

Magazine of the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

# Signpost

Number 77 - Autumn 2023



Crich crossing of Footpaths 10 and 12. Unusual fingers with destinations shown. How much longer will the barn roof last?

*Photograph by Ken Brockway*



## From the Chair

What a strange summer we seem to have had - hot and dry in June and soaking wet in July. If like me, you have an allotment you may have been surprised to have so much produce to collect but walking has been more of a challenge. As well as the weather issues I unfortunately lost two months after an accident on the wonderful allotment and was delighted to get a boot back on a couple of weeks ago. I was able to tackle some paths before then, but only easy ones which could be walked in sandals.

Whatever the challenges, the work of our volunteers at PNFS goes on. We held our Annual General Meeting in May, which was very successful with about forty members present. At the end of the formal meeting colleagues from the Ramblers gave an interesting talk to update on their new strategy and focus on inclusion, followed by questions. There was a commitment from both Ramblers and PNFS to work more closely and maximise the efforts of both organisations.

Sometimes it feels that our Courts and Inquiries officers and others are working incredibly hard, often putting many hours into individual footpath issues, but with slow progress by some councils. In the past few months there have been some notable successes which we will report on the website. These and all the smaller improvements which take place demonstrate the impact of the society.

Trustees have been discussing our social media presence and increasing the potential to influence and attract new members. I would like to thank Jenny Allen for the work she has been doing to support this over the past few years. She has now stepped down as a Trustee and from this role. We have another volunteer who will take over responsibility for our social media posts and will share information

about this and how we plan to increase our impact over the coming months.

After the success of the training day for footpath inspectors earlier in the year we plan to hold another in the autumn or winter. There have been some new recruits recently so do look out for news of this if you have taken on the role in the last few months.

Our half year meeting (HYM) will be held in Sheffield on 18 November. Details appear overleaf. I hope to see you there. Trustees continue to discuss strategic and operational issues in order to ensure the society thrives and can meet its objects. We will be meeting, together with other volunteers, in October and will be able to report our progress at the HYM.

Another important area of our work is the creation and maintenance of signposts. I took some time to examine one I walked past a couple of weeks ago and thought, not just how beautiful it looked, but how useful it was in wayfinding. David Morton, our signposts officer and his small team work tirelessly to tend and build them. However, some areas have more than others, for example they are quite prevalent in the Peak District, but, for example, rather scant in Staffordshire. So, if when you are out walking you see a good spot for one do contact David, who will be delighted to consider your proposal.

I hope to see some members on 2 September when I will be leading a walk from Eyam. Enjoy what is left of the summer and let's look forward to a lovely, warm Autumn.

*Kathy Mclean, Chair*





## The Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

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## Half Year Meeting

**Saturday, 18 November 2023**  
**Commences at 10 am**  
**(coffee and tea from 9.30 am)**

At Victoria Hall,  
Norfolk St,  
Sheffield City Centre,  
Sheffield S1 2JB

### Programme

**10:00 - 11:15** Update on the Society's activities

**11:30 - 13:00** Guest Speaker:

Dr Jim Leary, University of York whose talk is *Footmarks: an Archaeology of Movement*

Jim Leary is a Senior Lecturer in Field Archaeology at the University of York. He researches prehistoric landscapes, and has excavated sites such as Silbury Hill, Marden henge, and Cat's Brain long barrow.

A passionate walker, he is also fascinated by the way people moved around in the past and the benefits studying past mobilities can bring to archaeology.

He has edited two volumes on the subject (Past Mobilities, and Moving on in Neolithic Studies) and written a paper for the journal *Antiquity* (Pathways to Past Ways). In his new book, *Footmarks*, he follows the footsteps of early hunter-gatherers preserved in mud, and treads ancient trackways hollowed by feet over time. Passing drovers, wayfarers, and medieval pilgrims, *Footmarks* reveals how people have always been on the move.



# Seen these? Use Path Checker app!



Did you know that PNFS has its own smartphone app called Path Checker? Path Checker is free and can be downloaded from both the App Store and Google Play.



It has three features. By default it shows the user's grid reference and allows them to enter details of a fault have just encountered. An existing or new photograph can be selected and then all the details emailed to the society by pressing a submit button.

The other two features are available via the 'Map' and 'PNFS' icons at the bottom of the screen. The former shows the society's signposts and bridges via standard location icons. Selecting an icon shows a photograph of the signpost/bridge along with its details. 'PNFS' provides three links to the society's website, 'Join Us', 'Support Us' and 'About Us'.

Our new app simplifies the reporting of a fault. Why not download it now and try it out? Tell your friends and family about it as well.

*Mel Bale,  
Trustee,  
Membership  
Secretary and  
Webmaster*



# PNFS Social Media

Mark Chung, a member from Colne, has agreed to look after social media for the Society from the end of August. He is a footpath inspector in Pendle.

Members are invited to send any news items for Facebook or Instagram to [markechung@pnfs.org.uk](mailto:markechung@pnfs.org.uk).



## Regional Meeting for Members and Volunteers in Lancashire

**On Saturday, 14 October 2023  
at the Broughton and District Club**

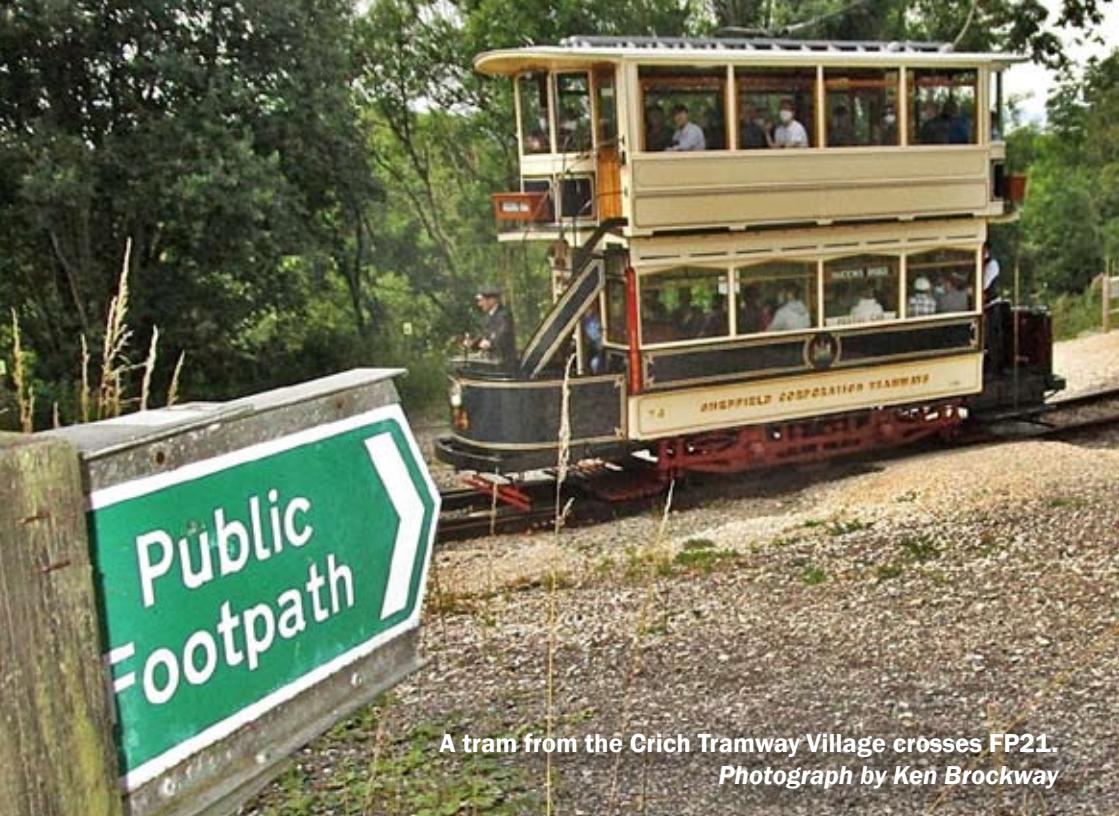
26 Whittingham Lane, Broughton, Preston, PR3 5DA  
01772 863006

The venue will open from 9.30am for the meeting to start at 10 am.  
The meeting will close at 1.30 pm.

**Our speaker will be David Goode, Head of the PROW team,  
Lancashire County Council**

A short walk will be available in the afternoon.

If you intend to attend, please contact David Gosling on [davidgosling@pnfs.org.uk](mailto:davidgosling@pnfs.org.uk).



A tram from the Crich Tramway Village crosses FP21.  
Photograph by Ken Brockway

## PNFS Facebook for Members



There's a Facebook just for PNFS members. Interested? Go to Facebook and search for "Peak & Northern Footpaths Society Members' Group" and then ask to join.

Recent

- Village Sign Society
- Peak & Northern Footpaths Society Members' Group
- RDF Blackburn UK
- British village signs & their history
- ISSE
- The Works of H. Rider Haggard
- Rider Haggard Society
- villagesignsociety

PEAK & NORTHERN  
MEMBERS

Peak & Northern Footpaths Society  
Members' Group

Discussion   Featured   Rooms   Members   Events   Media   Files

## Thurnham FP53

While on a visit to Lancashire I spotted, new to me, an interesting footpath related notice. It was fixed to the support post of a finger post at the start of Thurnham FP53. It stated “Lancashire County Council, Damage to this sign will result in prosecution”.

Good news I thought, having recently attended a forum where this very issue was raised when the head of rights of way admitted that no such prosecutions were known to have taken place. I’m sure many of us are aware of signs that vanish and suspect involvement by the landowner.

A recent edition of *Signpost* reported on action by a PNFS member to maintain a sign that kept being removed, with I hear, an approach by the culprit on a later walk. Not only is the interference with signs an inconvenience to path users it’s a financial burden on the overstretch budgets of Rights of Way sections if they need to return time and time again to replace or repair signs.

So if we do discover evidence leading to apprehension of the perpetrator we should pass this to the the Highway Authority and if that is Lancashire it “will result in prosecution”.

*Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector*



## Useful Websites

The following websites are useful for finding the routes and numbers of buses.

**<https://bustimes.org/>**

This website shows the location of bus stops which can be very helpful since many timetables only show timing stops.

**<http://www.busatlas.uk>**

This excellent website covers quite a large area of England covered roughly by county and is useful if visiting ‘foreign parts’.

Thanks go to David Brown, Secretary and Wilpshire Parish Council for these links.



## 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.*

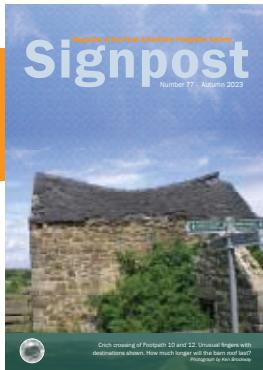
**If you are interested contact Footpath Inspection Coordinator, David Gosling 07841647275 or by email [inspection@pnfs.org.uk](mailto:inspection@pnfs.org.uk)**

## 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 portrait format is preferred. Photographs in landscape format may be accepted but will be heavily cropped.

Please email your photograph with some brief location and/or PROW details to *Signpost* editor at [editor@pnfs.org.uk](mailto: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.



# Pointing the Way

Photographs by Ken Brockway



Footbridge over the River Goyt at Taxal from Whaley Bridge FP70 part of the Peak District Boundary Walk



Cubley FP13 to Marston Montgomery looking across the valley of Cubley Brook

# Thorny Issues - 'Beware the Dog'

An article in *British Wildlife* (Vol 34, No 7, June 2023) draws attention to the 'ecological and environmental impacts of pet dogs.' (p487). The author, Stephen Harris, identifies ways in which pet dogs adversely impact wildlife. This is particularly so in restricted areas such as beaches and areas of conservation importance. Drawing on a wide range of research he illustrates some of the problems caused by the presence of dogs, especially those allowed to roam off-leash.

'Faeces are one of the more contentious impacts of dog ownership.' (p491). It is thought that the amount of faeces deposited by dogs in the UK is 400,000 tonnes per annum. Nitrogen and phosphorus from dog waste result in changes to the plant diversity in areas frequented by pet dogs. This can be most easily seen around the base of trees that are often urinated on by countless dogs. Bacteria from dog waste can pollute beaches, coastal areas and rivers. Many dog walkers do 'bag up' their dog's waste, but all too often these bags can be found hanging from bushes or simply discarded alongside paths.

Compounds in treatments for fleas, lice and ticks are leached into water and, 'a recent study detected 'fipronil' and the neonicotinoid 'imidacloprid', two neurotoxic pesticides commonly used in veterinary flea products, in 98% and 66%



of English rivers respectively. (Perkins et al: Potential role of veterinary flea products in widespread pesticide contamination of English rivers. *Science of the Total Environment* 755:143560). It is not unusual to see dogs 'playing' in streams or chasing after birds and other wildlife, the author points out that such activities do sometimes have unexpected and undesirable consequences .

Dogs and their walkers are welcomed on many nature reserves and the benefits of pet dogs, for example in relation to improved mental health, is well documented. Dog ownership has seen a dramatic rise since 2010, with an increase from 8.3 million to at least 10.2 million and possibly much higher. Does their negative impact on sensitive environments outweigh these benefits to individuals? Should access to dogs be restricted in such areas?

*Pauline Williams, Member*



Anyone who knows Doncaster wouldn't necessarily think of hills, so why should one of its largest parishes include 'hill' in its name. The answer could have something to do with the old adage, 'in the kingdom of the blind the one eyed man is king'. In other words, in an otherwise flat landscape even small hills are significant, so why not name a settlement after one of them! The first part of the name is thought to refer to a person called Tica or a ticce, a young goat. Tickhill isn't mentioned in the Doomsday book, it was first referred to as Tikehill in the 12th century.

Researches into the history of places and their names, inevitably shows how land was appropriated and subsequently divided up. Tickhill is a case in point, 'The Honour of Tickhill' was given by William the Conqueror to Roger de Busli who subsequently built a castle on the hill. A township grew up around it and by the Middle Ages it was the second most important town after Doncaster in what today is called South Yorkshire.

Historically drainage across parts of Doncaster has been problematic to say the least. The River Thorn flows to the south of the town and its tendency to flood may explain in part why the town failed to grow to the size of other nearby settlements. Most recently severe floods occurred in 2007 and 2008. Despite the introduction of new flood defences in 2018, there were further floods in 2019.

Whilst little remains of the castle, there are a number of prominent and interesting buildings to look out for. The Buttercross, signifying Tickhill's status as a market town, was built by the Reverend Christopher Alderson in 1777. Just as impressive are the Parish Rooms. Originally built in 1470 as a hospice, it is a Grade II listed building. Since then it has served the town in many ways, necessitating alterations and repairs. St. Mary's Church bought the building in 1898 and subsequently converted it into a meeting room for the use of the community.

The small settlement of Stancil (SK 60782 95920), roughly 2 km north of the town centre has a macabre past. In 1938 a new barn was being built when human remains were discovered. A subsequent excavation by a team led by Professor Whiting of Durham University, revealed that the area had once been the site of a Roman Villa. Two large rooms were uncovered as well as the remains of a nearby bath house. The most surprising discovery was perhaps that of at least thirty human skeletons! They were mostly male and of varying ages, including children. The skeletons showed little sign of trauma, so it is possible that the area had been used as rough burial ground.

Tickhill has a rich history and there is plenty to explore. It is an ideal place for a relatively undemanding but interesting walk.

*Mel Bale, Membership Secretary and Trustee*

# Summary of Decision: The Order is Confirmed

On **28 June 2023** a certain email, long anticipated, dropped into my inbox. Three months had passed since the inspector, appointed to represent the Secretary of State at DEFRA, closed the public inquiry at the Sandiacre Cricket Club in Derbyshire. It had been called to decide a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) which, if confirmed, would add a public footpath to the Definitive Map & Statement (DM&S) for the parish of Risley just up the road from the inquiry venue.

That incoming email told me that the appointed inspector had decided to confirm that DMMO, thus bringing to an end 23 years of uncertainty. A case which did a lot to demonstrate that the few things in life one can be sure of include death, taxes, and the speed at which DM&S cases get resolved. Shakespeare had Hamlet talking about: “the law’s delays ...” Dickens wrote about “*Jarndyce v Jarndyce*” in “*Bleak House*”. This case was up there with the best of them, but then I’m biased.

Turn back the clock to **April 2003**. Local residents in Risley find that an unrecorded footpath that some of them had used for over 20 years had been blocked off by the landowner. It happens all over the country regularly. The law recognises that if such a route is disputed there needs to be a mechanism for resolving that dispute. It’s called the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 section 53. A Risley village resident decided that she would seek redress through that mechanism. She sought advice on the procedure, got a number of User Evidence Forms (UEFs) from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and asked other locals to fill them in. She completed all the steps required by the legislation and sent off her application to DCC. So far, so good.

In **2005**, DCC carry out a public consultation to elicit views about the application and flush out any additional evidence, either for or against the existence of this claimed path. This is the Society’s first inkling of the situation, as an organisation such as ours would be consulted. The DCC case officer would assess all the submitted evidence from the applicant, landowner and any other consultee and carry out further research before drafting a report to committee with a recommendation. This takes a further three years. That **2008** recommendation was to refuse the application. First round to the landowner, but the process had only just begun ...

A right of appeal against a refusal is part of the process, and the applicant exercised her right. The case had to be decided by an independent inspector acting on behalf of the Secretary of State at DEFRA, appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) based in Bristol. He assessed all the available written witness evidence from both sides and the comments of DCC and came to the conclusion that whilst there wasn’t any irrefutable evidence that a public right of way existed, there was no irrefutable evidence that it didn’t. Therefore, the law in such a circumstance dictates that a DMMO should be published and he “directed” DCC to do so. Second round to the applicant. That was in **2009**. A further two years later, in **July 2011**, the DMMO was published and the landowner objected to it.

You might think that eight years is long enough to sort this out. Actually, DCC had done reasonably well up to now. Eight years in the world of the DM&S is but a blink of the eye. What happened next is far less laudable. Ten years, YES **TEN YEARS**, passed before DCC referred the DMMO to PINS to determine the outcome. In **2021**, PINS started the ball rolling and this Society was informed, as we are about all cases in PNFS territory. This is where yours truly entered the fray (*drum roll please, editor*).

This Society was established in 1894 to fight for the recognition of a disputed path as being public. Therefore, to me it seemed a 'no brainer' that, if possible, we assist anybody in the same plight as those people in 1894. As a lay person has minimal knowledge of the intricacies of DM&S law and the procedures for resolving a contested DMMO, I felt strongly that I should offer what advice and assistance I could to the applicant trying to win this battle. The offer was gladly received and accepted.

What 'raw material' did I have to build a case for a confirmed DMMO? Out of 20 plus witnesses who filled out UEFs, most had died or moved away and were untraceable. Of the remaining eight, seven were members of three families. Two of them had been children when they had used the path concerned but were now adults. Anybody in this line of 'business' will tell you that as wide a spread of different users is much better, but you have to go with what you have. In our favour was the determination of those eight people to see this through come what may.

Initially, PINS had decided that the matter could be resolved in writing without the need for face to face cross examination of witnesses and their evidence. This was still the period of Covid 19 restrictions on gatherings. Then, the appointed inspector decided that since the case for and against rested on personal testimony, he wanted to see witnesses give evidence and be cross examined by the other side. Then he could better assess its veracity and decide whose evidence was more believable. So a hearing was called but a 'remote' one via the internet. If you dear reader have ever suffered the vagaries of a 'remote' event with its myriad ways of frustrating you, you will get close to what I felt when I heard this. However, fortune smiled, and restrictions eased on non-family gatherings so the decision was taken by PINS to call a public local inquiry where the protagonists could see the whites of their opponents' eyes. **Tuesday, 2 August 2022** was the day chosen. The venue was the War Memorial Hall in Risley, a village on the old main road between Derby and Nottingham. My 'Rumpole' moment was approaching.

"Mission creep" is the term military people use to describe something that seems 'doable' initially without too much expenditure of 'assets', but seems to grow out of control because of circumstances that hadn't been anticipated. I felt a bit like that when I realised that I was going to have to get my witnesses to give evidence, be cross examined by a possibly hostile opposition, and then do the same myself to the objector's witnesses. Even more so when I heard that the objector had retained a firm of solicitors to put his case and that they had instructed a barrister from a London Chambers to represent him at the inquiry. I told myself it was a good test of my wits to pit them against a professional legal 'eagle'. I told myself also to think twice in future if I wanted to play at being a 'white knight'.

Accommodation would be required. Inquiries start at 10a.m. and traveling from Sheffield to Risley by public transport for a 10a.m. start the same day too problematic for safety. Arriving at my hotel, (paid for out of Society funds dear reader), yards away from the inquiry venue on the Monday afternoon, I checked in and getting to my room decided to check incoming emails. I couldn't believe what I read. With less than 24 hours to go, an email from PINS cancelling the inquiry. The appointed inspector had tested positive for Covid 19!

A rearranged date was set for **18 October 2022**, same venue. This meant that I lost one of my witnesses who had a pre-booked holiday abroad that week. Another witness had travelled up from where she lived in London for the August date. Would she come up a second time with its attendant expense? She would, and did. I booked accommodation again, this time a room above a pub about two miles away. It was considerably cheaper than the August hotel as I felt a pang of guilt at the waste of the

August 'fiasco'. Less cost I thought if things go 'pear shaped' again. What could go wrong I thought? Lots as it happened.

The inspector opened proceedings at 10 am. By noon I was on my way home. That's quick you say. Unbeknownst to me, and almost everyone else, the landowner had sold a narrow strip of land in 2011 to a third party. That land might, just might, include a section of the claimed footpath. We were talking a few metres, and the Land Registry plan didn't help either way. The law is very clear. A landowner who owns land, across which the claimed path runs, should have been sent a copy of the DMMO in 2011, so he/she could decide whether to object or not. DCC hadn't known of the sale of land at that time. Hence the new landowner didn't get a copy and would have to be sent one. The earliest new date that the inspector was available was **28 March 2023**, nearly five months away. It crossed my mind that I might be dead before this case had been resolved. On the plus side, the absent witness from the October inquiry was now available and, at the third time of asking, the witness from London was willing to risk the vagaries of public transport to come and give her evidence.

The venue changed from Risley village hall, to Sandiacre Cricket Club. Fine by me as this was nearer my accommodation above the same pub as the previous October. It was actually the cricket pavilion's bar area, with the row of pumps standing out behind the inspector's head! The "Long Room" at "Lord's" cricket ground it certainly wasn't. If you want to read the inspector's summary of the cases, for and against the existence of the disputed footpath, check out the decision letter as it's called on the central government website. As an advocate, my job was to "accentuate the positive, and eliminate the negative" as the saying goes. Inspectors like to hear witnesses' experiences using a claimed path. The 'background colour' that fleshes out a dry evidence form completed 20 years ago.

[https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/79/messages/81835/ADdP7sBrUNj-ZM3sPAhcoCgVQr8:4?reason=invalid\\_crumb&fullscreen=1](https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/79/messages/81835/ADdP7sBrUNj-ZM3sPAhcoCgVQr8:4?reason=invalid_crumb&fullscreen=1)

One witness bumping into the farmer who was on his tractor cutting hay. Being asked to hold his dog until the tractor was at a safe distance (and not as you might expect be told he was trespassing if the farmer disputed the public's right to use it). The same witness carrying his baby daughter along the path because she wouldn't go to sleep and a walk seemed to settle her. The same baby, now a bit older, is wheeled along the path on her bicycle by her mum and grandma as it was much safer away from traffic. The same baby, now a schoolgirl, walking to and from the village school with friends when it was a fine day, thus avoiding a busy main road. Another witness who ran the path before going to her work as a doctor at a Nottingham hospital (she was retired now). Another witness who exercised her succession of Bernese mountain dogs along the path, despite the farmer saying that he blocked the path off at one end by a piece of agricultural machinery and the other end by a farm gate. No dog that size I argued could be lifted over a blockage such as described by the farmer in his evidence, if that evidence was accurate. Users of the path accessed it because there were gaps adjacent to the alleged obstructions, which had been put in place to prevent vehicles getting in to the field, is what we put to the inspector.

We had to satisfy the inspector that use of the path had been what the law states is "as of right". This means no use of force such as climbing over a gate, no secrecy such as using it in the dark to avoid being seen, and no permission to use it from the landowner. The landowner had to have done enough to convince the inspector that he had challenged public use of the path by blocking it off, putting up signage to tell people it was not a public footpath or by some other effective means. Ultimately, it's clear from the inspector's summary of the conflicting evidence, that he preferred the evidence

that we submitted as being more believable and consistent than the evidence of the landowner and his witnesses, no matter that his case was presented by a barrister. In a criminal case it's decided by "beyond reasonable doubt". In a civil case like this one it was on the "balance of probabilities". This time the balance scales tilted in our favour. The wheels of justice had ground slow, but they ground exceeding small, and another tiny missing piece of the jigsaw of our public rights of way network has been found and put in its rightful place, after being missing for over 20 years.

*John Harker,  
Area Officer Sheffield*



*Photo No 1 - One end of the claimed footpath after being blocked off in 2003*



*Photo No 2 - Walking the claimed footpath with a friend in the 1990s*



*Photo No 3 - The claimed footpath from the eastern end after being blocked off*

*Photographs by Susan Simpson  
John Harker (former Area Officer  
Erewash Borough)*

# It only took forty years – but now this Stockport path can be used again

After PNFS applied significant pressure on Stockport's Rights of Way team, a very long-standing problem on Stockport 119 has been resolved. This pleasant, semi-rural, path is at the beginning of the Cown Edge Way, a local long distance path created by PNFS and the Ramblers in 2002, and is a useful link for local residents from the Bosden Farm estate to Hazel Grove. But both hardy walkers and local residents have found this section of the path to be impossible to use for much of the year.

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Media 026/23



PNFS has been drawing attention to the problem with this path for over forty years! Here are some quotes from reports: "this section has become impassable in anything other than wellingtons" (1980), "boggy, covered by water, mud and dung" (2003), "a stream flows along the line of the path" (2005), "difficult to walk for most of the year" (2018), "the path is flooded for much of the year" (2020). In recent years a second section of the path further to the east has also become flooded, creating another barrier to users of the right of way. This picture (below) shows the extent of the problem in 2020.



When it appeared that Stockport had no plans to rectify this problem, in 2022, John Harker, Courts and Inquiries Officer, notified the authority that he planned to serve a S56 notice unless there was evidence that there was a plan to solve this long-standing issue.

After correspondence from SMBC in June 2022 suggested that they questioned whether the path was indeed 'out of repair', as the Area Officer for Stockport, I began making short videos of the path every month to provide evidence of its condition.

Earlier this year, the Society sought legal advice and was preparing to take the case to a magistrate's court and notified the Authority of its intention.

We heard that Stockport's Rights of Way Officer was consulting with the Mersey Rivers Trust's flood management team and that a plan to build 'leaky dams' had been made. These are intended to reduce the flow of the stream after heavy rain.

PNFS kept up the pressure until on 27 June 2023, I visited the site and found that the 'leaky dams' have been constructed (see photo) by the Mersey Rivers Trust.

I also found that work had been undertaken (on both sites where the path has been flooding) to channel the stream away from the right of way and to create a good path for walkers.

The path remains rather overgrown in one area, and the Society has requested that this vegetation issue is addressed, but in the light of the work undertaken on the stream, the Society withdrew its threat of legal action on 28 June 2023.

We will continue to monitor this path during the winter months, but for now we are happy that Stockport MBC has responded positively to the Society's pressure to bring this path back into use. We are grateful to work of Stockport's Rights of Way Officer in solving this problem, but we can't help thinking that without the pressure from PNFS, and the threat of legal action, this problem might have persisted for another forty.

See the PNFS YouTube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1ylZgcoQaY>  
David Gosling, Area Officer for Stockport





*John Hodgson re-erecting 531 at Wicken Walls, Flash before we went on to 302 and 309 on the Dane Valley Trail near Three Shires Head.*

## Prospects

Prospects for new signposts have improved, although I've still had very few suggestions from trustees or other members. In the last few weeks, thanks to two or three members, I've visited two farms near Slaidburn, one north of Kettleshulme and another on Longstone Moor, so I've been able to order four from Leander with another five to follow. I particularly enjoyed meeting the farmers at Bailey's Farm to get their consent for two signposts.

As of now, our website's Signpost Gallery shows that only five signs have been erected in the last twelve months, an all-time low in my years as signpost officer. The other bad news is that Leander/Middle Peak Engineering have again raised the price of the cast alloy plates, so we will now be asking for a minimum donation of £600.

## Signpost Donations

As off 11 August, since April we've had just one donation of £500 from "happy wanderer" Dougie Morris of Rawtenstall. I've sought the help of Rossendale Rambling Group in finding a suitable spot in Rossendale Forest and I've been prospecting around Clowbridge Reservoir, but with no luck so far. The paths around Clowbridge have been well-signposted by an orienteering group and UU.

**New signposts erected** – none since 14 February.

## Maintenance

**April** (continued from Signpost 76) – I reinstated the repainted plate on 328 and Steve Brown repainted 221.

**May** – Steve repainted 089 at Firbob Cottage, Little Hayfield, 119 at Elmerhirst Cottage, 324 near Windgather Rocks, 005 and 032 near Peep o' Day plus 440, 442 and 231 at Breckhead; a hands and knees job. John Hodgson and I used a concrete repair post to fix 314 near Windgather and I removed the plate from 115 for shot-blasting and powder-coating. I then used the opportunity given by the AGM to ask members present to suggest locations for new signposts. Then I had a day out, collecting 458 from Manley Common, where it had rotted and been propped in a tree, as well as cleaning/painting 600, 335, 322 and 596 on or near the Sandstone Trail.

**June** – PDNP were notified of the need to repair a damaged finger on F008 at Bullshaw Farm, near Lantern Pike. John and I reinstated 458 at Manley. John O and Paul M repainted 358 at Haigh Gutter and 359 on Slaithwaite Moor. Colin B repainted 237 below Fernilee and did an exemplary first-time job, which took him five hours; I repaired a finger on S206; 526 was uprooted at Belmont, but the farmer promised to re-instate it; I retrieved the upper half of 275 from Dinting Road, Glossop with the help of a passing Vith former en route to an afternoon exam.

**July** – I repainted 275 and repaired it with a new half post; reinstated 115's refurbished plate at Lower Cliffe Farm then retrieved plate from 134 and located 531 which had fallen at Wicken Walls farm, Flash, prior to searching for car access to 302 and 309, whose upper posts had rotted badly. Steve Brown repainted S105's cross plate and 125 at Bagshaw (see photo). On my visit to Slaidburn re new signs, I inspected and touched-up our three signs at Brennand Farm and two at Whitendale, Bowland. John Hodgson and I replanted 531 at Wicken Walls, then retrieved 302 and 309 and 182 which had been knocked over near the Peak School (formerly the Moorside Hotel)

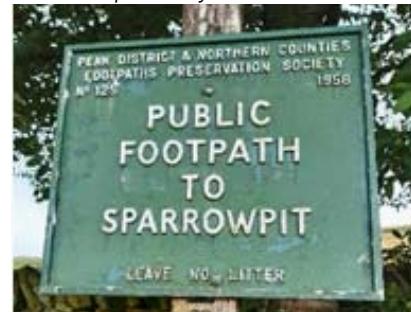
**August** – John and I reinstated 182 on a concrete repair post, the repaired 309 and 302 near Flash, using wooden half posts bolted the sound remains of the original posts. Fixed new MPs to 580 at Norden and 284 at Calf Hey Reservoir, Haslingden. Shirley Addy cleaned 386 (see photo) at Wiswell Houses during July's short walk and will repaint the logo in due course

**Total signs** - still 570

David Morton, Signpost Officer



Before and after photos of S125 at Bagshaw repainted by Steve Brown



# Stump Cross Lane - A Right of Way

11 December 2012 was a big day for me. It was the culmination (almost) of countless hours of work over more than a year. It was the day that the public inquiry opened into my claim that a well-used local track and called Stump Cross Lane, should be a Public Right of Way.

Stump Cross Lane in Tickhill, runs from Crooked Lane Head in a broadly south-westerly direction, passing Blythe Gate Farm and on to Woolthwaite Farm. About 800 metres of the track crosses land belonging to the Sandbeck Estate. The track is about 1km from the site of Tickhill Castle. A further 3km to the south-west is Roche Abbey and the hamlet of Stone, from where good quality limestone to build the castle and friary was quarried. The track is about 5m wide, it is usually dry and there are extensive views from it. The name Stump Cross Lane indicates that it has been in existence for at least several hundred years. Clearly there was once a cross here, later removed to leave a stump (since gone). Tom Beastall, in his book, *Tickhill: Portrait of an English Country Town* says that the name Woolthwaite is Anglo-Saxon i.e. the period before the Normans arrived in the area. Additionally David Hey, in his book *The Making of South Yorkshire* says that Woolthwaite was a medieval settlement recored in 1148 and was the direct route to the castle, built by the Normans.

In 2009 I had joined the Tickhill and District Footpath Group. The TDFG was established about 30 years previously, as an off-shoot of Doncaster Ramblers, to provide local walks which enabled the paths within the boundary of Tickhill to be monitored. The group had just produced a booklet of walks around Tickhill. One of these walks used Stump Cross Lane, ancestral home of the Earls of Scarbrough since the 18th century. The current Estate had seen the booklet and objected to the walk that included Stump Cross Lane, the route not being a right of way. This objection entailed the TDFG dismantling hundreds of their booklets to remove the offending route and re-formatting the booklet.

As I joined the group this process was just reaching its conclusion and I didn't give the subject much thought. However, a month or two later, in January 2010, when I went for one of my occasional local runs, I saw that the Estate had erected a sign stating the route was not a PROW. This was correct, but people had been using this track for hundreds of years. Wondering why the Sandbeck Estate would want to deny access, I began the process of claiming the route as a PROW.

This involved getting at least twenty witnesses to state that they had used the route, 'without interruption', over a twenty year period. I started with the TDFG itself and my first witness was a lady in the group who remembered using the route in the 1930s, walking along the lane with her parents on their regular Sunday walk. After speaking with each witness I asked them if they knew anybody else who might sign the witness statement. One witness was a neighbour of mine and he sometimes went for a run before setting off for work. On one occasion, whilst running along Stump Cross Lane, two policemen had appeared from behind a bush, demanding to know where he was going. This was in 1984, the miners' strike was in the news and the police were endeavouring to stop pickets travelling from the South Yorkshire coalfield to those further south! With over 20 witness statements safely secured I completed the requisite forms and sent them to Doncaster MBC. I estimated that each statement took an average of two hours to obtain - time to explain the process to the witness, to fill in the form, to ask them who else might provide evidence, and there was time visiting prospective witnesses



who needed a second and even a third visit because they were out. DMBC re-interviewed some of the witnesses before agreeing that Stump Cross Lane should be a right of way. They advertised their intention to apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order. The Sandbeck Estate, inevitably, objected and a public inquiry was set, in Tickhill, for 11-12 December 2012. DMBC employed a barrister - surely that wouldn't happen today? - and the Sandbeck Estate was represented by the Estate's solicitor.

The public inquiry took place over 2 days. The inspector, from the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol, introduced the proceedings prior to opening statements from DMBC's barrister and the Sandbeck Estate's solicitor. There was agreement between the parties that a deposition by the Trustees of the Estate followed by a declaration under Section 31(6) of the 1980 Act detailing the ways crossing the Estate's land accepted as being public - the Order route not being one of them. This was lodged in 2006 and thus the period for the inspector to consider was October 1896 to October 2006. She had evidence of use from 45 people and heard oral evidence from eight witnesses.

She heard from four witnesses connected with the Sandbeck Estate as to their observations and actions in relation to the Order. It was not disputed that there had been public use of the Order route, but what was in question was whether the claimed use was sufficient in quantity to raise a presumption of dedication. The route is far enough away from the residential area as not to form a regular dog-walking route. However, linking with other public rights of way and some minor roads provides a half day or longer circular walk. A number of witness stated that they used the path several time a year. Another witness, an international athlete, had run along the route twice a day, every day, for two years. Examples of organised groups using the route were also given, including the TDFG, Sheffield Ramblers, the Tickhill Running Club, the Maltby Running Club, etc. None of the witnesses reported being challenged by Estate staff.

The tenant farmers of Woolthwaite Farm, owned by the Sandbeck Estate, stated that they had regularly challenged walkers. Two gamekeepers said that they had challenged walker, especially people with dogs and on horseback because a field adjacent to the route was used for game cover. All present met at Woolthwaite Farm to walk the route (the inspector had walked the route the day prior to the start of the inquiry), with no questions permitted.

On 14 January 2013 a brown envelope arrived in the post. At the top of her 7-page report was 'Summary of Decision: The Order is confirmed'. So, exactly three years from the date of the signs being erected at each end of the disputed track, Doncaster MBC's Order to alter the Definitive Map and make Stump Cross Lane into a public right of way was confirmed. This was the full culmination of the hours spent by many people to make the claim.

There is a postscript to this story. A couple of years later the Estate erected a barrier across the route at the Blythe Gate Farm end. I reported it to the council. A few months later, after giving the Estate time to remove it, the barrier was removed by council staff.

*David Gadd, Member*



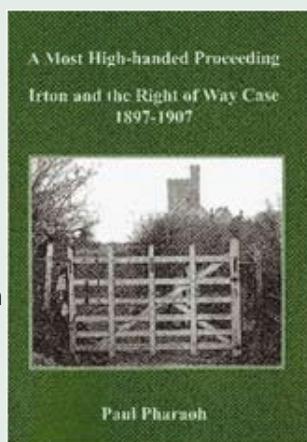
# A Most High-handed Proceeding - Irton and the Right of Way Case 1897-1907

By Paul Pharaoh, published by Bookcase, Carlisle, 2022, ISBN 978-1-912181-55-1

A landowner attempts to close well-used paths and years of dispute follow – a familiar story. This book describes how Thomas Brocklebank bought Irton Hall in Cumberland (present day Cumbria) in the 1890s and tried to restrict access to footpaths around the Hall leading to the parish church. This triggered a local inquiry organised by Irton with Stanton Parish Council. The inquiry supported the existence of rights of way and resulted in Bootle Rural District Council initiating legal action against Brocklebank at the High Court in Carlisle which failed to reach a satisfactory conclusion for path users. A few years later further High Court action in London was started by Brocklebank against people who were continuing to use the paths. During the inquiry and two trials dozens of witnesses on both sides gave evidence. Concerns were raised about the cost and amount of court time spent on the case, and articles appeared in the local and - very briefly - the national press.

At every stage evidence and counter-evidence was presented about whether rights of way had been established around Irton Hall and the parish church prior to Brocklebank's purchase of the property. However, this was complicated by his argument that path use was legally restricted to people going to the parish church. The lack of documentation was a major hindrance. The widow of one earlier owner had burnt many documents prior to vacating Irton Hall never imagining how important they could have been years later. The situation was further confused at the London trial when Brocklebank amended his argument by claiming that the right to use the paths for going to church was restricted to the occupiers of specific properties. All this happened against the background of a long-gone way of life before the widespread availability of motor vehicles when almost everyone used paths on a daily basis. While some witnesses mentioned using the disputed paths for leisure, the ones who did so were in the minority – the opposite would probably be the case today for a rural path.

The initial local inquiry seems to have had an element of entertainment about it with the public (who were mostly anti-Brocklebank) applauding and cheering when a strong point was made for their side. At times the chairman had to threaten to clear the room. On a couple of occasions witnesses effectively admitted they had used the disputed paths to go to cockfights – which had been outlawed many years earlier. Rather than disapproval these admissions resulted in “knowing laughter” from those observing, suggesting that the activity was still widely tolerated. Modern-day



witnesses would probably be more circumspect about any dodgy-doings in case it affected their credibility.

The trials in Carlisle and London were inevitably far more formal with expensive barristers - especially on Brocklebank's side. The judges seem to have been fair (although at times somewhat impatient at the length of the proceedings), and at various points tried unsuccessfully to get the two sides to sit down together and reach a compromise. Some witnesses were so old and infirm that they were allowed to give their evidence at home before a court official and junior counsel - their evidence being subsequently read to the court.

The stance of the Parish Council is noteworthy. Parish Councils are often criticised for their role in the creation of Definitive Maps during the mid-20th century, namely, that they were unduly influenced by landowners and their tenants resulting in many paths not being included on the Definitive Map. In this much earlier case the Parish Council supported those claiming rights of way (although some individual councillors took a different view). Also note that it was Bootle Rural District Council that started the action against Brocklebank in Carlisle. Councils such as these were then in their infancy after local government reforms in the late nineteenth century. Maybe the landowning fraternity had not yet gained the influence on these bodies that they would have in later years.

Possibly the oddest part of the whole saga was a booklet published after the London trial by Abram Brocklebank (who was unrelated to the landowner Thomas Brocklebank). This took the form of a series of letters in Cumbrian dialect and rhyming couplet intended as a humorous memento of the proceedings. They were written in the persona of a rural innocent in the big city (which many of the witnesses were). The letters are reproduced in an appendix, together with a rendering into modern English for those of us whose knowledge of Cumbrian dialect is a bit rusty. The appendix does not really add anything to the story, apart from indicating that the story continued to attract local interest after the London trial. Perhaps the nearest modern day equivalent would be social media postings.

There were many other twists and turns to the story, that are too complex to go into here. The later chapters of the book explain the judgement of the London trial, how it was enforced (which required further court hearings), and how the case was resolved. The final chapter goes into what happened post-1907 and the current state of the paths around Irton Hall.

Overall, the book explains the legal arguments clearly (the author is a retired solicitor) and I only have a couple of criticisms. Firstly, rather too much time is spent in the early chapters on the family histories of the owners of Irton Hall before Thomas Brocklebank bought it. While those histories are relevant and help to set the scene they do sometimes go into too much detail – for example, do we really need to know the details of one owner's extra-marital shenanigans? Secondly, the sketch maps are just that – sketchy – and could have done with more detail. Nevertheless, this was a fascinating insight into a footpath battle of the past that for a time attracted widespread attention.

*Andrew Harter, Footpath Inspector for Leeds and Bradford, and Taylor House Volunteer*

# Miles without Stiles - Redmires reservoirs

The PDNP Authority has carried out surface improvement works to a public footpath in the National Park part of Sheffield near Redmires Reservoirs on the outskirts of Sheffield.

The footpath is a popular route with walkers of all abilities, especially in wheelchairs, mobility scooters and with pushchairs. It gets people from an adjacent car park by the top reservoir onto the moorland with far reaching views over the city and National Park. Also closer range views, if you're lucky, of water voles in the adjacent watercourse or moorland birds like lapwing, curlew and golden plover as my wife and I saw recently.

The Park Authority has a "Miles without Stiles" scheme for the less able bodied and this route is one of them, so they like to keep it fit for chairbound use.

Photographs by PDNP show parts of the route before and after resurfacing work.

*John Harker,  
Area Officer Sheffield*



## Bradfield, Sheffield FP110

A very quick response was received from Sheffield Council PROW Group. My wife and I walked this footpath in the Peak District National Park part of Sheffield on the afternoon of Sunday, 4 June 2023. Walking from Crawshaw Farm, we saw overhanging tree branches in the upper part of the clough hamper progress. However, further down where the footpath is tight against a wall on the right, we had to dodge under a silver birch tree to be confronted by a fallen tree resting on the wall (see photo below). It was about throat high on me.



When we reached the ladder stile into the field, the ladder stile has lost its bottom two steps (see photo top right). This is on the clough side of the ladder. Someone has placed a stone to help you onto the steps but it doesn't.



I reported these faults two days later and on 8 June, the damaged stile had been replaced by a brand new one (see photo below). The fallen trees further up the footpath were also been removed.

If only all Highway Authorities were as prompt as this in dealing with reports.  
*John Harker, Area Officer Sheffield*



# A Long Inspection



The parishes of Stone and Stone Rural in Staffordshire have no PNFS Inspectors so for a long walk I decided to take the group on an inspection tour. I warned the five followers that a pre-walk had not been made so having arrived by taxi from Stoke due to a cancelled train there was no backing out. What follows is what we found which will be added to the Footpath Inspection Database.

We left the station SW wards along Stone FP32 a fenced path with a stepped bridge over the rail line. There was still evidence of the direct but closed level crossing officially diverted in 1999 as recorded on the PNFS Digital Archive (DA). There was however no sign of the northern section of FP32 which crossed the other line and no record of an extinguishment order, this path still appears on OS and the SCC online map.

For us FP32 provided a short cut to the canal towpath which offered easy walking northwards. Our next path was Stone Rural (SR) 41 which passed under the railway by Meaford Old Hall Farm. It appears that the FP passed through a flooded arch, fortunately a dry route was available under an adjacent arch. The path fenced away from the hall was mown and in good order.

After a short section of quiet road we took SR 42. Here again a wide mown path made it clear where we should walk. From the peak of this path we could see The Wrekin 25 miles to the south west.

To achieve the programmed 12 miles we doubled back along SR 45 which was mostly good and brought us to the south end of the popular National Trust Downs Bank. We started on SR 46 but stayed by the waterside to meet SR 48 linking to SR BW50 which was well defined leading seamlessly to SR BW61 more on that later.

Inspection of the SCC online map shows that SR BW52 continues northwards becoming Barlaston BW33 which according to the SCC online map ends abruptly south of Lower Hartwell Farm. Our path also had an unrecorded gap at Hooks Green but the route was clear and signed (see photo top left). Historical evidence looks good for a claim.

Our next path was SR BW6 which has a copy of the diversion informal consultation on the DA but not the order so it's not clear how wide it should be it would be a squeeze for two horses to pass or even one to pass those on foot. A direct road crossing linked to SR BW5 which again offered a mostly mown surface along a wide hedged track.

A road link took us to SR FP59 (see photo bottom left) which offered another view of The Wrekin before descending through a belt of tall conifers which had shed years of needles to provide a spongy path surface.



More road took us to a popular inn and cafe by a pond at Moddershall (see photo above) so we expected good walking around here but after serving some scattered houses SR FP7 (see photo top right) became a dry stream bed, badly rutted and overgrown. Thankfully it emerged into a pleasant pasture at the NE end.

There was a short bit of busy road for us to reach SR BW14 which was signed but rather overgrown at the start, then a narrow long cropped field which resembled a wide green lane where the bridleway was overgrown. We continued onto SR BW15, here the FID has a Path Checker report of overgrown but resolved in February 2023. The silage had been cut so was easy walking until we realised we had missed the path which was fenced and overgrown. SR BW16 was also fenced but had been cut. It started to rain.

From Cotwalton we took SR FP20 through an overgrown hedge to find the path marked out across the field (see photo bottom right) with binder twine then hedged just one metre wide with little chance of passing had we met other path users. We pressed on across uncut silage grass my boots quickly filling with water. Passing onto Stone FP6 it stayed much the same clearly a large landholding with strong feelings about footpaths. For us nothing that would justify a report but a clear feeling we were not welcome.

Our final inspection was of Stone Urban paths 8 and 10 and a little road walking back to the station.

*Ken Brockway, Footpath Inspector*



# Wilpshire's New Steps on the King's Highway



A couple of months ago I was told by Councillor Tony Gaffney of Wilpshire Parish that new steps had been built on FP21. This footpath leads off Whalley New Road or the King's Highway (as the old turnpike road between Bolton and Langho was called before it was renamed A666). It is a very well-used path and leads steeply down to and under the Blackburn-Clitheroe railway line and onto a lane running parallel to the A666.

Tony had received reports that the steps had become very slippery so much that someone fell down them (see photograph left). He then contacted the Lancashire County Council for permission for the parish to pay for a bespoke hand rail to be fitted over the most slippery part. The LCC told him that they instead would deal with the matter.

Shortly afterwards, the LCC's PROW staff and their contractors replaced the old steps with new ones and fitted railings. As the photographs show, they did a brilliant job.

Tony told me that someone told me that prior to this work, his wife would still go up the uneven steps but would crawl up them on all fours!

I visited the new work and I am impressed. The new steps and railings have been laid to last a lifetime. Great thanks go to both Tony and the PROW staff at LCC and their contractor.

*Photographs by Tony Gaffney*

*Shirley M Addy, Footpath Inspector for Ribble Valley*





## Footmarks:

# A Journey Into our Restless Past

by Jim Leary, published by Icon Books, 2023.

Dr Jim Leary is an archaeologist at the University of York, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and a passionate walker. It is this passion for walking that has inspired his research into how and why people moved around in the past.

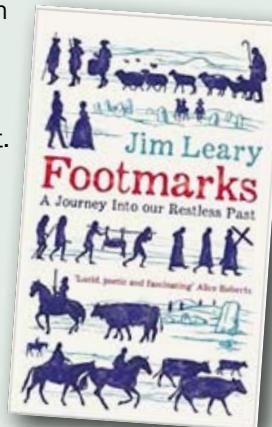
His assertion that the past is, 'never motionless,' (p5) caught my attention. In programmes about archaeology the focus is invariably on people unearthing remains. Dr Leary is encouraging us to think about how people moved around from place to place and, 'how they came to know their physical world by the way they moved through it.' (p7). He believes that the significance of movement has been overlooked and seeks to reanimate journeys. For him such travels are the important elements of life.

'Footmarks' journey begins with the earliest fossilised footprints. Leary suggests that, 'by studying footprints, we can glimpse fleeting moments in the lives of individuals. Paths tell us about whole communities and behaviours that play out over generations.' (p57). Chapters encompass movement through the ages from early hunter-gatherers, the first farmers, drovers, pilgrims and emigrants to flaneurs and modern-day psycho-geographers. These travels were made along paths and tracks that often became the roads we are familiar with today. 'Roads are not made, they emerge from people's movements on the ground.' (p162). Sea journeys enabled people to travel further afield and return with goods and artefacts from and tales of foreign lands.

But people haven't always been free to journey where and when they liked. Throughout history human movements have been restricted by those in power. Powerful landed interests succeeded in restricting movement through the introduction of the Enclosure Acts. 'When a path is removed or widened...and the path side vegetation destroyed, they are erasing hundreds of years of history.' (p58). Even the weather played a major role in influencing journeys. More travel takes place during the spring and summer when crops are ripening and being harvested and in present time walkers are lured out to explore during the more clement times of year. 'Curiosity is the human trait that has...driven people to move very great distances.' (p199)

This is a very enjoyable read full of interesting information and offering a new perspective on the past.  
*Pauline Williams, Member*

*Editor's note: The author will be the guest speaker at our Half Yearly Meeting, in Sheffield, on Saturday, 18 November. See page 3 for details.*



# PNFS walks



IT IS VITAL that attendees check all train times and pnfs.org.uk or scan QR code for any updates

<b>Saturday, 7 October</b> Ann Haden 07766 194900	Litton. 11 miles. Glorious and spectacular dales, historic Eyam and lovely Foolow. Morning climbs. Meet outside the shop 10:00, SK16500 75150, SK17 8QU. On-road parking.
<b>Wednesday, 11 October</b> Mick Chatham 07792 709198	Littleborough circular, 8 miles. Manchester Victoria 10:04, arrives Littleborough 10:24. Walk starts from station at 10:30 then up to Blackstone Edge touching the Pennine Way and bridleway. Ascent around 1,500 ft. Parking is available near the station, OL15 8AR, SD93800 16200.
<b>Wednesday, 25 October</b> Ann Haden 07766 194900	Disley. Train 09:51 from Manchester Piccadilly to Disley (Buxton line) arrives at Disley 10:22. I will meet the train. 11 miles circular walk, Gritstone Trail, Bakestonedale Moor, Lyme Park. Depending on the weather, enthusiasm, etc, 10-12 miles. Walk starts at 10:30.
<b>Saturday, 4 November</b> Mark Chung 07803 299467	Wycoller. 8.5 miles, total ascent 520 m. Take a trip through history on this circular walk. We start off in the hamlet of Wycoller, walk along the Pendle Way before climbing Boulsworth Hill and returning to Wycoller via Trawden's own waterfall! No dogs due to landowners' restrictions on open access land. Starts at 10:00 at Wycoller Road car park (P&D), SD92622 39521.
<b>Wednesday, 8 November</b> Ken Smith 07918 154959	PNFS Greenfield Circular Walk via Delph, Dobcross and Uppermill. 8 miles, lowest ascent 508 ft, highest ascent 1,084, total ascent 1,169 ft. Train Manchester Piccadilly 09:58, arrives 10:22. Walk starts 10:30.
<b>Wednesday, 29 November</b> John Mooney 07514 219563	Marple circular walk. 10.5 miles, ascent 1,750 ft. Via Werneth Low and Higher Chisworth. Train 09:48 Piccadilly arrives Marple 10:09. Walk starts at 10:15.
<b>Saturday, 9 December</b> Danny Allen 07989 713205 dannysallen@yahoo.co.uk	Attermire Scar. 8 miles. Meet in Settle at the Greenfoot carpark, BD24 9RW, P&D £2.30 all day. Walk starts at 09:30. A steep start takes us to edge of scar. We go through it with optional visits to Victoria and Jubilee caves (bring headtorch). Then we visit Catrigg (optional) and Stainforth Forces and return to Settle along the Ribble. Dogs only on leads due to sheep. Apart from first half mile, walk is easy on good, some rough paths.
<b>Wednesday, 13 December</b> John Fisher 07432 825624	<b>Combined Christmas Short and Longer Walk.</b> 8 miles. Joint short and longer groups walk. Lyme Park circular, visiting the 3 outbuildings in the Park - Lantern House, Paddock Cottage and Lyme Cage. Social afterwards at Disley pub. Walk starts and ends at Disley Railway Station. Train 09:51 Piccadilly arrives Disley 10:22. Walk starts at 10:30.

**Want to lead a walk?** Contact: Shirley Addy (Saturdays), smaddy@talktalk.net; Ross Myddelton (Wednesdays 5-9 miles), r.myddelton1@ntlworld.com; Ken Smith (Wednesdays 9-12 miles), kensmith4rj@icloud.com

## July Saturday walk

with Mick Chatham as leader. A total of seven members arrived at the start of 10 mile walk in Todmorden by car, train, bus or foot. Photograph by Ross Myddelton show the group on Freeholds Top, which is higher than the nearby Stoodley Pike.



## August short walk

with Shirley Addy leading nine members from Whalley up the Nab and down into Read and Clerk Hill. Photograph shows the start of the walk - no prizes for guessing where it ended! Photograph supplied by Ross Myddelton.



## July longer walk

led by Ross Myddelton. Linear 11 mile walk from Silverdale to Arnside including squeezing through Fairy Steps and passing Beetham and Dallam Tower. Photographs by Ken Smith.



# Reasons for Being a Footpath Inspector

Photographs by Shirley M. Addy, Footpath Inspector for Ribble Valley



Thornley FP25 collapsed stile  
- easy to walk over!



Mellor FP49 footbridge completely  
covered by tree branches



Newton-by-Bowland FP17  
permanently flooded



Slaidburn FP13 damaged footbridge



Longridge FP43 totally blocked  
by van permanently parked



Sawley FP19 overgrown stile