

THE PEAK DISTRICT & NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS
PRESERVATION SOCIETY.



REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1913.



MANCHESTER:
FARNWORTH & MASHEDER, LTD., 5 CARR ST., BLACKFRIARS ST.

1914.

**THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY,**

1913.

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Sir W. P. BYLES, M.P., 3, Northumberland Street,
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Colonel CANDLIN, Heaton Chapel.

T. SKELTON COLE, Sheffield.

Colonel H. T. CROOK, C.E., J.P., Manchester.

Sir HAROLD ELVERSTON, M.P., Fulshaw Hall,
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ABEL HEYWOOD, J.P., Manchester.

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Council :

- Col. H. T. CROOK (Chairman), Lancaster Avenue,
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- W. BROOKES, Holmside, Altrincham.
- W. P. CHALLONER, 170 Mottram Road, Hyde.
- J. CHORLTON, Arts Club, Manchester.
- G. P. COOKSON, 596 Stretford Road, Manchester.
- W. CRAIG, 7 Muslin Street, Newton Moor, Hyde.
- S. P. GRUNDY, Woodlands, Whaley Bridge.
- LESLIE B. HEWETT, 31 Victoria Road, Whalley Range.
- ABEL HEYWOOD, J.P., Lever Street, Manchester.
- E. G. HILLER, Oakholme, Wilbraham Road, Alexandra Park.
- HITCHON, 108 Hyde Road, Denton.
- H. HOLLAND, 185 Hyde Road, Woodley.
- W. HUGHES, Minden, Mossley Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.
- W. INGHAM, Cromwell Buildings, Blackfriars Street,
Manchester.
- J. MACAULEY, 60 Albert Grove, Longsight.
- A. W. MASSEY, 33 Dale Street, Manchester.
- R. MOWER, Buxton Road, New Mills.
- T. MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.
- H. S. PORTER, 28 Welbeck Road, Smithills, Bolton.
- C. T. TALLENT-BATEMAN, Brazennose Street, Manchester.
- WM. TATTERSALL, Strutt Street, Manchester.
- D. WALLWORK, 434 Regent Road, Salford.
- Professor F. E. WEISS, University, Manchester.
- J. WILDING, 88 Monton Street, Moss Side.

Hon. Solicitor :

L. CARADOC EVANS, Town Hall, Salford.

Hon. Treasurer :

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, 19 Derby Road, Heaton Chapel.

Hon. Surveyor :

Col. H. T. CROOK, M.Inst.C.E., J.P., Lancaster Avenue,
Manchester.

Hon. Auditor :

WILLIAM GREGSON, Edge Lane, Stretford.

Hon. Secretary :

ARTHUR R. MOON, Solicitor, Prudential Buildings,
King Street, Manchester.

Correspondence Secretary :

EDWARD WILLETT, 49 Spring Gardens, Manchester.

Inspector of Footpaths :

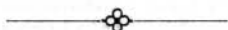
THOMAS MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.

Assistant Inspectors of Footpaths :

ROLAND MOWER, Buxton Road, New Mills.
G. H. B. WARD, 390 Cricket Road, Sheffield.

REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1913.



Your Council herewith present the Annual Report of the Society for the year 1913.

The first duty they have is to record with the deepest regret the loss by death of two of our members, Sir William H. Bailey and Mr. Luke Garside.

Sir William H. Bailey has long filled the office of President, and although a busy man he invariably found time to assist the Society when called upon. We gratefully record his services, with especial recollection of the shrewd advice and help he so cordially gave.

We regret the demise the more, forasmuch as he was an ardent believer in compelling local bodies to carry out the duties entrusted to them by Statute, and we had looked forward to his support of that policy which it must always be the task of our Society to carry forward.

Mr. Luke Garside was one of the founders of the Society. Increasing age and infirmity kept him away from active work of late, but the Society owes much of its prosperity to the enthusiasm, coupled with sane judgment, which gentlemen like Mr. Garside devoted to it in its early days.

The Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts occupies its usual place in this Report, and at the risk of wearying with constant repetition we must point out the necessity of obtaining additional income if we are to keep that keen watch over the public interests which is so essential. Especially is this the case if we are to make successful attempts to widen our area of operations and to check the zeal of the path-closing landowners in the Lake District.

Attempts at closure of Lake District paths, such as the Glen Mary case which is dealt with at length in this Report, bring home only too clearly the necessity for radical changes in the law regarding public rights of way, and this Council strongly supports, as an initial step towards reform in this direction, the principle of the Rights of Way Bill which has

been before Parliament several times. By this measure public rights will be brought into line with private rights of way, and the necessary legal proceedings will be simplified and cheapened.

We have to report with satisfaction that our representations have in one case at any rate been successful in inducing local bodies to preserve public interests in their own locality. We refer to the case of the Disley Wood footpath. On the other hand, however, the attempt of the Bolton Corporation to close many paths in the Darwen district emphasises the need for keeping a strict watch over the various waterwork schemes, and, in case of necessity, of going to the length of opposing them in Parliament unless due and adequate provision is made safeguarding the public rights. It was clearly proved to us in the case of the Stockport Waterworks Scheme at Kinder that mere undertakings given at the time of the drafting of these schemes are not binding at all.

Once more it must be stated that it is impossible to detail all the work done by the Society in this Report. A considerable amount of work is of a confidential nature which cannot be reported, and, as in years past, advice and help have been freely given to all inquirers.

The more important matters which came under review are :

GLEN MARY, CONISTON.

The Council have under consideration the question of taking action against the owner of the Monk Coniston estate, on which this ravine is situated. He has closed the charming path leading round Tarn Howes to Skelwith, and, with regard to the Glen itself, he has made access both dangerous and difficult at the exit of The Tarns. By the erection of a notice board at each end of the ravine, bearing the words, "Unless visitors keep to the path this road will be closed to the public," the owner evidently claims the power to close the path through the Glen, which beyond question is one of the most popular walks in the Coniston and Hawkshead district.

We are glad to know that, at the time of writing, the Ulverston Rural District Council have the matter in hand, and we have every reason to believe that they will accede to our request to hold a public inquiry. It would appear to your Council to be only one of the many attempts on the

part of the landowner to deprive the public of right of access to this district, and we regret the apathy of the thousands who visit Lakeland which renders such encroachments possible.

The migration of retired business men to the Lake District, and whose association therewith is without sentiment, is likely to prove disastrous to the walker. The result is found in the springing up of a new *régime* of keepers, and fences and notice boards are replacing the old-time liberty of free rambling. We therefore send a note of warning to all those who are true lovers of the Lake District.

GRINDLEFORD (TEDGNESS) BRIDLE PATH AFTERMATH.

Your Society, it will be remembered, took considerable interest in and granted £25 towards the costs of the Grindleford (Tedgness) Bridle Way case, which resulted in favour of the public (July, 1912), due to the fact that Lord Coleridge, waiving aside the pleas that the land was in settlement between 1825-1880 and that subsequent owners did not intend to dedicate, himself visited the *locus in quo*, and was satisfied that the old bridle stones on Whites Moor proved that this was an *ancient* way long before 1825.

Instead, however, of taking their defeat honourably, the owners subsequently pursued a policy of irritating pinpricks. For about twelve months it was expected that the principle plaintiff would apply to have the way diverted about 100 yards from its original line of route in order to fit in with building plans. Apparently the proposal was dropped, and a second plaintiff then came forward with the same suggestion.

Your Council, asked for their approval of the proposed diversion, decided to withhold their consent thereto. They were gratified to find that the Bakewell Rural District Council (the body which should have fought the case, instead of leaving it to Mr. James Outram) were strongly opposed to allowing the owners to divert the path for their own purposes.

Since Lord Coleridge's judgment was delivered a high wall and stepping stones have been placed across the path, and this, in the opinion of your Council, is equivalent to contempt of court. The Bakewell Rural District Council gave the

owners until March 31st, 1914, to put the path in proper order, and it is hoped that the offenders will not incur the odium of further litigation and publicity.

The Bakewell R.D.C., following the visit of a deputation, agreed to a modified diversion, which will straighten out the path and place it outside the boundary wall of Mr. Osborn's garden, whence, leaving the wall, it makes across the waste ground above at an angle of 30 degrees to near the original point on the road by Dr. Hearn's residence.

It transpires, however, that the deputation were shown a plan which was not the original line of the path, and the suggested diversion would add fully 30 yards to the present length of the path, and it is apparent that after the provocation caused, the public are quite entitled to demand that no addition be made to the original length of the path, which now runs partly enclosed in Mr. Osborn's garden, and to resist the diversion when it comes up at Derby Quarter Sessions early in April.

It is most lamentable that the owners, since the case was decided against them, have acted contrary to personal dignity and public spirit, and the public might, with every justification, have taken the law into their own hands and removed the obstructions.

BRADFIELD GATE PATH, NEAR SHEFFIELD.

During the year it was found that keepers were endeavouring to prevent the public from using a breezy path across "Ones Acre," Bradfield, near Sheffield, which, passing the boundary walls of a new convent, was part of an ancient bridle way between Houldsworth and Brightholmlee in the Loxley and Don valleys. The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers and Hallamshire Ramblers Federation organised several parties over the route during the season, and, hitherto, no further trouble has been experienced. It is expected that the Sheffield auxiliary will defray the cost of signposts to protect this interesting track from further interference from selfish lessees of grouse moors.

WIN HILL ASYLUM DIVERSIONS.

The Council regrets that the Derbyshire County Council were successful in securing the stoppages of a footpath and a bridle road (and a most meagre diversion) across the New Asylum estate on the slopes of Win Hill, near Hope.

Unfortunately, the matter was pushed through, and your Council were not aware of the proposals, nor did they receive any local information until too late to act.

The County Council were entitled to some consideration, but, due to local apathy, they practically obliterated any public ways upon this estate, to the lasting inconvenience of both local residents and the walking public—another evidence that public bodies are too often not mindful of public rights-of-way and conveniences.

PAMPHLET.

During the year the Society published a pamphlet entitled "The Rambler and the Law," written by Messrs. A. R. Moon and G. H. B. Ward, well-known officials of the Society. It is small enough in price (2d.) to be accessible to everyone, and is an attempt to put the legal intricacies of Pedestrian Law into compact and readable form. Its success has been very gratifying, and should any reader of this Report have difficulty in obtaining it at his booksellers, will he please communicate with the Correspondence Secretary.

ECCLES PIKE.

The Council have had notice of building operations on this well-known viewpoint, but they consider that with a little friendly co-operation the rights of walkers will not be disturbed.

A close supervision of the *locus in quo* is being maintained, and the Council will be immediately advised of any danger to the public rights.

MAPS AT RAILWAY STATIONS.

The Council are glad to report that as a result of their suggestions the L. & N.-W.R. have agreed to put one-inch ordnance maps at the following stations for the use of walkers: Adlington, Prestbury, Macclesfield, Disley, New Mills, Whaley Bridge, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Buxton, Ashbourne, Wilmslow, Alderley, and Chelford.

The Council note this with much pleasure, and beg to acknowledge the public spirit of the Company.

DISLEY WOOD.

The Council were approached with reference to an attempt to close a path leading from the main road above Disley Station to Jackson's Edge and passing through Disley

Wood. From a perusal of old maps the path is of great antiquity, and would be a serious loss to the local residents who desire to avoid the highways.

We are glad to report that the Local Council have the matter in hand, and we are satisfied that the public interest will be well looked after.

FIELD PATHS.

The Council have advised in several cases where paths across agricultural land have been ploughed up. They advise in all these cases that there is nothing wrong in the ploughing up of paths, and that the public must remake the path by renewed use. They observe that arising out of such a case at Wilmslow a local Footpath Preservation Society has been formed. Your Council note this with surprise, as they have rendered help at Wilmslow within quite recent times. The attention of the promoters of this last-mentioned society is drawn to this paragraph of this Report.

CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Your Council note with pleasure that the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council have appointed a special Sub-Committee to deal with the footpaths in their wide area of operations. We trust that we shall now be able to impress on them the necessity of erecting a footbridge across the Derwent at Slippery Stones on the Penistone to Bamford Path, a reform which has long been needed for the convenience of pedestrians during the periods of wet weather when the river is often impassable because of the absence of adequate stepping stones.

DOCTORS' GATE.

Your Council have to report with gratification the success of their efforts in securing the compromise over the Doctor's Gate path. Some thousands of pedestrians have been over the path during the open period, thus showing their appreciation of the work done by this Society in maintaining public rights over it.

The Peak District and Northern Counties Foothpaths Preservation Society.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ending December 31st, 1913.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1912	12	18	11	Printing, &c. (Booklets, £7 16s. 0d.) ...	18	9	9
Subscriptions, 1913	43	8	0	Hire of Rooms for Meetings	4	10	6
Sale of Booklets	11	13	7	Work and Material Repairing Foot- paths, Notice Boards, &c. ...	3	10	0
Bank Interest	0	7	1	Footpaths Inspector (Honorarium) ...	5	0	0
				Contribution to Mr. C. Sanders Costs...	1	1	0
				Hire of Lantern Slides (General Meeting)	1	1	0
				Privilege Rent of Notice Plate at Strines, 1913	0	1	0
				Hon. Treasurers Expenses (Postages, &c.)... ..	0	15	10
				Assistant Hon. Secretary's Expenses for Clerical Work, Postages, &c....	15	15	1
				Assistant Footpaths Inspector's Expenses	3	19	6
				Cheque Book	0	4	2
				Balance in hand ...	13	19	9
	<u>£68</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>£68</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, Hon. Treasurer,
19 DERBY ROAD,
HEATON MOOR,
STOCKPORT.

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