

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND  
NORTHERN COUNTIES  
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

**REPORT**  
OF THE COUNCIL

*For the Year*  
*ended 31st December*  
1929

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# The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

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## Constitution and Rules.

1. The Society shall be called "The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society."

2. The objects of the Society shall be:—

(a) The preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of the public highways, footpaths, bridlepaths, bye-ways, and other ways, vacant spaces, waste lands, and roadside slips, and to right of recreation over commons in the Northern and Midland counties, particularly in the Peak District.

(b) The prevention of the abuse of such rights, especially trespass and damage to crops and property, and disturbance of game by trespassers.

(c) The support by influence, petition or otherwise of Bills in Parliament promoting the aforesaid objects, or any of them, or others of a like or kindred nature.

(d) The purchase, or promoting the purchase of rights of way and rights over open spaces to be dedicated to the use of the public for ever.

(e) And all objects conducive to the foregoing, including the combination, or co-operation with other societies or persons in the promotion or furtherance of the aforesaid objects, or any of them.

3. An annual subscription of 2s. 6d. or upwards, payable in advance on the first day of January in each year, shall constitute membership.

4. The business of the Society not transacted in general meeting shall be in the hands of a managing committee, elected annually, and consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Solicitor, Honorary Secretary, and not less than Twelve other Members of the Society, with power to add to their number.

5. An annual general meeting of the members of the Society shall be held in the first quarter in every year, and shall receive, consider, and, if approved of, adopt the report of the Managing Committee for the past year, and transact any other business that may arise.

6. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held without delay whenever occasion shall arise, upon the requisition of five members specifying the reason for the meeting and communicated to the Honorary Secretary. Such meeting shall also be held before the institution or defence of any legal

proceedings, the costs of which the ordinary revenue of the Society shall be insufficient to defray, and a favourable vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at such meeting shall, subject to the necessary funds being duly subscribed or guaranteed, be sufficient sanction for the institution or defence of such proceedings, provided that no liability in respect thereof shall attach to any member beyond the amount of such member's individual subscription to the Society, or the amount of such member's guarantee towards the funds necessary to conduct such proceedings.

7. The Managing Committee shall by themselves or by Sub-Committees appointed from their number :—

- (1) Induce—or, if necessary, compel—as far as possible, all Local, Public, or Urban Authorities and District Councils to perform their duties as conservators of the said public rights.
- (2) Institute, or defend, assist others in instituting or defending, continue, compromise, abandon, or prosecute to judgment, at their discretion, and generally give instructions for all the legal proceedings sanctioned by general meeting as aforesaid.
- (3) Keep a map, or series of maps, wherein the situation of all footpaths and other public ways shall, so far as possible, be indicated and recorded, and visit, inspect, survey, and report on the same from time to time, and receive, consider, and investigate complaints of violation of any of the said rights, or of the abuse thereof.

8. All Sub-Committees shall, from time to time, report to the Managing Committee.

9. The Society shall subscribe and be affiliated to such national Society or Societies constituted for like objects, as may from time to time be determined in general meeting.

10. All General Meetings, whether Annual or Extraordinary, shall be convened by the Hon. Secretary's written notice, posted or delivered to members at their usual or last known addresses, at least three days before the day of meeting, and indicating the business for which the meeting is to be convened. Ten members shall form a quorum.

11. These rules may be rescinded, supplemented, or altered by resolution passed in General Meeting, but not otherwise, and then only after a week's notice in writing of the proposed alteration.

# REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1929

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THE number of cases in which the aid of the Society is asked for continues to increase. During the past year it has had to deal with some of more than ordinary importance and public interest, such as the arrangements for the protection, substitution and adjustment of the rights of way in the Goyt Valley which will be affected by the construction of the proposed Waterworks, and the successful action for the preservation of the Benfield footpath. It is hoped that the publicity which these matters have obtained will bring to the Society a large increase in its membership and so supply it with the means for meeting its ever-expanding responsibilities. The work of the Society embraces a great variety of cases, some of which may not appear to be of more than limited or purely local interest, and yet may involve legal points of great importance, and difficult, and sometimes costly, investigations. Further reference to the funds of the Society is made later on in this report under the head of Finance, and the Balance Sheet shows the deficiency in the income of the year and the depletion of the Reserve Fund.

Following are notes on some of the many matters which have occupied the attention of the Society and its officers during the present year.

## **Benfield Footpath.**

On the advice of Counsel the procedure adopted in this case was to take out a summons. Accordingly, on behalf of the Society, Mr. E. Bury, J.P., of the Hyde and District Footpaths Preservation Society appeared as complainant. The summons was heard at the Stockport Borough Police Court on the 5th December, and after hearing the evidence of both parties the Magistrates decided that the path was public, and the defendant was fined for having erected the obstructions. It is a very significant fact that although the Society has been in existence upwards of 25 years this is the first action that it has been necessary to fight—surely a tribute to its power of negotiation. But even with the strongest case negotiations may fail, and it is hardly necessary to point out that the knowledge that the Society has the

means to support legal proceedings, if that course should become necessary, is of great effect in the conduct of negotiations. The costs in this particular case amounted to £50 14s. 6d. The Society gratefully acknowledges a donation of £20 from the Hyde Society towards these costs.

Shortly after the hearing of the action, Mr. Bennett, the defendant, approached the Secretary of the Hyde Society with a view to a meeting being arranged to discuss the exact line of the footpath and the re-erection of the stiles and footbridge. After some preliminary difficulties, a meeting took place between Mr. Bennett and representatives of both Societies and, ultimately, Mr. Bennett agreed to the line of path being as defined in various plans—which in places differs from that which had been so freely used. Although the original path is steeper of ascent and descent by the brook the path should be less boggy and, moreover, it is satisfactory that the exact route has been settled amicably. As the line of the path is at present rather ill-defined in places, Mr. Bennett has consented to a few guide stakes being placed in the ground to indicate the agreed way, and also to the fixing of one of the Society's signposts on his land at the commencement of the path. The adjoining owner has been asked to consent to the erection of a signpost at Benfield Farm and to the placing of a footbridge over the brook.

#### **Footpath from Chapel-en-le-Frith (N.W.) Station to Bank Hall.**

During the year, the signpost on the path just by Bank Hall has again disappeared, leaving standing the "Private" notices on the side of the road. As the latter notices have a tendency to prevent members of the public from using the path the Chapel-en-le-Frith Council have been asked to erect signposts indicating that the path is public.

#### **Footpath from Knutsford to Arley.**

The Council is glad to report that the footbridge over the brook crossing this path, which has for the past few years reposed in midstream, has been re-erected by the Bucklow Rural District Council. In consequence of the footbridge being derelict, and of the bad condition of the footpath generally, it was difficult to traverse, and was, therefore, in some danger of becoming indistinct by lack of user. With the re-erection of the footbridge, however, no doubt the path will again be freely used, and so discourage attempts to obstruct the way, as there has been a tendency to do in the past.

### **Footpath over River Bollin at Ashley Mill.**

On this matter the Council called the attention of the Bucklow Council to the footbridge carrying this path over the river. The bridge, after being in a dilapidated condition for some time, was carried away during the recent floods, thus causing a break in the public footpath from the Bleeding Wolf Hotel to the Polo Ground. In reply, the Bucklow Council state that they have been dealing with the matter of the reconstruction or replacement of the bridge with Lord Egerton's estate agent, and further proposals would be considered by the Rural Council in the near future.

### **Proposed Reservoirs in Goyt Valley.**

Immediately it was known that the Stockport Corporation intended to promote a Bill for the construction of two reservoirs in the Goyt Valley, your Council asked the Corporation to receive a joint deputation from the Society and Ramblers' Federation to discuss the provision of footpaths around the reservoir, such as were provided for in the first Act in connection with the construction of the Derwent Valley reservoirs.

Early in January a meeting took place, and the whole matter discussed. Particular objection was taken to Clause 7B of the Bill which would give the Corporation power to close all the footpaths within the limit of the land to be acquired. It was pointed out that it was unnecessary to close footpaths outside the "limits of deviation," and the Corporation were asked to agree that all the paths that might be subsequently agreed upon to be left open should be inserted in the Bill as specific exceptions to such Clause. It was arranged that the Society (in conjunction with the Ramblers' Federation) should indicate on the plans the paths claimed to be left open. This has now been done and, in addition, the plans were also marked to show the paths that should be substituted for those that would be submerged or closed on the construction of the reservoirs. The following statement was forwarded to the Stockport Corporation together with the Plans:—

#### **STOCKPORT CORPORATION BILL, 1930.**

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Two proposed Reservoirs in Goyt Valley at Goyt's Bridge, Bunsal and Chilworth (Fernilee Mills)

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Proposals of the Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society and of the Ramblers' Federation (Manchester



and District) with reference to the safeguarding of reasonably convenient access to the valley and the preservation of its scenic amenities.—February 10, 1930.

### THE EFFECT OF CONSTRUCTIONAL WORKS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

The general principle underlying these proposals of the Ramblers' Federation and the Footpath Society is that they do not desire in the slightest degree to ask the Stockport Corporation to create new rights of way for pedestrians, except in so far as new rights of way will be required in substitution of those public footpath rights which will necessarily be interfered with or entirely destroyed when the reservoir constructional works of the Corporation are carried out.

Reduced to their lowest terms, the Corporation proposals will destroy three public crossings from the uplands on the Derbyshire side of the River Goyt to the uplands on the Cheshire side namely :—

- (a) The two crossings at Goyt's Bridge by carriage bridge and old pack-horse or foot bridge.
- (b) The Bunsal Ford crossing near Bunsal Farm (an excellent example of a paved pack-horse ford). This is on the line of an old Bridle Road from Chapel-en-le-Frith to Macclesfield and
- (c) The most popular crossing by carriage bridge near the site of the old Chilworth Powder Works (Fernilee Mills).

The proposals now made as substitutes for each of these three crossings are :—

- (a) Public footpath rights only along the proposed private carriage road (work No. 19) or alternatively a public footpath leaving Goyt's Lane where such lane is crossed by the "Limit of Deviation" Line and crossing enclosures 67, 68, 80, 78, 77, 75, 74, 23 and 57 to join the road from "Cat and Fiddle" Inn (work No. 13).
- (b) A public footpath across the dam of the upper or Errwood Reservoir either just below the top of the dam or by a footbridge at or near Bunsal Ford for which this crossing will be a substitute.
- (c) A public footpath across the valley by the lower or Fernilee Reservoir dam. It is observed with satisfaction that this is provided for in the Bill.

The works will destroy the most popular pedestrian route up and down the valley by the Riverside, inasmuch as this road from Chilworth Powder Works (Fernilee Mills) to Goyt's Bridge will almost wholly be submerged. It seems difficult to provide an equally convenient alternative footpath on the west or Cheshire side of the River Goyt and our proposal, therefore, is that the Corporation should acquire the line of the long-disused and dismantled High Peak Mineral Railway site (Enclosure No. 79) between Bunsal Farm and the cottage on the Fernilee-Errwood Drive on enclosure No. 95 (near Work No. 8 and Letter "M"). This alternative route would provide a delightful and ready-made footpath between the points named, and as it is understood the Buxton deputation were promised a footpath (in reply to their request for a motor road) on the east side of the valley it is requested

that the Corporation will make provision for a footpath on the east of the valley along the old railway line or, if that be not acquired, along an equally convenient route roughly parallel thereto.

The existing footpath from Goyt's Bridge to Bunsal Farm will also be submerged and an alternative footpath is requested on the Derbyshire side along the line of Work No. 13, or roughly parallel thereto, between the points named.

The Intended Carriageway, Work No. 18, it is observed in the Bill will also carry public footpath rights and if the Intended Carriageway Work No. 19 is also made to carry a public footpath such footpaths would link up the road from "Cat and Fiddle Inn" to "The Street" leading toward Jenkin Chapel, and if the footpath crossings of Jep Clough and Deep Clough (near Intake) are made practicable (these crossings have been rendered difficult and somewhat dangerous by being washed away by floods) the public may be expected to use this existing route on the Cheshire side, although it is not nearly so commodious as the track in the valley before referred to and for which an alternative is sought on the east of the valley.

The southern slopes of Jep Clough are very steep, and the suggestion is put forward, though without any desire to press the matter, that easier gradients would be secured by continuing the road from "Intake" and Enclosure No. 154, across Enclosure No. 120 ("Errwood" plantation) to join proposed Carriageway Work No. 21 in Enclosure No. 126.

#### SCENIC AMENITIES.

The proposed works will destroy a large number of fine forest trees, and it is hoped that the Corporation in carrying out their intention to do all in the power to preserve the amenities will not be content to plant only the conifers (fir, pine and larch) but will plant many deciduous trees (oak, elm, birch, hornbeam, etc.) and in such replanting leave spaces which will ultimately provide beautiful vistas of the water in the reservoirs.

The Corporation will please a large number of lovers of historic and interesting pack horse or foot bridges if they will include in their constructional works the removal of the Goyt's Bridge pack horse or foot bridge to a point up the road leading to the Cat and Fiddle, where the footpath from Buxton comes across Goyt's Moss and down Berry Clough and joins the said road at the "Stepping Stones" shown south-west of Enclosure 23.

#### FOOTPATHS OUTSIDE THE "LIMITS OF DEVIATION" BUT WITHIN THE "LIMIT OF LAND TO BE ACQUIRED."

Both the Footpath Society and the Ramblers' Federation are anxious that there should be no disturbance of existing public footways outside the reservoirs area, and particularly where footways run in the same direction, roughly parallel, but away from the motor roads. The path behind Goytvale Cottages at Fernilee, along the east side of Enclosures 145, 142, 129 and 128 towards Rake End, forms a good example of the parallel footpath which takes the pedestrian off the busy and petrol-fumed main motor road to Buxton.

The contention by the Corporation that they are the saviours of the Goyt Valley will, it is thought, be more readily conceded by public opinion if the proposals now put forward are met in the spirit which the Corporation have already expressed that they too are desirous of preserving the access and amenities of the Valley.

The danger of pollution by thoughtless picnickers and others can be effectively combated by a bigger campaign against litter, within the next few years, a campaign in which our Societies have for a long period been actively engaged.

A more detailed list of the proposals following the Works Clauses in the Bill could be submitted if desired.

With reference to the promise at the recent interview to amend Clause 7 (b) of the Bill to specifically exclude from its operations the public paths agreed upon, and which paths it was agreed should be defined in the Bill, it is submitted that unless an area considerably less than "within the limit of land to be acquired" was substituted in the Bill (which would make the agreed paths to be excepted therefrom easy of definition without burdening the Bill unnecessarily) the simpler course would be for the clause to refer to a plan to be signed by representatives of the Corporation, of our Societies, and of the Highways Authorities responsible for the area in question, such plan to be deposited with and form part of the Bill. As to the substituted paths not already provided for in the Bill, we take it that the Bill will be amended to provide for the "works" necessary for the construction of such substituted paths.

So far as Clause 7 (a) is concerned, this would also appear to require a little amendment as, apparently, powers are sought to close the whole length of the path from Oldfield Farm to point B.1 (near Shawstile Farm). It is submitted that the power of closing should only refer to the portion of the path coloured blue on the accompanying plans, and that the Clause should be amended accordingly.

#### GENERAL NOTES ON PLANS.

The paths coloured Brown and Blue are claimed as public footpaths.

The paths coloured Blue will be submerged or rendered useless.

The paths coloured Red are requested as substitutes for those which will be submerged.

The exact lines of two of the paths claimed as public footpaths and shown by brown colour on the six-inch scale Parliamentary plan have still to be determined, as they are not shown on Ordnance Maps, but it is believed they are sufficiently accurate for our present purposes. These two paths are:—

- (a) The path leading over Stake Side across Enclosure 58 and
- (b) The path from "Intake" across No. 158 to the upper path 135.

Your president and secretary, at the request of Messrs. Hill & Son, the engineers in charge of the scheme, had an interview with Mr. Hill, when he intimated that he was prepared to advise the Corporation to agree (with slight diversions) to the substituted paths as claimed, with the exception of the proposed path on the eastern side of the reservoirs and, moreover, was also prepared to advise that Clause 7B, instead of relating to the whole area of the land to be acquired, should only relate to an area of roughly 100 yards from the "top water level," that is

within the "limits of deviation, and plans showing such area, together with the paths to be excepted from the provisions of the Clause within such area, have been forwarded by him to the Corporation. The Corporation have now agreed to the engineer's proposals and consequently the wishes of the Society and the Ramblers' Federation, so far as footpaths are concerned, have been met, with the exception of the provision of a path on the eastern side, which the Corporation state cannot be agreed to, and which, as will be seen from the statement above, was particularly asked for. The Council is now engaged considering the reply of the Corporation in conjunction with the Ramblers' Federation.

Petitions against the Bill have been lodged by the Highway Authorities responsible for the area, in respect of which your Council has supplied plans showing the paths which would be affected.

#### **Footpath over Bramhall Golf Links.**

#### **Footpath from Upper to Lower Swinsey Farm, Woodford.**

During the past year the Cheshire Foothills Society has come into being, and as these footpaths come within the area which that Society proposes to look after it has kindly undertaken to deal with these cases.

#### **Delamere Forest Footpaths.**

It is sometime since the Council was informed that a meeting was to take place between the Forestry Commissioners and the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservations Society with a view to determining the policy to be adopted by the Forestry Commissioners in regard to various rights and interests of the public in all the forests under their control. As it was the Divisional Officer's suggestion that your Society should await the result of the promised meeting before the particular case of the footpaths through Delamere Forest was further considered, the Council is now pressing that this meeting should be arranged for the earliest possible date, otherwise your Council must request the Divisional Officer to deal with Delamere questions forthwith, particularly in view of the fact that attempts are being made to prevent the public from using some of the public footpaths through the Forest. It will be remembered that a plan was prepared indicating all the paths claimed to be public, and this plan together with a detailed statement was forwarded to the Divisional Officer in July, 1928.

### **Footpaths on Baslow Edge and Eaglestone Moor.**

As mentioned in the Report for last year, your Council asked the Bakewell Rural District Council to receive a deputation so that the question of access to these footpaths could be discussed, but your Council regrets to report that the request has been refused.

### **Footbridge near Clayton Bridge Station.**

In 1927 complaints were received that the wooden bridge over which crossed the path over the River Medlock near to Weir Clough, a short distance from the Clayton Bridge Railway Station, was washed away during the heavy floods of that year. Investigations were made, and subsequently when it was found that works were being carried out it was thought that the footbridge was being re-erected. Such works, however, were not completed, and the bridge has not been re-erected. As pedestrians wishing to use the footpath have to make a very considerable detour, representations were made to the Limehurst Rural District Council and the Droylsden Urban District Council for re-erection of the bridge. The latter Council has replied that the footbridge is within the Limehurst Council's area, and a reply is being awaited from that Council.

### **Footpath from Holmfirth—Glossop Road, to the Sheffield Road, Woodhead.**

As the result of the Society's negotiations with the Manchester Corporation the latter have given instructions for the obstruction to be removed on this path. The Corporation do not, however, admit that the path is public, and reserve to themselves the right to close the path one day each year, this right could not be admitted by the Society, and, therefore, they protested against it. This protest has been noted by the Corporation.

### **Westend—Alport track.**

The position with regard to this track remains the same although, of course, evidence in support of the public's right over the track is still being collected.

The tenant of Alport Castles Farm complains that a party removed stones from where he placed them to keep the river at flood times in its proper channel. The stones were removed unwittingly by ramblers to facilitate the crossing of the river. As the farmer had his work to do over again ramblers are asked to refrain from removing such stones.

### **Footpath at Shireoaks.**

"No Road" notices having been erected on two of the footpaths on the Ford Hall Estate, Shireoaks, the owner was interviewed when he admitted that the path from Shireoaks to the Hayfield-Roych Clough Road was a public right of way, and the notice should not have been placed on this path, and at the request of the Council has removed the offending notice. As to the path from Breckhead to Shireoaks, investigations have been made from which it would appear that the path is public. At the present moment there is no notice or obstruction of any kind on the path.

### **Footpath in Ashworth Woods.**

Your Council has called the attention of the Birtle Rural District Council to the obstruction of the footpath which leads from Ashworth Woods into Ashworth Vale, having in the first instance written to the farmer to remove the fence forming the obstruction, which he refused to do. The District Council's reply is awaited.

### **Footpath from Brooks' Drive to Yew Tree Lane, Ringway.**

Your Council intended to erect a signpost on Brooks' Drive indicating the entrance of the path through the gap in the hedge, but permission to do so has not been granted by the Agents to the Brooks' Estate Office, the owners of Brooks' Drive. The obstructions on the path itself have been taken down, and a swing gate erected where the gap in the hedge formerly existed.

### **Footpath from Peep o' Day via Whiterakes to the Naze Farm, Chinley.**

Your Council has not yet been able to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement with the land-owner concerning this path. Proposals recently made by him are being considered.

### **Felling of trees on Roman Road from Goyts Bridge to Pym Chair.**

As the felling of trees on this road seriously threatened to destroy the beauty of the road your Council wrote to the Jodrell Estate in the hope that on their attention being called to the felling of the trees instructions would be given that no further trees should be felled and thus preserve the road in its present state. In reply the owner questioned the right of the Society to address owners on such a matter. Surely the request was a reasonable one, and one that would have been sympathetically considered by most owners!

### **Footpath from Stretford to Urmston.**

Some few years ago the footpath on the Ashton-on-Mersey side of the River Mersey leading from Stretford to Urmston was closed temporarily. It was thought at that time that the closing was to enable certain repairs to be carried out to the path which was rather dangerous in places. On request being made to the Stretford Urban District Council to re-open the path now that the work had been apparently completed such Council stated that the path was now closed owing to the path having been washed away in several places whilst at other points its use was exceedingly dangerous.

### **Hayfield—Snake Inn Path.**

The Stockport Corporation have complained to the Society that ramblers using this path are in the habit of fouling the stream which flows from Nab Brow through White Brow into Kinder Reservoir to such an extent that each week end the water supply to the Reservoir Keeper's house at Kinder, which is taken from the stream, is unfit for use.

It is not suggested that the fouling of the stream is intentional, but only thoughtless. If the Corporation's complaint is justified, the Council would point out that the waters of the stream are used for domestic purposes, and urges the public to refrain from fouling or disturbing the water.

### **Access to Aber Falls.**

The attention of the Council was called to the action of the owner charging toll for use of the path to Aber Falls. Your Council reported the matter to the Ogwen Rural District Council, and members will be pleased to know that such Council have taken proceedings to protect the right of way. Apart from the footpath to the Falls there appears to be other footpaths through the defendant's land, leading on to the Conway side of the falls to the adjoining mountains, by which it is understood one is able to proceed to Capel Curig, Bethesda, etc. As it is always advisable to collect all possible evidence your Council asks that members who have used any of the paths in dispute without interference should communicate with the Society.

### **Footpath from Priestcliffe to the Millers Dale Road, Taddington.**

Owing to quarrying operations this path is being gradually diverted and rendered very dangerous, and the attention of the Buxton Lime Firms has been called to the danger that exists in using the path.

### **Footpath from Edale Road to Win Hill via Twitchill.**

Notices have been erected on this path by the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council intimating that application would be made on the 9th April for an order to divert this path. There is considerable opposition to the proposed diversion, and the Society has been asked to support such opposition and oppose the application for diversion. From investigations made it would appear that the new route proposed the public already enjoy a right of footway over the entire length, while a portion of it is also a public bridle path. In view of this it is contended that the notice is bad in law as a diversion order is asked for whilst in effect it is the stoppage of a footpath that is required. Before considering what steps should be taken to oppose the application your Council has written to the Chapel Council, and placed the facts before them in the hope that the Council would, having regard to the fact that a stoppage is sought and not diversion, not proceed further with the proposed application.

### **Direction Posts.**

A new iron plated direction post has been erected on the Oyster Clough Roman Road.

At Tunstead Milton a new post has been fixed to the iron direction plate No. 9. Direction plates Nos. 7 and 8 at Tunstead Milton together with their posts have been repainted and a supporting stake attached to No. 8.

A new post has been fixed to the direction plate at Alport Bridge.

A new post has been fixed to one of the "Dogs in Leash" plates in Ashop Clough.

The direction post and plate at Ashop Head have been repainted.



By the generosity of the Stockport Rambling Clubs a direction plate and post have been erected above Errwood Farm. The Stockport clubs have further volunteered to defray the cost of a direction plate and post to indicate the commencement of the Stakeside footpath above Goyt Bridge.

During the present year the Society hope to erect posts as follows :—

Two iron plated posts on the path across Wild Moor from Goyt Bridge to Edgemoor.

An iron plated post at Alport Bridge to indicate the Oyster Clough Roman Road commencement.

Three finger posts at Glossop approaching Doctor's Gate.

A finger post on the path Yewtree House to Flittogate Farm near Knutsford.

During the past year a further guide stake disappeared from the path Tunstead Farm to Kinderlow End. In view of the well marked nature of the path—a condition which has followed the erection of the posts and stakes on this footpath—it is not proposed to go to the expense of placing another stake in this position. The three armed finger post at Kinderlow End has been damaged and repairs are in hand.

In last year's report reference was made to repairs which had been carried out on the Lady Clough footbridge near the Snake Inn. On two occasions during the past year further repairs have been necessitated, owing to wilful damage, on the second occasion this heavy footbridge having been swung over into a reverse position.

On the Benfield footpath the Society are providing and fixing a footbridge and erecting two direction posts and a number of guide stakes, a work which it is hoped will be completed ere this report is published.

### **Finances.**

The Council has again to draw attention to the fact that the Society's expenditure for the year exceeds its income. It need hardly be pointed out that the income of the Society

must necessarily determine the extent of its activities, and unless it can depend upon a larger income the Society will be very much restricted in the work it undertakes. Whilst the calls for the assistance of the Society steadily increase the income does not advance in proportion to the expenditure necessarily involved in dealing with the additional work. The Society's work is for the benefit of all, whilst the burden of finding the necessary financial support falls upon a comparatively small number of supporters. As mentioned in the report for last year the Society would like to acquire copies of the various Enclosure Award Plans, which would be of great assistance in determining the questions affecting many old roads and paths within the Society's area, but, as the cost of each plan would be roughly £6 to £7, owing to its slender resources the necessary purchases cannot be made until further financial support is forthcoming.

Secretaries of Rambling Clubs and kindred societies would be doing a very useful service if they would bring to the notice of their members on all convenient opportunities the objects and claims of the Society, and urge individual membership.

Only donations to the amount of £9 15s. 6d. have been received towards the Defence Fund. The costs in connection with the Benfield case have reduced the balance in hand from £129 12s. 8d. to £108 13s. 8d. Your Council is very handicapped in having so small a balance, and again urges members to support such fund as liberally as possible so that the minimum fund of £250 aimed at may be achieved as quickly as possible.

At this stage of the proceedings it is difficult to estimate how much will be required to be expended in connection with your Society's opposition to the Stockport Corporation Bill, and, furthermore the Defence Fund may also be called upon to provide the necessary costs to oppose the application for the diversion of the footpath from the Edale Road to Win Hill. As has been repeatedly pointed out the Society should at all times have a sufficiently large balance in hand in the Defence Fund to enable your Council to take immediate steps to defend any action that may be necessary, particularly if by taking such action a path is to be saved for the public, as was undoubtedly the case in regard to the Benfield path.

### **Membership.**

The terms of membership are quite simple ; there are no formalities other than the payment of a subscription of not less than 2/6 per annum, which entitles the member to a copy of the annual report, and to any information which it may be in the Council's power to give.

In fixing so small a minimum subscription, the Society had in view the desirability of obtaining the largest possible amount of public interest, but, of course, the revenue from subscriptions at this low rate is quite inadequate to the requirements for the conduct of the Society's operations.

The Council, therefore, renews its appeal for subscriptions higher than the minimum, and for donations to the Defence Fund, mentioned above.

### **Affiliation.**

The minimum fee for Rambling Clubs and other Societies desiring to become affiliated is 10/6 per annum. The payment of the fee carries with it the right to nominate a delegate to attend the Council's meetings.

There are still many Rambling Clubs and similar associations in the district which are not yet affiliated, and a special invitation is extended to these to attach themselves to the Society, for, by so doing, they would help financially, and, through their delegates, take a part in its management.

### **“The Rambler and the Law.”**

The second edition of this very useful booklet is still on sale at the exceptionally low price of 3d. No member should be without a copy of the booklet, which clearly defines in simple language the legal points which are always a source of trouble to pedestrians.

### **The Footpath Way.**

The Society's Inspector of Footpaths over a period of several years has taken a set of photographs to illustrate a lantern lecture which he has now prepared under the above title. To a very large extent, the slides picture the history of the Society and Mr. Wild has kindly offered to give the lecture to any affiliated society without fee, with the exception of out-of-pocket travelling expenses.

## Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies.

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- Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society.  
 Altrincham & District Natural History & Literary Society.  
 Ancoats Brotherhood.  
 Ardwick Rambling Club.  
 Art Museum Field Club.  
 Associate Rambling Club.  
 Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
 Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
 Bury and District C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
 Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (Manchester Section).  
 Co-operative Holiday Association.  
 Chorlton Road Congregational Church Rambling Club.  
 Comradship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Section).  
 Derby C.H.A. and H. F. Rambling Club.  
 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.  
 Edgeley Botanical Society.  
 Essian Rambling Club.  
 Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society, Manchester.  
 First Timperley Rovers.  
 Friendship Holidays Association Manchester Rambling Club.  
 Glossop Field Naturalists' Society.  
 Hans Renold Social Union Rambling Section.  
 Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.  
 Heywood and District Botanical Society.  
 Holiday Fellowship Limited.  
 Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group No. 1).  
 Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).  
 Hyde and District Footpaths Preservation Society.  
 L. M. & S. Rambling Club.  
 Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.  
 Manchester & District Library Fellowship, Rambling Section.

**Affiliated Rambling Clubs and Societies**—continued.

- Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " A ")  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " C ")  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " D " West)  
 Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section " E ")  
 Manchester Pedestrian Club.  
 Manchester Rambling Club.  
 Moorlanders Rambling Club.  
 Manchester Social Club Ramblers.  
 Oldham and District C.H.A. Rambling Society.  
 Onward Rambling Club.  
 Peveril Rambling Club.  
 Plymouth Grove Wesley Guild.  
 " R " Club.  
 Ramblers' Federation (Manchester and District).  
 Rotherham C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
 Rucksack Club.  
 Russell Rambling Club.  
 Salford P.S.A. Rambling Club.  
 School of Languages Rambling Club.  
 Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling Club.  
 Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.  
 Stockport C.H.A. Rambling and Social Club.  
 Stockport Field Club.  
 Stockport Municipal Secondary School Old Students'  
     Rambling Club.  
 Stockport Co-operative Sports Club.  
 Trinity Wesleyan Rambling Club.  
 United Field Naturalists.  
 Vegetarian Society Social and Athletic Club.  
 Whalley Range Presbyterian Rambling Club.  
 Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section)  
     Stockport.  
 Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.  
 Zion Rambling Club.

## PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1929.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1928 ... ..	29	0	3
Subscriptions, 1929 ... ..	101	16	6
Sale of Booklets ... ..	7	6	
Stockport Rambling Clubs to defray cost of signpost erected on "the Street" ... ..	1	14	0
Bank Interest ... ..	2	16	7

£135 14 10

DEFENCE FUND.			
	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1928 ... ..	129	12	8
Donations, 1929 ... ..	9	15	6

£139 8 2

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Printing and Stationery, etc. ... ..	18	10	6
Hire of Rooms ... ..	5	2	0
Lecturer's Expenses (Annual Meeting) ... ..	2	2	0
Insurance Premium ... ..	18	11	
Advertising ... ..	1	10	0
Signposts and Repairs ... ..	23	0	2
Travelling Expenses ... ..	7	7	2
Inspection of Maps ... ..	11	6	
Secretary's Honorarium ... ..	30	0	0
Footpaths Inspectors' Honorarium ... ..	10	0	0
Subscription to Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society ... ..	2	2	0
Donation towards expenses of Countryside Conference at Manchester ... ..	5	0	0
Postages ... ..	5	19	2
Sundry Expenses ... ..	1	12	0
Balance carried forward ... ..	21	19	5

£135 14 10

Legal charges re Benfield footpath	50	14	6	
Less Contribution from Hyde Foot- paths Preservation Society ... ..	20	0	0	
	30	14	6	
Balance carried forward ... ..	108	13	8	

£139 8 2