

W.S. Potter

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

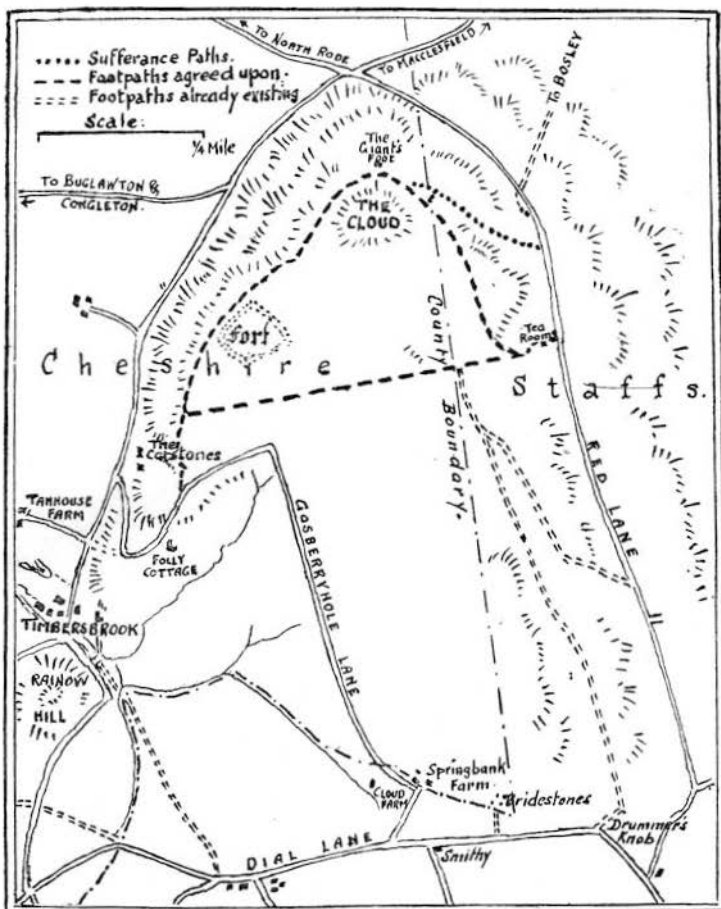
REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL

*For the Year
ended 31st December
1937*

**There having been no changes to
The Constitution and Rules of the
Society since 1934, the pages
showing The Constitution and Rules
in this Report have not been copied
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Revised Map of Footpaths on "The Cloud."

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The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

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H. E. WILD

Asst. Inspectors of Footpaths :

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G. H. B. WARD, F.R.G.S.

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Hon. Secretary :

ARTHUR J. MOON, M.A.
55, Brown Street, Manchester, 2.
DEAnsgate 4276.

Secretary :

THOMAS BOULGER

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1937.

THE number of cases in which the aid of the Society is sought continues to increase. During the past year or two it has had to deal with some of wide public interest, such as the arrangements for the protection, substitution and adjustment of the rights of way at Ringway which will be affected by the construction of the new Airport, and the successful negotiations for the preservation of the footpaths on "The Cloud." It is hoped that the publicity which these matters have obtained will bring to the Society a large increase in 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.

It will be fairly obvious that only by the co-operation of the various highway authorities concerned has it been possible to bring to a satisfactory conclusion so many matters during the year. At the same time your Council would urge highway authorities not to rest content in carrying out the duties imposed upon them by statute but to take every opportunity of exercising the powers they undoubtedly have both under the Town and Country Planning Act and the Public Health Act in acquiring—compulsorily, if necessary—new rights of way for the public. Having regard to the vast expenditure on arterial roads, principally for motor traffic, it is due to the pedestrian that the comparatively small sum involved in the acquisition of new rights of way should not be withheld. The duties and powers of highway authorities have recently been brought to their notice by the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, as also has a very important point connected with the repair of footpaths.

It has been the general opinion that although highway authorities were responsible for the repair of all roads and footpaths dedicated to the public use prior to March, 1836, they were not so liable in regard to highways dedicated after that date. The Commons Society now takes the view (with which your Officers are in agreement) that the highway authorities are liable to repair all public footpaths and all public bridleways except those which were originally set out as private ways in

an Enclosure Award and did not become dedicated to the public before March, 1836, such view being based on what appears to be a correct interpretation of Section 23 of the Highway Act, 1835. While this view of the interpretation and effect of Section 23 is not yet accepted by all highway authorities in general terms it is understood that some are already acting on it in particular cases, and it is hoped that it will eventually prevail throughout your Society's area.

Following are notes of some of the many matters that have occupied the attention of the Society and its Officers and Council during the past year:—

LOVE LANE, DROYLSDEN.

On becoming aware that the Company owning the land crossed by this lane purposed erecting gates at each end which were to be locked at night your Council caused investigations to be made. The lane is about 120 yards long and runs from Fairfield Square to the towpath running alongside the Canal. There seems to be no doubt that it came into existence some 130 years ago having been constructed by the Company's predecessors in title, to enable the inhabitants of Fairfield Square to gain access to the towpath. Correspondence has ensued between the Society and the Company from which it appears that the land is held on charitable trusts connected with the Moravian Church which adjoins Fairfield Square. The Company is of the opinion that as the land is held on charitable trusts it has not been in a position to dedicate the lane. Your Council, however, is satisfied that the general principle is that Trustees and Statutory Corporations may dedicate a highway over land vested in them. It seems quite clear that the mere circumstance of the persons in whom land is vested not being beneficial owners cannot preclude them from dedicating—the fact that the trusts are charitable making no difference. As the Company has expressed the intention of proceeding with the erection of the gates the Droylsden Urban District Council has been informed and asked to take steps to prevent the public right being interfered with in any way.

FOOTPATH THROUGH POYNTON LITTLE COPPICE.

This path which proceeds from Poynton to Lyme Park was crossed by two footbridges near Hagg Farm. Recently it was found that the one nearest the Farm had disappeared altogether whilst the other was in need of repair. The Poynton-with-Worth Parish Council has been asked to secure the replacement of the bridges.

FOOTPATH FROM SYMONDLEY AVENUE TO BISHOPS CLOUGH, SYMONDLEY, SUTTON.

This path formerly commenced at Sutton Lane Ends but as a result of building operations the first hundred yards have been made into Symondley Avenue. Recently the Parish Council communicated with the tenant of the land as to two notices that were erected both worded "Private land. Trespassers will be prosecuted. By order," and also as to the condition of one of the stiles which consisted of an iron rail which had to be climbed. It is understood that the Parish Council intimated to the tenant that if he did not improve the stile it was their intention to do so.

Whilst making his investigations the Society's Inspector found that two similarly worded notices had been erected on the intersecting path from Symondley Farm to The Grange (formerly Greenbank) and that such path was obstructed at two points in the first field after leaving the Symondley Avenue path. The Parish Council has been asked to request the removal of the obstructions and to call for the removal of the notices on the side of both the paths, which notices tend to prevent the public from using the same, and it was suggested to the Council that if the tenant was not prepared to remove the notices the Council should itself erect simple notices at each end of the paths worded "Public footpath."

FOOTBRIDGE AT BROOMYCROFTHEAD, WILDBOARCLOUGH.

For some time negotiations have been proceeding with the Parish Councils for Wildboardclough and Macclesfield Forest with a view to this footbridge being re-erected. An assurance has now been received that the bridge will be re-erected by Easter.

RINGWAY AIRPORT.

As it had become increasingly difficult to find the public footpaths over the land forming the site of the Aerodrome owing to the carrying out of the necessary levelling operations, the Corporation was asked forthwith to dedicate the paths agreed to be substituted. With a view to this being done the Airport Manager interviewed the tenants when objection was made to the new paths crossing certain fields diagonally. After a meeting on the ground, a new line of path was agreed upon which will be less disturbing to the tenants and will it is believed be more acceptable to the public as the path will as far as possible keep to the hedge side. Moreover access to the main roads adjoining the land can be had at five different points as against two in the

case of the original line of path. The proposals have been approved by the Corporation and your Council and subject to their acceptance by the local and town planning authorities concerned (for the closing and substitution of the paths is being dealt with under the North Cheshire Regional Planning Scheme) the necessary stiles for the new path will be erected during the coming Spring, and it is hoped that it will be possible to make the new path available to the public by the time the Airport is officially opened—which it is understood will be in April. Simple notices will be erected indicating the line of path so that the new route can be easily followed.

FOOTPATH FROM ADLINGTON ROAD TO LOWER SWINESEYE, WOODFORD.

It would appear that some pedestrians are still endeavouring to use the line of path that existed prior to it being diverted by order of Quarter Sessions in 1925. After leaving Adlington Road the path does not now proceed in front of New Hall Farm but goes at the foot of the hill between the river and the road and behind New Hall Farm.

KNUTSFORD-ARLEY-LYMM PATH.

Your Council is pleased to report that the proposals outlined in last year's Report suggested by the Surveyor to the Bucklow Rural District Council with a view to an amicable settlement of this matter proved acceptable to all parties. To further the settlement the District Council erected three new stiles and the new line of path is now open and the obstructions that have periodically taken place should now be no more. It would appear that the tenant of Hollowood Farm has been of the opinion that the path did not go across his field but followed the course now agreed upon. The new line of path is in the same field after leaving Hollowood Farm as formerly but instead of crossing the centre of the field the path now follows the hedgeside until the far corner of the field is reached where it turns left, at which point one of the Society's direction posts has been erected. Two further posts have been erected so that there should be little difficulty in following the path. The cost of the three direction posts has been defrayed by the Co-operative Holidays Association.

FOOTPATH FROM MOBBERLEY TO OLLERTON HALL.

As a result of the Society's representations the Bucklow Council has replaced the footbridge across Pedley Brook which had disappeared.

FOOTPATH FROM AGDEN BRIDGE TO BURFORD LANE, LYMM.

Your Council following a complaint made as to this path (which forms part of the path from Lymm via Agden Bridge to Dunham and Altrincham) had an investigation made, when it was found that two stiles near Burford Farm had been obstructed and a section of the path ploughed up. On being interviewed by the Society's Inspector the tenant of Burford Farm did not deny that the path was public but defended the use of barbed wire as the only means of preventing cattle from breaking through fences—at the same time suggesting that the path served no useful purpose and was never used. The continuation of the path from Burford Farm to Lymm is signposted "Public footpath" by the Lymm Urban District Council and the latter Council on being asked to request the removal of the obstructions and that the section of the path would not in the future be ploughed up has forwarded the Society's letter to the County Land Agent for his attention, as the footpath runs along land which is in the ownership of the Cheshire County Council.

"PERMISSIVE" NOTICES ON TATTON ESTATE.

In giving in last year's Report a list of the footpaths agreed by the Tatton Estate as public it was mentioned that a conference was to take place between the Bucklow Rural District Council and the Agent to the estate to decide as to the other paths claimed as public. Early in the year the District Council forwarded to the Society a map showing not only the paths on this estate but on all the land in the parishes of High Legh, Agden, Bollington, Millington, Mere, Rostherne, Tatton, Ashley and the northern portion of Mobberley. The observations of the Society were sought as to the paths shown on the plan as in dispute. Those observations have been forwarded to the District Council and the result of the negotiations as to the disputed paths is awaited. The Society was able to show that thirteen paths that are claimed as public (three of which were awarded by Enclosure Awards) did not appear at all on the map. It may be of interest to record that apart from the last mentioned paths less than a dozen of the paths on the plan are in dispute.

When the map has been finally agreed the footpaths within a very large portion of the Society's Cheshire area will have been settled for all time, a state of things which will be of considerable help to the Society and the public alike. But for the coming into operation of the Rights of Way Act there seems to be no doubt that this work would not have been commenced and certainly in this respect the Act has served a purpose of undoubted importance.

FOOTPATH FROM DANE BRIDGE TO RUSHTON.

It was reported to the Council that this footpath, which commences at Toolhouse Farm near Dane Bridge, Wincle, on the Cheshire side of the River Dane, had been obstructed by the placing of posts around the first stile after passing the Farm in such a way that the width of passage had been reduced to about nine inches. On making his investigations your Inspector found that the posts had been removed and the path free from obstruction.

FOOTPATH FROM WHITE HOUSE FARM TO TABLEY GRANGE.

In 1935 the Cheshire County Council on the recommendation of the Bucklow Area Advisory Sub-Committee and following correspondence from the Society decided to re-erect the foot-bridge over Waterless Brook near White House Farm, Plumbley. Some little delay occurred in the carrying out of the work but your Council is pleased to report that a very satisfactory bridge has now been erected. In addition a new stile has been made where the path joins the main road by Tabley Grange.

FOOTPATH FROM YEW TREE HOUSE TO PICKMERE.

On traversing this path your Inspector found that the foot-bridge over Waterless Brook near Flittogate Farm had been obstructed by barbed wire and that two planks were missing from the floor of the bridge. It appeared that the tenant had erected the wire to keep his cattle off the bridge but he readily agreed to remove the wire and have a wood rail put in its place. The wire has now been removed and a slip rail substituted which is quite satisfactory.

FOOTPATHS ON "THE CLOUD" BUGLAWTON.

The conference that took place between the Solicitors to Lord Egerton and the Society's Solicitors referred to in last year's Report resulted in the submission of proposals providing for the "summit" path from Gosberryhole Lane to Red Lane to be a public path and for the two paths at present used diverting therefrom (near Giants Foot) to Red Lane to be used by the public on sufferance. Following further representations by the Society's Solicitors the above proposal was extended to include as a public footpath the way on the south of the Plantation, which is partly on Lord Egerton's land and partly on land of an adjoining owner, Mr. W. T. Goodwin, subject to a suitable fence being erected between the path and the Plantation. In making this extension of the original proposal Lord Egerton's

Solicitors stated that his Lordship wished them to say that he was anxious so far as possible to meet the Highway Authorities' and the Society's views in their capacity as representatives of the public who claimed to have rights over the footpaths on "The Cloud" and that the steps taken by Lord Egerton in 1929 and 1934, when the paths were claimed to be "sufferance" paths only, was entirely with a view to preserving the amenities of "The Cloud" and to enable him to have a measure of control in case the rights were abused. The Society was able to give an assurance that all possible steps would be taken to prevent the commission of any such abuses, after which the final agreement now outlined was speedily reached, the negotiations being conducted throughout in a most open and friendly manner.

The terms of the agreement necessitate certain expenditure on behalf of the Staffordshire County Council, Cheshire County Council and Congleton Corporation, particularly on the part of the two latter bodies who between them have agreed to erect the fence on the south of the plantation. The details of the final arrangement have been embodied in an agreement which has been signed by the owners on behalf of the Society and by the Highway Authorities. It is anticipated that the new stiles and fences will shortly be erected so that there will then be no obstruction to the public use. The plan embodied in this Report shows clearly the paths available for the public use and suitable notices are to be erected in order that the paths can be easily followed.

It is due to the Society (to whom the negotiations were entrusted) and to the Highway Authorities that the public should not abuse the rights now assured to them for all time, by trespassing from the paths or by the leaving of litter or other misuse. In particular they are urged to take every care when using the "summit" path and the "sufferance" paths to ensure that stones are not dislodged down the hillside, as in the past this has resulted in annoyance to Lord Egerton's tenants and damage to their property. If such care is exercised there should be no necessity for the withdrawal of the "sufferance" rights now accorded to the public over the two short paths which form a pleasant diversion to and from the "summit" path.

FOOTPATH IN THE GOYT VALLEY.

Some time ago a portion of the path from the former Stubbins Farm to Intake Farm, on the west side of the reservoir, was rendered dangerous at Deep Clough owing to subsidence caused by heavy rains. It is understood that the late tenant of Intake

Farm drew the attention of the Taxal Parish Council to the condition of the path but as such Council would not do anything in the matter he placed a plank across the clough. Such plank is only 10 inches wide although it has a span of fifteen feet. The Stockport Corporation Waterworks Engineer on being asked to make the crossing easier stated that the Corporation could not be expected to remedy what was a liability of the local authority in the maintenance of a public footpath. Your Council, however, pointed out that the addition of a further two or three planks would make the crossing satisfactory particularly if a simple handrail could also be provided. It was suggested to the Engineer that as the Corporation presumably owned the land he should in the circumstances agree to carry out the work necessary and that if this were done it would be in keeping with the friendly arrangement arrived at between the Society and the Corporation regarding the footpaths in the valley. The Society's communication is being considered by the Waterworks Committee.

FOOTPATH FROM BRECK FARM TO SHIREOAKS.

As a result of the Society's correspondence with the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council the latter Council has informed the tenant of Breck Farm that unless the "No Road" sign on this path is removed or the words "Public right of way" added thereto the Council will erect a notice that there is a public right of way over the road. Your Council was able to furnish the District Council with evidence showing that the way, which is indicated on the Chinley, Bugsworth and Browside Tithe Plan of 1842, had been used by the public without interference for a good number of years—certainly more than the twenty years required by the Rights of Way Act.

Some years ago your Council had cause to complain of a "No road" notice attached to a gate on the old track from Shireoaks to the Hayfield-Roych Clough Road which was subsequently removed, the owner admitting that it had been erected on that track in error.

PARALLEL PATH ASTON TO THORNHILL.

The attention of the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council has been directed to the obstruction of the parallel footpath on the northerly side of the old carriage road which runs from Hope via Yorkshire Bridge to Ashopton and which passes through Aston and Thornhill. The obstruction consists of a wire netting fence recently erected across the line of the path at a point S.S.W. of Highfield Head House whilst certain stiles are also now definitely obstructed by brushwood, boarding or barbed wire.

It will be remembered that last year the Society had occasion to call the attention of the District Council to the obstruction of the parallel path on the east side of Aston Lane, Aston, for a short distance between Aston Hall and Hallam Barn when the occupiers were requested to remove the obstructions.

It is of importance that these parallel paths be kept freed from obstruction as the old carriage road is becoming dangerous owing to increasing motor traffic.

FIELD PATH FROM ASTON TO HOPE VIA HOPE STATION.

Along the line of this path an occupation cart way has been arranged fenced in on both sides by wooden fencing. The surface is covered by a layer of stone chippings of such a character that the right of way for pedestrians is rendered more laborious to traverse, particularly for elderly people. Furthermore a new occupation gate has been erected with a narrow wicket gate at one side for pedestrians, thus diminishing the public right as no gate formerly existed. The occupation gate at present opens freely and is preferable to the wicket gate but as it was presumably the intention that the occupation gate would at times be secured the Chapel-en-le-Frith Rural District Council was asked to request the provision of a more commodious gate or stile and to take steps that would ensure that the condition of the right of way was restored so that it was at least as easily passable as it was before the occupation way was set out. Your Council regrets to say that the District Council, after making two inspections of the path has resolved that no action be taken in the matter.

RIVERSIDE PATH, HATHERSAGE.

It will be remembered that the Hathersage Parish Council following representations made by the Society agreed to re-erect the two footbridges south and east of Broadhays Farm. The work has now been completed in a simple and satisfactory way. Each bridge has a handrail and provided there is no wilful damage they should need little attention for some considerable time.

From the site of the bridges to the outlet on the level open ground near Leadmill Bridge there has been further erosion of the bank carrying the public footpath and it seems that if no steps are taken to strengthen the bank the damage might be serious during the winter. There have been frequent local complaints as to the condition of the path and the Hathersage Parish Council is being urged to undertake the work necessary to ensure that the bank is materially strengthened. That Council has the matter under consideration.

FOOTPATH NEAR BROADHAYS FARM, HATHERSAGE.

In traversing the public footpath which runs from Callow Farm through Callow Wood to the Derwent riverside path the Society's Inspector found that on the occupation road which cuts the path into two portions there was an obstruction. The obstruction takes the form of a five barred gate firmly fastened by galvanised wire and bearing a line of barbed wire along the top bar of the gate. The Bakewell Rural District Council was asked to take steps to arrange for the gate to be made to open freely or for the provision of a stile. The path is indicated on the 1896/1897 revision of the 6 inch Ordnance Survey and marked "F.P." but the District Council has asked to be furnished with further evidence of the existence of a public right over the path, which at the moment is being sought. Evidence of use by the public of this path extending over a number of years would be helpful.

CARRIAGE ROAD FROM HATHERSAGE THROUGH ABNEY TO GREAT HUCKLOW.

During the past twelve months or so this carriage road has been fenced in on that portion of the road which lies south east of Abney Moor by a substantial wire fence on both sides of the road. The 6 inch Ordnance Survey marks two tracks which are intersected by the wire and one other way commencing on the road and leading down to Abney Grange and in no case (there are four instances in all) is any provision made for crossing the wire. The Derbyshire County Council has been asked to call for the removal of the wire or the provision of stiles to enable the public to gain access to the paths.

FOOTBRIDGES AT STOKE FORD, ABNEY.

The condition of the footbridges across Bretton Brook and Abney Brook having got very bad, the fact was brought to the notice of the Bakewell Rural District Council who have now agreed to replace the bridges.

NEW LADYBOWER RESERVOIR, ASHOPTON.

The Derwent Valley Water Board has presented a further Bill to Parliament in connection with this new reservoir. The Bill and Plans have been carefully examined and there would appear to be no occasion for objection by the Society. The paths and roads for which powers to stop up or divert are being sought are primarily concerned with ways which will be actually covered by the reservoir. The Water Board has incorporated

in the Bill the arrangement arrived at between the Society and the Board last year whereby the Moscar-Derwent bridle path is to continue to have an outlet as a bridle path at Derwent.

If the Bill passes through in its present form it will mean that the Derwent Pack Bridge will be submerged and the old pack road to Glossop and the two tracks up to Crook Hill Farm will commence from the new public road proposed on the west side of the River Derwent, also the existing public road on the east side of the river will disappear and in its place at a higher level there will be an occupation road and public footpath.

Strenuous efforts have been made by the Sheffield and Peak District branch of the C.P.R.E. in conjunction with the Society to preserve the Derwent Pack Bridge, which is one of the finest examples of pack bridges in the country, but at the moment it would seem that unless a sum of approximately £1,000 can be raised the bridge will be submerged and not taken down and re-erected near Elmin Pits Farm as originally contemplated.

FOOTPATH AT LOCKERBROOK, DERWENT.

The attention of the Society was called to the "Private. No road" notice near Lockerbrook Farm, erected on the gate giving access to the steep direct path down to Fairholmes Farm and the valley road to Derwent on land belonging to the Forestry Commission. Shortly afterwards it was reported that the farmer at Lockerbrook was endeavouring to stop ramblers using the track by informing them that it was private and they were trespassing—although they were ultimately allowed to proceed.

The Forestry Commission have been asked to give instructions for the lettering on the gate to be painted out as the path is a public right of way and to inform the farmer that he must refrain from interfering with the use of the path by the public.

HAZLEHEAD-CUT GATE-DERWENT PATH.

On the cartway nearest to the Flouch Inn (branching from the Flouch-Langsett Road) two notices were being erected by the Sheffield Corporation Water Board—one at the junction of the main road with Brook House Lane and the other near the junction of Brook House Lane with Badger Lane—inferring that the way was only a footpath. As the way in question was awarded by the Langsett Enclosure Award as a public bridle and private carriage road under the name of "Brookhouse Road" the Water Board was asked to have the notices amended to admit the way as a bridle road and to leave it open for that purpose. Both notices have now been removed.

FOOTPATH ACROSS MOSCAR MOOR.

A very exhaustive inspection of Enclosure Awards, old maps and records has recently been made for evidence that would support the claim of the public to a right of way over the footpath across Moscar Moor from Dennis Knoll by Stange End to the Sheffield-Glossop road near Moscar Lodge. Other records have still to be inspected and as soon as this has been done the matter will be carefully considered. Members who may have information regarding this path that would help the Society in its investigations are asked to communicate with the Secretary.

FOOTPATH FROM HAWLEY'S BRIDGE TO BAKEWELL.

This path, which commences on the south east side of Bakewell and emerges on the Bakewell-Youlgreave motor road at Hawley's Bridge to the east of Alport (the path being about two miles long), was found to be obstructed—the obstruction consisting of the removal of stones forming a step stile in the wall near the Hawley's Bridge end of the path. Moreover a wall had been subsequently erected across the path which diverted it. The Bakewell Rural District Council was communicated with in regard to the matter with a view to the reinstatement of the path in its original condition and it is now understood that following correspondence with the owner the path has been satisfactorily reinstated.

CONFERENCE OF FOOTPATHS SOCIETIES.

On the 22nd and 23rd October last a conference of Footpath and kindred Societies was held at the offices of the Commons Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, London, at which your Society was represented. The first day was given to the consideration of matters bearing on the general question of access to the countryside, such as National Parks, Access to Mountains and Coastal Preservation; the second day to problems connected with the preservation and acquisition of public rights of way. A resolution moved on behalf of your Society was unanimously passed. It was:—

“That this Conference urges that steps should be taken through the appropriate Government Departments and the Planning Authorities to secure the inclusion in planning schemes of new cross-country footpaths, especially ridge walks in hill country and connecting field-paths to link existing pedestrian routes.”

The conference was attended by no less than 50 representatives of various Societies and was a decided success, so much so that it was decided to make the Conference an annual one.

Arising out of the discussion on Access to Mountains a sub-committee has been formed to consider in what respects the present Bill might be amended without sacrifice of essentials so as to meet as far as is possible the strong opposition hitherto offered to the measure. Both the Society and the Ramblers Federation for Manchester and District were invited to send representatives to act on that sub-committee and this has been done. The first meeting of the sub-committee has already taken place.

FOOTPATH EXHIBITION.

Arrangements have been made for the holding of a Footpath Exhibition of Maps, Photographs and Lantern Slides at the Central Library, Manchester from February 28 to March 26. In this Exhibition the Society is acting in co-operation with the Ramblers' Federation and the Manchester Geographical Society, and the three Societies take this opportunity of thanking the Libraries Committee of the Manchester Corporation for the facilities afforded.

FOOTPATH LIBRARY.

A ticket is issued to every member of the Society which entitles him to borrow from the Society's Library any volume for home reading. The collection is housed at the Manchester Central Library where for purposes of reference the volumes may be consulted by the general public.

The "Footpath" Library now comprises the following books and maps:—

- Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society Journal. Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- History of Berkhamstead Common.
- Preservation of Open Spaces, Footpaths and Rights of Way. Scapa.
- Court Rolls, Wimbledon.
- Commons, Forests and Footpaths.
- Oxford and District Footpaths Society Map.
- Footpath Map of North Wirral.
- Freeman's "Rights of Way Act, 1932."
- "Kinderscout Guide."
- Commons and Footpaths Society's pamphlets.
- Ramblers' Handbook 3 Volumes.
- Baddeley's "Yorkshire" 1 and 2.
- Rucksack Club Journal, 1925-1936.
- Rimmer's "Summer Rambles round Manchester."
- Minor Monuments of Derbyshire.
- Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbook 1914-15 and 1921-2 to 1937-8.
- Rusticus.
- The Horrors of the Countryside.
- England and the Octopus.
- Afforestation in the Lake District.

The Scenery of England.

The Scenic Heritage of England and Wales.

Small Houses and Bungalows suitable for Peak District.

The D. I. A. Cautionary Guide to St. Albans.

Housing in the Peak District.

The Threat to the Peak.

C. P. R. E. Annual Report.

Six 1 inch Ordnance Survey Maps 1840 edition.

1 inch Ordnance Survey Maps, Popular Edition Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46. Manchester District Map, Peak District Map, Lake District Map, Snowdon Map.

The Adventure of Building.

Any reader of the Report who desires to help by the gift of a suitable volume or by a special financial contribution is invited to communicate with the Secretary.

DIRECTION POSTS.

During the year direction posts have been dealt with as follows :—

Three new direction posts have been erected on the Knutsford-Arley path.

A new post has been erected near Castle Hill Farm, as the gift of the Art Museum Field Club, and a further post a short distance along one of the two paths thus indicated.

A new post has been fixed to the Society's direction plate at Grindleford Bridge.

A new post has been fixed to the "Brough" plate at Hope.

A cross plate has been fixed to the direction post near Great Rocks Pastures Farm.

One of the Society's posts at Tunstead Milton, which had rotted at the base and fallen, has been re-erected. The post in falling had broken the small gate which had been attached to it. As the Society had originally provided this gate some years ago, the gate has now been renewed at the cost of the Society. The direction post together with the Society's other two posts at Tunstead Milton have been repainted.

The direction post near Longside Plantation has also been repainted.

The Society proposes to erect direction posts in the near future in the following positions :—

Three finger posts at Glossop.

Two posts on the Wildmoor Footpath above Goyt's Bridge.

Post near Sheldon.

Two posts near Marsh Farm, Hope.

Post near White Hall, Goyt Valley.

Post near Dissop Head, Lyme Handley.

Post at Thornhill.

Post below Jacob's Ladder.

Two posts near Abney.

Post at Chapel Gate, above the Edale Valley.

The following clubs, societies and members have previously given or have promised to give a direction post to the Society :—

The Stockport Rambling Clubs (2 posts).
Manchester Rambling Club (2 posts).
Peveril Social and Rambling Club (2 posts).
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club (2 posts).
Out o' Doors Fellowship.
Chorlton Road Congregational Y.P.F.
Ramblers' Federation.
Manchester Pedestrian Club.
Art Museum Field Club.
B. S. Harlow, Esq.
Co-operative Holidays Association (3 posts).
C.H.A. "A" Section Rambling Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne C.H.A. Rambling Club (3 posts).
Hallamshire Footpaths Society.
Oldham Rucksack Club.
Manchester Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
C.E. Holiday Homes Comradeship (Manchester and Stockport).
Manchester Holiday Fellowship Group.
Friends of the late C. N. Jones, as a memorial.
A. R. Moon, Esq.
Manby A. Gibson, Esq.

FINANCE.

As will be seen from the statement of accounts the expenditure for the year has exceeded the income by £3 6s. 11d. Whilst membership income is again fairly satisfactory it should be pointed out that had it not been for the investment income and the generous gifts received to cover the cost of signposts (totalling £36 2s. 10d.) there would have been a serious deficiency. The work detailed in the Report should justify a larger membership with additional income. Income should be sufficient to enable the Society to meet all calls in connection with the preservation of public rights of way and the erection and maintenance of signposts.

The Defence Fund has during the year been augmented by £16 1s. to £271 4s. 10d.

The Society is indebted to Mr. G. H. B. Ward, F.R.G.S. for a gift of £50, the income from which is to be used in the maintenance and/or renewal of the Society's signposts along the Derwent bridle road from Strines Lane and Derwent Edge to Grindle Grain and Derwent village, any surplus remaining to be utilised in maintaining the signposts between Foulstone Delf and Abbey Cottage via Green Sitches, so that this becomes definitely ear-marked.

As it would appear that the Society's work during the past few years is leaving its mark the Officials have sufficient confidence in deciding to open a Special Reserve Account to which has been transferred the amount standing to the credit of the Arnold Wilson Legacy Account. The advantages of such a Reserve will be apparent to all. Not only will it show land-owners that the Society is in a position to finance any legal action which may be embarked upon but the income from such a fund will prove a useful accretion to the membership income and so put the Society in a sound financial position. A specimen form of bequest for the use of intending benefactors is embodied in this Report.

MEMBERSHIP.

The terms of membership are simple ; there are no formalities other than the payment of a subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, which entitles the member to a copy of the Annual Report, and to any information which it might be within the Council's power to give.

In fixing this small minimum subscription the Society has in view the desirability of obtaining the largest possible amount of public interest ; the revenue, however, from subscriptions of the minimum rate is inadequate to the needs of the Society's operations. The secretaries of rambling clubs and kindred societies can perform a useful service if they will be good enough to bring to the notice of their members the objects and claims of the Society, and urge individual membership. It is gratifying to report that several of the larger clubs are doing so.

The Council, therefore, renews its appeal for subscriptions in excess of 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 10s. 6d. 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 special invitation is extended to these to attach themselves to the Society, for by so doing, they will help financially, and, through their delegates, take a part in the conduct of the Society's good work.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies.

Accrington Naturalist & Antiquarian Society.
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Preservation Society.

Ancoats Brotherhood.

Art Museum Field Club.

Ashton-under-Lyne & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.

Barnsley C.H.A. Rambling Club.

Blackpool & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.

Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.

Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (L.C. & N.W. District Association).

City News Fellowship (Ramblers Section).

Co-operative Holiday Association.

C.E. Holiday Homes, Ltd

Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Section).

Derby C.H.A. and H. F. Rambling Club.

Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.

Denton Trinity Wesleyan Rambling Club.

Field Naturalists & Archæologists Society, Manchester.

Friendship Holidays Association Manchester Rambling Club.

Hallamshire Footpaths Preservation Society.

Holiday Fellowship Limited.

Holiday Fellowship (Oldham & District Group).

Holiday Fellowship (Manchester Group).

Holiday Fellowship (Stockport Group).

Hyde & District Footpaths Preservation Society.

Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.

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").
Manchester C.H.A. Rambling Club (Section "E").
Manchester C.H.A. Club.
Manchester H.S.C. Languages Rambling Club.
Manchester Pedestrian Club.
Manchester Rambling Club.
Norton Ward (Sheffield) Ratepayers' Association.
Oldham & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Peak Ramblers.
Peveril Rambling & Social Club.
Plymouth Grove Wesley Guild.
"R" Club.
Ramblers' Federation (Manchester & District).
Rochdale Field Naturalists Society.
Rucksack Club.
Salford P.S.A. Rambling Club.
Sheffield C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club.
Stockport C.H.A. Rambling & Social Club.
Stockport Field Club.
Stockport Seconians Association Rambling Club.
Sutton-in-Ashfield Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists.
Vegetarian Society Social & Athletic Club.
Willersley, Sidholme & Sidestrand, Ltd.
(Young Methodism Holidays).
Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section)
Stockport.
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.

DEFENCE FUND

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance carried forward to 1938	271	4	10	Balance brought forward from 1936	255	3	10
				Donations received during year to Dec. 31, 1937...	16	1	0
	<u>£271</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>£271</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND AT DECEMBER 31, 1937

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance carried forward to 1938	763	16	8	Balance brought forward from Arnold Wilson			
				Legacy account, 1936	713	16	8
				G. H. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.G.S., Gift towards			
				Erection and Maintenance of Sign Posts ...	50	0	0
	<u>£763</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>£763</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

MANCHESTER & SALFORD SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AT DECEMBER 31, 1937.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Interest as per contra transferred to General Account	23	10	10	Deposits at December 31, 1936 at—						
Balance on deposit carried forward to 1938	1,000	0	0	2½ per cent.	250	0	0			
				2½ per cent.	500	0	0			
					<u>750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			
				Additional Deposits made during						
				1937 at 2½ per cent. ex. General						
				Funds	200	0	0			
				Gift of G. H. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.G.S.	50	0	0			
					<u>250</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			
				Interest for Year to November 20, 1937 ...				23	10	10
	<u>£1,023</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>					<u>£1,023</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

CASH POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 1937.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance at Credit of Defence Fund	271	4	10	Cash in hand			10 0
Special Reserve Fund	763	16	8	Cash at Bank			43 19 0
Balance at Credit of General Account	8	7	6	Cash on deposit with M. & S. Savings Bank	1,000	0	0
Subscriptions paid in advance for 1938 ...	1	0	0				
	<u>£1,044</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£1,044</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

ALFRED E. BOWEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*THOMAS GREAVES, *Hon. Auditor*

27th January, 1938.