

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES

FOOTPATHS
PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1905.

MANCHESTER:

ABEL HEYWOOD & SON, 56 & 58 OLDHAM STREET.

1905.

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY,

1905.

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Council :

WILLIAM BROOKES, Holtinside, Altrincham.

ROBERT BURN, 1a Charlotte Street, Manchester.

LUKE GARSIDE, Hayfield.

ABEL HEYWOOD, Oldham Street, Manchester (Chairman).

EDWARD G. HILLER, 22 St. Ann's Square, Manchester.

CHARLES DE JONGH, High Lane, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

T. A. LEONARD, Park Hall, Hayfield.

A. W. MASSEY, 33 Dale Street, Manchester.

THOMAS MOWER, Market Street, New Mills.

T. J. THOMPSON, 79 Piccadilly, Manchester.

J. H. WRIGLEY, 23 St. Clement's Rd., Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

Together with the Honorary Officers of the Society.

Hon. Solicitor :

L. CARADOC EVANS, Town Hall, Salford.

Hon. Treasurer :

J. B. ELVERSTON, St. Albans Villa, Heaton Chapel.

Assistant Hon. Treasurer :

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, Langford Road, Heaton Chapel.

Hon. Surveyor :

Lieut.-Col. H. F. CROOK, C.E., J.P., Albert Square, Manchester.

Hon. Auditor :

WILLIAM GREGSON, 103 Steven Street, Salford.

Hon. Secretary :

J. OGDEN HARDICKER, Solicitor, Northern Assurance Buildings,
Albert Square, Manchester.

Assistant Hon. Secretary :

ALFRED E. HANSON, c/o J. Ogden Hardicker,
Northern Assurance Buildings, Manchester.

Inspector of Footpaths :

THOMAS MOWER, Market Street, New Mills.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1905.

The Council of the Society beg to submit the following Report to the Members for the year ending the 31st December, 1905, which will shew that the work of the Society continues to extend both in volume and usefulness.

Every effort has been made within the powers of the Council to protect all public rights of way and to prevent any interference therewith, and during the year the Members of the Society have had the advantage of the Council's advice on matters which have from time to time come under their notice.

Inspector of Footpaths.

During the past year the Council have appointed one of their members (Mr. Thos. Mower) to be the Inspector of Footpaths of this Society, and the thanks of the Council are due to Mr. Mower for the time and trouble he has devoted to superintending the erection of signposts and to the inspection of footpaths during the past year.

Name Plates and Signboards.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting of the Society a very important work has been undertaken during the year by Mr. Mower, who has selected positions, and obtained permission, for the erection of a number of notice posts after the manner of those illustrated. This has been a long and difficult task, and has not been accomplished without the expenditure of money, but the Council consider the work to be of the very greatest utility, as settling before they arise claims which might possibly

be made in the future. The notices are made of cast-iron, with the letterings in strong relief, and they are mounted on good wooden posts sunk well into the ground.

In addition to these the notices as to dogs, etc., required to be kept up by the Duke's agent, have been renewed in more permanent form and re-erected at a cost, including travelling fares, of £8 3s. 9d.

The guide notice posts erected (in addition to mile-posts over Kinder Scout) are as follows:—

- No. 1. At Car Meadow, on the road from Hayfield to Glossop (809 feet above the sea). "Public footpath and bridle road to Edale and Castleton, via foot of Kinder Scout."
- No. 2. On Leygate Head Moor, near the Shooting Cabin (1,090 feet). "Public Footpath to Glossop via Car Meadow."
- No. 3. At Stonyford, on the road from Edale to Hayfield. The footpath is about 400 yards shorter than the road and down hill (altitude 1,500 feet). "Public footpath to Hayfield, &c., via Tunstead Clough."
- No. 4. At the bottom of Tunstead Lane, Kinder (altitude 725 feet). "Public footpath to Stonyford, up the lane and by the farmhouse."
- No. 5. At Peep of Day, on the road from Hayfield to Chapel-en-le-Frith (altitude 1,085 feet). "Public footpath to Birch Vale, via Grouse Inn."
- No. 6. At Green Clough, below Strines Station, in an archway under the Great Central Railway (altitude 375 feet). "Public footpath to Marple, &c., via Windybottom Bridge."
- No. 7. At Tunstead Milton, on the road from Whaley to Chapel-en-le-Frith (altitude 671 feet). "Public footpath to Eccles and Chinley, via Bradshaw Hall."

- No. 8. A little nearer Chapel-en-le-Frith than No. 7, the path leads into Tunstead Lane, turn to the right, first stile on the left, and between the reservoir and the brook (altitude 680 feet). "Public footpath to Buxton, via Coombs Valley."
- No. 9. At Tunstead Milton, about 50 yards below No. 7 (altitude 668 feet). "Public footpath to Fernilee and Taxal."
- No. 10. On the Sheffield and Glossop turnpike road, a little way above the Snake Inn (altitude 1,070 feet). "Public footpath to Hayfield, $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles, via Williams Clough."
- No. 12. On the Sheffield and Glossop road at the Bridge over the river Alport (altitude 795 feet). "Public footpath to the Edale and Hope Valleys and Roman Station at Brough."
- No. 13. On Crookstone Hill, on the road to Hope from No. 12 (altitude 1,000 feet). "Public footpath to Edale, and set at right angles to the above, Hope, Brough, and Bradwell, Snake Inn, and Glossop."
- No. 14. About 300 yards below Lady Booth in the Edale Valley (altitude 779 feet). "Public footpath and bridle road to Alport, Ashopton, Derwent, Snake Inn, and Glossop. Shut all gates."
- Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. Notices as to dogs being held in leash at Snake Inn, Ashop Cabin, Turner Fold, Mill Hill, and Nab Brow.
- No. 20. An addition to No. 13, as above.
- No. 21. On the Edale to Hope road at Skinner's Hall (altitude 698 feet). "Public footpath to Castleton and Hope, via Hollins Cross."

No. 22. Close to the bridge over the river Noe at Barber Booth in the Edale Valley; it joins No. 21 above the Hollins Farm. "Public footpath to Castle-ton and Hope, via Greenlands and Hollins Cross."

Much care and attention has been given to the selection of the sites for the above signposts, and a careful oversight over the numerous public footpaths in the Derbyshire district has been observed.

Footpath, Druid's Circle, Arbor Low.

With reference to the pathway to this interesting and very ancient monument, which was ploughed up some time ago, it has for a long time been the subject of enquiry, and the Council are pleased to report that as a result of correspondence and interviews with the agent of the Duke of Rutland this footpath is now restored to the public, and a post erected which it is hoped will help to settle the question, and also prevent much needless trespassing in search of the circle in the future.

Eyam Footpath.

The Council were informed that a footpath leading past the Druid's Circle, over land belonging to the Duke of Devonshire at Eyam, had been closed, and the Council directed the Secretary to interview the agent of the Duke (Mr. Gilson Martin) thereon.

Accordingly the agent to the Duke was interviewed and the whole subject fully discussed. The agent strongly denied that the footpath in question was a public one, and went so far as to suggest that if the Society pressed the matter the Duke of Devonshire would consider the advisability of closing Chatsworth. In view of the fact that sufficient evidence in support of the contention that the footpath was a public one was not available, the Council did not take any further steps in the matter.

Langfield Common.

In this matter Mr. J. F. Dearden, the lord of the Manor of Rochdale, had closed an alleged right of way over Black-

stone Edge and leading along Toad Lane over Langfield Common, and Mr. J. F. Dearden had issued a writ against Mr. W. Richards, who had claimed a right to pass over the footpath. Mr. Richards requested the Littleborough Urban District Council to defend the action for him, and the Littleborough Urban District Council simply forwarded the whole of the correspondence to this Society.

This Society made enquiries into the matter and the Secretary interviewed one of the parties connected with the litigation, and in view of the fact that the District Council declined to take any active steps in the action this Council could not see its way to defend the proceedings, but offered to subscribe £10 towards the cost thereof.

Footpath from Over Haddon to Youlgrave.

It was reported to the Council that a farmer named E. Dicken had closed a public road from Over Haddon to Youlgrave and that certain other footpaths were being closed in that district, and this Society caused representations to be made to the Bakewell Rural District Council with reference thereto, and since then no further complaints have been made.

Footpath to the Top of Winhill.

The Council have been in communication with the solicitors to the owners of the land with reference to joining the owner in putting up a notice with reference to the enjoyment of a certain right of way from the direction of Yorkshire Bridge and Ashopton up to the pike at the top of Winhill, with a view to preventing pedestrians from straying indiscriminately over the Grouse Moor, and this Society have appointed a Sub-Committee to meet representatives of the owners on the site in order to ascertain exactly the proposals of the owners.

Footpaths from Ambergate to Crich, from Whatstandwell to Fritchley, and Ambergate to Whatstandwell.

A complaint was received from a gentleman in the above-named neighbourhood that three footpaths in that locality

had been closed to the public. The Inspector, Mr. Mower, has visited the locality and traversed the alleged paths. Additional local evidence is required in this case, and the Council will be pleased if any person having information on the subject will communicate with the Secretary.

Doctors Gate.

Complaints have been received during the past year in reference to the closing of a footpath at Doctors Gate, and although the Council have on several occasions during the last few years made endeavours to obtain evidence in proof of the allegation that the footpath in question is a public one, yet the result has not been such as to justify the Council in taking any active steps in seeking to have the footpath in question re-opened.

At the same time all the circumstances which have been brought to the notice of the Council point to the fact that it is more than probable that this footpath is an ancient one. Any information that can be given to the Society relative to it will be welcomed by the Council, with a view to restoring this beautiful footpath to the public.

The last year has not been one in which many serious obstructions to footpaths have taken place, and consequently the labours of the Committee have not been so arduous as might have been the case if any serious obstructions had taken place.

But in addition to the above matters a large number of letters have been received from time to time by your Council seeking advice and information relating to public rights of way, and these have been dealt with by the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

It would be impossible to give a detailed account of each case in the pages of this report, but the preceding cases are indicative of the others with which the Council has dealt during the past year.

Your Council desire to state that they are always anxious and willing to render whatever assistance they can in order to

protect public rights of way, and they are at all times anxious and willing to render any advice without fee or reward.

The members of this Society and the public generally should be careful to bear in mind the importance of exercising their rights over public footpaths strictly, as repeated complaints are received from the landowners that the public do not limit themselves to the public rights of way but trespass over adjoining lands.

The Society desire to acknowledge the kindly spirit in which owners of land have generally treated the Society, and to state that the owners have always been open to conviction where the Society have shown sufficiently strong evidence that the public they represented were in the right.

Finances.

The Society, at the present time, has a credit balance at the bank, but the Council are of the opinion that this should *not* be regarded as a sufficient reason for the members withholding any part of their subscriptions, for the reason that at any time the Council may feel it their duty to involve the Society in great expense in resisting interference with the public rights of way over footpaths and preserving their rights over the beautiful dales and valleys of the Peak and other districts, and which rights may be lost for ever to the public unless strong opposition is shown by this Society.

It did come to the knowledge of the Council that some members of the Society had withheld their subscriptions because they considered that a balance of £100 was large enough; but in this opinion the Council differed, having regard to their experience in connection with the opposition to the Joint Waterworks Scheme of the Corporations of Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, and Sheffield, which, if it had not been opposed in Parliament by this Society at a cost of no less than £261 would have meant that some of the fairest portions of the Peak district would have been locked up for ever.

The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

Balance Sheet for the Year Ending December 31st, 1905.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.		PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1904	98	14	1			Printing, &c.	6	3	4	
Subscriptions, 1905 (Nos. 1 to 102)	26	19	0			Hire of Hall	1	1	0	
	125	13	1			Work & Materials, Repairing Footpaths, and Notice Boards, &c.... ..	32	4	11	
Bank Interest	1	17	6			Footpaths' Inspectors (Honorarium)	5	0	0	
						Clerical Work	5	0	0	
						Hon. Secretary's Expenses (Stamps, &c.)	1	0	0	
						Hon. Treasurer's Expenses (Stamps, &c.)	1	2	4	
						Balance in hand	75	19	0	
	<u>£127</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>				<u>£127</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	

Hon. Treasurer—J. B. ELVERSTON,
ST. ALBANS VILLA,
HEATON CHAPEL.

Audited and found correct,
WM. GREGSON, *Hon. Auditor.*