster movies of *The Lord of the Rings* was made that the Ribble Valley Borough recognised the potential of this connection to attract more visitors to Hurst Green. Tolkien visited his son at the college and it is believed that parts of the surrounding countryside inspired him while he wrote his trilogy. There is a six mile Tolkien Trail.



Hurst Green has a Second Boer War memorial. A few minutes walk south of the village is Dinckley bridge (see *Signpost*, winter 2019) and the Ribble Way runs

through this pleasant part of the river. Not far from here the rivers Calder and Hodder join the Ribble. North of the village is Longridge Fell, which is England's most southerly fell.

The parish has 66 kilometres of footpaths and bridleways over a varied and beautiful landscape, some of the best in the Ribble Valley. I have walked much in it, but recently I decided to inspect all of its PROWs. I found myself being dismayed at the dilapidated condition of numerous stiles, several untidy farmyards and obstructions (see photos). It is more of a let-down when one considers that the area is part of an AONB and which is promoted as the inspiration of Tolkien's masterpiece.

I have one more visit to conclude my inspection of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley. As I have resolved to take a much robust view of its faults I report to the Lancashire County Council, if I do not get any results I shall ask Jenny Allen, PNFS Courts and Inquiries Officer, to pursue the more severe ones.



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



Book Review: Navigation

by Pete Hawkins, published by Cicerone

Recently reissued as a second edition, Navigation was first printed in 2007 and became a best selling outdoor skills guide. Subtitled Techniques and skills for walkers, this book is aimed for walkers who seek to learn how to use a map and compass and those wishing to refresh their old, perhaps forgotten, skills. The book is handy pocket A5 size with over 150 colour laminated pages and covered by a PVC sleeve. There is also a clear plastic navigation aid which serves as a Romer, timing chart, and a pacing chart for the reader to fill in.

As a qualified mountain leader, the author is suitably qualified to write on navigation. He also runs a navigation school from Tideswell, where he lives, consequently his map illustrations cover areas of the surrounding Peak District.

The author begins by stressing the importance of having the ability to read a map and use a compass. A great point that he makes is that such skills enable walkers to enjoy access land and leave the path behind - a rarely exercised privilege. Confidence in map reading and using a compass gives the freedom to roam under the CROW Act 2000. As a personal view, I will add that having such confidence is both liberating and very satisfying.

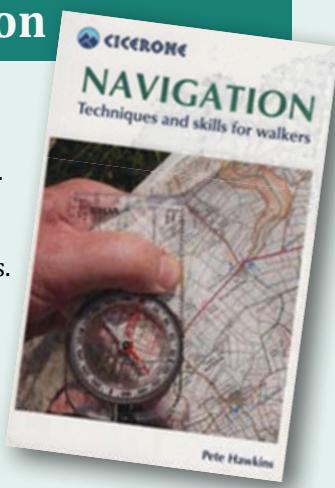
The first few chapters deal with maps, grid references and rights of way. There is a very useful chapter on how to read contours and other map symbols - do you really know all about the green and black dashes and dots? In case you wondered why the tops of quarries look flat on Ordnance Survey maps, it is because contour lines are usually omitted in quarries but we tend not to walk in these areas.

The following chapters cover the different types of compass, how to use one, take bearings and find magnetic north. Lastly, the author deals with navigation, including techniques such as aiming off, back bearing and leapfrogging. Navigating in bad conditions and at night, route planning and the use of a GPS device are also covered.

As a voluntary countryside ranger for the Lancashire Countryside Service until its closure in 2016, I took an advanced navigation course. I therefore read this book with much interest and I found it to be a great 'refresher course.' There is a lot to learn and the author explains matters very clearly and uses numerous illustrations, most of which are helpful but contain a couple of typographical errors. He also lists many practical exercises, including one that could be used at a Christmas party!

The late Eric Langmuir began his book Mountaincraft and Leadership with the words 'Navigation is fun!' I share some of both these authors' enthusiasm, if not their great skills, in using map and compass. Navigation is to be recommended for both beginners and also for walkers experienced in map and compass techniques.

Shirley M Addy, Editor and Footpath Inspector



A Walk in Words Only

The ethos of PNFS is set out in the constitution. I joined hoping to contribute to the aims in exchange for the pleasure I get when out walking. So while I'm happy to spend time inspecting, reporting and researching there are days when I want to get out there and just enjoy the path network.

The forecast was good for a Saturday in January so after all the rain which had made local walks a muddy experience I planned a walk in limestone country. Please don't take offence if I mention a parish with an inspector.

I had been pleased to walk a section of the long abandoned Cromford and High Peak Railway (CHPR) which the Peak District Boundary Walk (PDBW) uses near Errwood Reservoir and had walked or cycled the High Peak and Tissington Trails. So the section around Harpur Hill to Landmanlow beckoned.

While it's difficult to determine which route was the CHPR, remains do show as features on the OS map and some are recorded as footpaths. My earlier recollections of the area were of moonscape and filming of Bond films but it is developing as an industrial estate, transport hub and scrapyards. Not the most inviting of walk locations.

The area is also home to the Health and Safety Executive Laboratory and Sheffield University. Hartington Upper Quarter FP142 follows the line of the CHPR on a high embankment offering views across the HSE site. It also serves as a site road. The many paths across the site are well signed and notices remind walkers to stay on the paths as there are hazards and CCTV is in operation.

Walking along the exposed embankment I snapped a few views on the camera which is nothing special, equal perhaps to using a mobile phone. The site and road appeared deserted on this Saturday but then I noticed a van approaching which drew alongside and the driver spoke to me. "You can't take pictures here". I replied that I was on a public path but he responded that it is a Government site and photography is not allowed. I replied that there are no notices to prohibit this and he countered that this deficiency has been reported to management. Clearly he would not direct my attention to sensitive installations when I indicated I'd seen nothing to warrant the prohibition. My final salvo was to point out that a public notice stating that consent had been sought from High Peak Borough Council for the storage of a hazardous substance, 2.5 tonnes of liquid hydrogen, an invite to nefarious activity if ever there was one. He didn't confiscate my camera or ask that the images be deleted but he clearly had made the journey specifically to confront me as he then turned the van round and returned from whence he had come. I can only assume that my activity had been monitored by the said CCTV.

I continued on my planned walk, avoiding any close inspection of the CHP when the footpath left the route. I'd love to know what the HSE does with 2.5 tonnes of liquid hydrogen but then if I did know I suspect I wouldn't be able to tell you.

Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector

Signpost Report

The weather from November to January has been an obstacle.

New Signposts - Just 4 have been installed since October, taking the total to 526:
S599 at SD 67995 33286, Ashes Farm, Salesbury, FPs 6, 7 and 8
S600 at SJ 50119 53265 on the Sandstone Trail and Bickerton FP9, thanks to the NT
S603 at SD 70443 32934, Little Snodworth, Wilpshire, FPs 12, 13 and 14
S604 at SD 70417 32978, Little Snodworth, Wilpshire, FP 13.

Ready and Waiting (for dryer ground)

S594 at Stydd Farm, Ribchester
S598 at Ashes Farm, Copster Green
S601 and 602 at Pain Hill Farm, Slaiburn

Ready for reinstatement

S142 at Shutlingsloe after shot-blasted and powder-coated (SB&PC)
S222 at Dam Side Farm, Peak Forest (SB&PC)

Coming soon - Plates for S605 at Brown's Houses, Silverdale FP14 and S606 at Butterley on Ashover FPs133/134

Maintenance

Plate for S39 on Eccles Road at Chapel FP13 has been SB&PC and highlighted, post ok
Plate for S334 north of Shaw Farm, New Mills has been SB&PC and highlighted
S161 has been reinstated on a new post at Jenkin Chapel after SB&PC
S170 has been reinstated on a post + concrete stump at Lydgate near Owler Bar after SB&PC
S299's post had rotted and fallen, so I have recovered it from Tom Wood. I then checked 300 and 297

As part of my efforts to inspect signposts in faraway places, I took a trip south to Staffordshire and checked and cleaned signs at Mixon (S405/6*/7), Onecote (540/1), Ipstones (380), Oakamoor (422) and the Weaver Hills (352/3/4).

Memorial plaques have been ordered for S605 at Brown's Houses, Silverdale and S173 at Taxal. The former recognizes a donation from ex Signpost Officer, Fred Ogden. The latter is a replacement for the original, in memory of David Jonathan Clare, which lasted for twenty years but has now been stolen.

*Before and after photographs of S406 at Mixon, near Onecote, Staffs. It is a memorial to Mike Barnes, our previous webmaster and inspector of numerous parishes in faraway places. They illustrate what can be done in 5-10 minutes with 500 ml of water and a good scrubbing brush.

David Morton, Signpost Officer



Walks for PNFS Members

All walks are on Wednesdays - ALWAYS check all train times and pnfs.org.uk for any updates

Short Walks

John Fisher, Walks Co-ordinator

11 March - Leader Dave Rigby (01484 846412). Greenfield circular, 7 miles, some hills; Manchester Piccadilly 10:17 or from Huddersfield 10:28; walk starts Greenfield station 10:50

8 April - Leader Tony Littler (01270 87956, mob 07812 069869). Congleton circular via The Cloud, 8 miles, steep in parts; Manchester Piccadilly 09:44; walk starts Congleton station 10:30

13 May - Leader Ross Myddelton (07941 547378). Walsden circular, 7 miles, along Reddyshore Scout and Chelburn Moor; Manchester Victoria (Leeds train) at 10:37; walk starts Walsden station 11:05

10 June - Leader Ken Smith (07918 154959). Greenfield circular (clockwise), 8 miles, ascent 1,320 ft; Manchester Piccadilly 9:58 to Greenfield 10:22, OR Manchester Victoria 09:52 and change at Stalybridge, OR Huddersfield 09:28; walk starts Greenfield station 10:35

8 July - Leader Brian Lomas (0161 688 5237). Hale to Knutsford, 7 miles, level; Manchester Piccadilly 10:41; walk starts Hale station 11:15

12 August - Leader John Fisher (01625 439298, mob 07432 825624). Linear walk, Edale to Hope, over Lose Hill, 6 miles, hilly; Manchester Piccadilly 09:41 or Sheffield 10:14; walk starts Edale station 10:50



Longer walk in February 2020
led by Tony Littler

Longer Walks

David Bratt, Walks Co-ordinator

25 March - Leader Phil Gadsby (01617 485757). Linear walk Horwich to Wigan, 10 miles moderate; Manchester Piccadilly 09:57; walk starts Horwich Parkway railway station 10:30

29 April - Leader Bill Minshall (07518 926031). Alderley Edge circular walk, 10 miles/1200 ft ascent; Manchester Piccadilly 09:30; walk starts Alderley Edge railway station 10:20

27 May - Leader Dianne Fortescue (07796 954930). Grindleford circular walk, 10 miles/1000 ft ascent inc Carl Wark and Higger Tor; Manchester Piccadilly 09:42 (arr 10:43) or from Sheffield 10:14 (arr 10:29); walk starts Grindleford railway station 10:45

24 June - Leaders Ken Brockway (01773 287225) and John Kidd (01283 701991). Linear walk Dore and Totley to Hathersage, 12 miles/1900 ft ascent; Manchester Piccadilly 09:42 (arr 10:51), Sheffield connection arr 10:21; walk starts Dore and Totley railway station 10:55

29 July - Leader Ross Myddelton (07941 547378). Linear walk Silverdale to Arnside, 10 miles/1000 ft ascent, walk takes in Brown's Houses (newly won PROW), Jennys Point and Arnside Knott; Manchester Piccadilly 08:26 (change Lancaster) or 08:47 (change Wigan and Lancaster); walk starts Silverdale rwy stn 10.30

26 August - Leader Dave Rigby (01484 846412). Linear walk Marsden to Greenfield, 10 miles/1200 ft ascent via Pennine Way and Cotton Famine Road; Manchester Piccadilly 09:58 also Huddersfield 09:53; walk starts Marsden railway station 10:35

The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society

Taylor House, 23 Turncroft Lane, Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4AB
Registered Charity No 212219
0161 480 3565

mail@pnfs.org.uk

Signpost Wanted?

PNFS signposts have again been in demand by members, both as memorials and to commemorate anniversaries of walking groups, couples and individuals.

If you are interested in one for yourself or your group, contact David Morton by email at davidcmorton@ntlworld.com or by phoning 0161 283 7824.

They cost £375 and there are several ready and waiting in our region. Paying for one will help PNFS to fund more and future maintenance is assured, up to and including shot-blasting and powder-coating, as well as cleaning, repainting and reposting.



***Signpost is edited and published for the Society by
Shirley M Addy***

**Contact via editor@pnfs.org.uk or by post via Taylor House
Deadline dates for copy: 15 February, 15 May, 15 August
and 15 November**

Copyright of the original material belongs to individual authors, unless stated otherwise. No part of the magazine may be reproduced in any form without prior written permission of the Society. The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

Design and print by Lymetrees - telephone/text 07984 059150