

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND
NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL

For the Year
ended 31st December
1947

Printers :
THE POLICY-HOLDER JOURNAL COMPANY LIMITED
18 Booth Street, Manchester 2

The Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

President : P. M. OLIVER, C.B.E., B.A.

Vice-Presidents :

E. VIPONT BROWN, M.D. W. MAXWELL REEKIE,
F. HOWARD BARON SIMON O.B.E., J.P

Council : Elected Members :

P. M. OLIVER, C.B.E., B.A., *Chairman*

T. BOULGER, *Vice-Chairman*

E. E. AMBLER	B. GILL	A. MILNER
D. BERWICK	F. S. H. HEAD, B.Sc., PH.D.	J. W. PRICE, F.R.G.S.
J. E. BROOM	A. W. HEWITT	G. SHARPLES
J. J. CASH	J. F. HODKINSON	A. SMITH
J. CLARKE	C. W. S. KIRKE	G. SMITH
J. COOKE	J. MACAULEY	Miss C. TAYLOR
Miss M. FLETCHER	Miss G. G. MILLWARD	

Delegates from Affiliated Organisations :

F. ARRUNDALE	A. HODKINSON	Miss O. SPOONER
H. ASHTON	W. B. HOWIE	Miss K. STOPFORD
H. W. BEAUMONT	H. JACKSON	A. A. SMITH
Mrs. C. BIRKS	H. C. KIRK	J. STOTT
E. P. BURRELL	Miss KIRTON	F. B. STUBBS
E. P. CAMPBELL	T. H. LANCASHIRE	L. STUBBS
J. CHADWICK	P. E. LATHOM	G. TALLENTS
G. S. COOPER	W. MARCROFT	H. F. TAYLOR
F. M. DUNCALF	H. MEADOWCROFT	W. TAYLOR
P. EDWARDS	L. G. MEADOWCROFT	H. WALTON
Miss E. ELLIS	H. MENSFORTH	R. T. WATSON
R. S. FREW	J. J. MILLS	J. WHALLEY
H. GILLIAT	S. S. RIMINGTON	E. WHITELEY
T. HALLIWELL	W. M. ROBOTHAM	J. WOOD
Miss W. A. HILL	H. RYCROFT	Miss N. YARKER
F. HIBBERT	Miss K. SIMPSON	

Hon. Surveyor :

HANDEL KAY, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., A.M.I.Struct.E.

Hon. Auditor :

G. SMITH

Inspector of Footpaths :

H. E. WILD

Asst. Inspectors of Footpaths :

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

Hon. Treasurer :

G. S. COOPER,
13, Duffield Road, Salford, 6.

Hon. Secretary :

ARTHUR J. MOON, M.A. (Cantab.)
29, Brown Street, Manchester, 2.

Secretary :

P. DALEY,
5, Cross Lane, Marple,
Cheshire.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1947.

THE year ended December 31st, 1947, will undoubtedly rank as an extremely important year for matters connected with the Countryside and Footpath Preservation. In July the long awaited Report of the National Park Committee was published. This Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse are to be congratulated on the thorough manner in which they have faced up to the manifold problems, and for the clear and lucid presentation of their findings. It is impossible to deal fully with all the recommendations contained in this exceedingly interesting and readable Report, but it is interesting to recall that it is recommended that twelve National Parks should be established in three instalments.

	Approximate Areas Square Miles
FIRST INSTALMENT	
The Lake District	892
North Wales	870
The Peak District	572
Dartmoor	392
SECOND INSTALMENT	
The Yorkshire Dales	635
The Pembrokeshire Coast	229
Exmoor	318
The South Downs	275
THIRD INSTALMENT	
The Roman Wall	193
The North York Moors.. .. .	614
Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains	511
The Broads	181
TOTAL	<u>5,682</u>

July, too, saw the publication of the Wild Life Conservation Committee's Report. Realising that the conservation of wild life within National Parks could best be studied as part of a wider scheme for Nature Conservation for the country as a whole, this special Committee was set up in August, 1945, under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. S. Huxley, F.R.S.

A "Conservation Area" may be defined as a tract of country the existing character of which it is desired to preserve as far as possible, either for the singular beauty of its landscape or for

its high scientific interest, but more usually for a combination of both, and it is recommended that 52 of these "Special Areas" be designated.

The Special Committee Report on Access and Footpaths was published in September. It is interesting to recall that one of the last acts as Secretary of this Society performed by Mr. Boulger was his drafting of a Memorandum on Footpath Law, and his recommendations for its revision. This Memorandum he submitted to this Special Committee, and it is gratifying to find that the whole of Mr. Boulger's recommendations were accepted, and are embodied in this Report.

Space will only allow a brief mention of some of the major recommendations, but any member desiring to make a detailed study of them can obtain copies, price 1s. 3d., from H.M. Stationery Office, King Street, Manchester.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

(A) FOOTPATHS

A complete Survey of all rights of way (footpaths, bridle-paths and driftways) should be put in hand forthwith.

County Councils and County Borough Councils should be the statutory authorities for making the Survey.

The Survey should be carried out in three stages: by deposit of maps for public inspection, effectively advertised, and with full opportunity for representations and objections by all interested parties; the Survey to be completed within a period of four years, subject to the hearing of any disputed cases.

Quarter Sessions should be the tribunal for settling disputes.

Each Court of Quarter Sessions for a County or County Borough should establish a Rights of Way Committee from its members.

A way used by the public for 20 years "as of right and without interruption" should in all cases be deemed to have been dedicated as a highway.

Highway authorities (County Councils, County Borough Councils, Borough and Urban District Councils) should be expressly required by statute to repair and maintain all rights of way.

Highway authorities should be under a general duty to prosecute anyone obstructing a right of way by any means which may impair the right, or detract from the convenience, of the public.

The turning out of bulls over 12 months old in any field traversed by a right of way should be prohibited by statute.

All applications for closure or diversion of rights of way should be dealt with by the Rights of Way Committee of Quarter Sessions.

Power should be given to County and County Borough Councils to acquire land by agreement for the purpose of the creation of new rights of way. "Land" being interpreted to include a right of passage over land.

(B) ACCESS TO UNCULTIVATED LAND

A new Government measure in substitution for the Access to Mountains Act, 1939, is required to provide a simple and comprehensive machinery for obtaining access to uncultivated land. The duty of designating such land should be laid upon the Planning Authority.

"Access Land" should include all uncultivated land whether mountain, moor, heath, down, cliff, beach or shore. The Planning Authority should also have power to designate suitable stretches of inland water.

The Planning Authority should survey all uncultivated land in its area.

All land coming within the new definition, and not excluded by reason of its being "excepted land" should be recorded on a Draft Map. The Draft Map should be submitted to the Minister of Town and Country Planning within one year from the date when the legislation becomes operative.

The Draft Map should be deposited and advertised.

As soon as possible thereafter the Minister should make an order confirming the Draft Map subject to such alteration as he may think fit.

On receipt of the Minister's Order the statutory authority should publish a Statutory Map and deposit and advertise it in the same way as the Draft Map.

The right of public access over all land shown on the Statutory Map should take effect from the date on which the Statutory Map is deposited and advertised.

All the information contained in the Statutory Map should be included in the periodical revision of the Ordnance Survey Maps of the scale of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches or more to the mile.

A majority of the Committee recommended that the Minister should be empowered in exceptional cases, and at the request of the Planning Authority, to withdraw land on the grounds that serious or recurrent damage is being caused as a result of its use as "Access Land."

Except where special restrictions may be necessary public access to water catchments areas for the purpose of air and exercise should be permitted.

In order to reduce to a minimum interference with sporting rights on access land (i) the Planning Authority should be empowered to suspend the operation of an Order designating "access land" for not more than twelve days during any one shooting season; (ii) the owner should take the necessary steps to warn the public on shooting days; and (iii) alternative routes should be provided.

In view of the special importance of the coast to the public all beach and shore should be designated as access land.

Full use should be made of designation of suitable stretches of inland water, especially in National Parks and Conservation Areas, and in the proximity of access land.

A "Country Code" should be prepared and published. Its objects should be to evoke a better all-round standard of responsible behaviour in the countryside, and to instil a greater appreciation of the ways and means of rural life and the interdependence of town and country.

* * * * *

* The publication of these Reports will surely encourage and hearten amenity organisations such as ours to press for the speedy introduction of the necessary legislation to bring these recommendations to fulfilment.

Mr. T. Boulger's retirement from the office of Secretary to the Society was commemorated at the Annual General Meeting when he was presented with an inscribed silver salver. Our Chairman, Mr. P. M. Oliver, in thanking him for his services, stated that it was impossible to estimate the value of the work that he has done for the Society, and for lovers of the countryside in general during his 25 years of office. Your Council is very pleased to welcome Mr. P. Daley as his successor.

It is with deep regret that your Council have to record the death of Mr. F. Broome. Mr. Broome had been a keen and enthusiastic member of the Council for a considerable time.

We are sorry to record that we lost the services of three of our active officials during the year. Mr. E. Midgley, Footpaths Inspector for Cheshire, left Manchester to take up residence in the Lake District. Mr. J. E. Broom, Hon. Treasurer, retired due to pressure of his private affairs, and Miss M. Watts, Assistant Treasurer, also left Manchester. The Council desire to express its appreciation of the work done by these three officials.

Mr. G. S. Cooper agreed to undertake the office of Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. R. T. Watson agreed to fulfil the duties of Inspector of Footpaths for Cheshire.

During the year your Secretary has frequently been called upon to give talks and lectures to Clubs and Associations on the work of the Society, and on the Government Reports mentioned at the beginning of this Report.

Following are some of the many matters that have occupied the attention of the Society and its Officers :—

ANNIVERSARY.—Probably the outstanding “ Domestic ” Event was the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the successful struggle to win the right of way from Hayfield to the Snake Inn via Williams Clough and Ashop Head. The opportunity was also taken to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Society, which due to the War had had to be deferred.

On June 7th over 100 members and friends, including members of the Hayfield Parish Council, met in Hayfield to partake of a meal; earlier many of them had enjoyed a ramble over the footpath under the leadership of Mr. A. Milner and Mr. A. Smith. After the tea the meeting was addressed by our Chairman, and Mr. G. H. B. Ward, F.R.G.S., and Mr. J. Garside. Your Council wish to express their sincerest thanks to Mr. Wild for organising the celebration, and to Mr. Garside for his very fine Exhibition of Maps and Photographs, and to Mr. and Mrs. Hague, who so very kindly presented a special Birthday Cake.

In connection with the Anniversary an Exhibition of Photographs and Maps relating to the History of the Society, and with particular reference to the Hayfield-Snake Inn Footpath was held at the Central Library, Manchester. The Exhibition ran for four weeks, and aroused much public interest.

EDWIN ROYCE MEMORIAL.—It was felt by the many friends and admirers of the late Edwin Royce that appreciation of his untiring efforts in the cause of National Parks, Access to Uncultivated Land, and Footpath Preservation should be shown in some tangible form. A special committee with representatives from this Society, the Ramblers' Federation and the Geographical Society was set up to consider what form the memorial should take. After many suggestions the special committee have recommended the purchase of the summit of Lantern Pike, near Hayfield, and the establishment of a Map Library that will be housed in the Central Library, Manchester. An appeal for £500 has been made by this Committee.

NEW FOOTPATH ON LANTERN PIKE.—Your Council are pleased, particularly in view of the proposal to purchase the summit of Lantern Pike, that the Society has been approached by the tenant of Weathercote Farm, with a view to creating a new footpath from the lane near Weathercote Farm to the summit of Lantern Pike. Arrangements are now being made for the provision of a signpost, and the necessary stiles. Your Council wish to record its appreciation of this action by the Landowner.

RIVER ALPORT FOOTBRIDGE.—As a memorial to the late A. J. Heron, the members of the Manchester Rambling Club, of which he had been an enthusiastic member, have decided to purchase and erect a footbridge over the River Alport. This matter has been receiving the attention of the Special Committee set up to consider this problem, a tubular steel footbridge has been ordered, and arrangements are being made with the Derbyshire County Council for its siting and erection.

MANIFOLD VALLEY.—On receiving reports that a further attempt was being made to construct a reservoir in the Manifold Valley, the Society wrote to the Ministry of Health asking for verification of these Reports, and a reply was received from the Minister stating that investigations as to the possibility of impounding the Upper Manifold were being made. The Society will watch with interest any developments in this direction.

LYME PARK.—The Stockport Borough Council acquired Lyme Park from the National Trust, and many doubts and fears were expressed as to the future of the Park by members of the public and of this Society. After correspondence with the Stockport Council the Society were invited to be represented

at a special Conference that was held in Lyme Hall on June 9th in company with representatives from other amenity organisations, and the national press. A full statement as to the proposals of the Stockport Council was given to the meeting by Alderman Sutcliffe, the Chairman of the Lyme Park Committee, in which he stated that it was the intention of the Council to safeguard and protect the natural beauty of the Park. On being questioned, he stated that the public were to have full access to all the footpaths in the Park.

Grave concern and disquiet were expressed regarding the siting of the Car Park, and Alderman Sutcliffe said that this was purely a temporary expedient, and would be removed to a site nearer the main entrance, as soon as possible.

The Society have made representations to the Council urging the removal of certain "No Road" and "Strictly Private" Notice Boards, and for the provision of new stiles and footpaths.

The attitude of the Stockport Borough Council has been most helpful in matters relating to footpaths in Lyme Park.

OPENCAST COAL MINING IN LYME PARK SHORTLY AFTER THE ACQUISITION OF THE PARK.—To the dismay of the amenity organisations, and the general public, it was announced that it was the intention of the Ministry of Fuel to prospect for opencast coal in Lyme Park. Strong opposition to this scheme was aroused, and your Council wrote to the Ministry of Fuel and Minister of Town and Country Planning protesting against this proposal. Your Council are glad to report that as a result of the very strong protests made the Minister of Fuel has announced his intention to abandon the scheme.

FOOTPATH DIVERSION AT BROUGH.—The Society received formal notice from the Minister of Transport that it was proposed to close and divert the right of way from Brough to Bradwell, near the Brough Works. Your Council felt that this proposed diversion should be opposed; the old right of way was much more direct and shorter, and that in inclement weather the diversion along the old cow lane would be foundeours and inconvenient to pedestrians, and that to maintain the footpath in decent condition would be a very expensive business. Further this proposed diversion had aroused a good deal of opposition amongst the people who lived in the vicinity of the footpaths. The assistance of the Society was sought for by the Bradwell Parish Council.

A Public Enquiry was held in Bradwell on November 26th, and the Society's representative put forward a strong case against the proposed diversion; at the time of writing this Report, the result of the Enquiry is not yet known.

THREE SHIRES HEAD.—The County Councils of Cheshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire sought powers to prohibit the use of the "Green Lanes" round Three Shires Head in the Upper Dane Valley. Powers to do this are available under the Road Traffic Act, 1930, Section 46, and the Road and Rail Traffic Act, 1933, Section 29; by these powers the exclusive use of "Green Lanes" can be reserved for walkers, cyclists, and horsemen. Your Council felt that it should support this proposal and accordingly the Society was represented at the Public Enquiry, but it is with great regret that your Council have to report that, although the Minister of Transport agreed to prohibit the Lanes to motor cars, he would not agree to extending the prohibition to motor cyclists. This decision is a thorough unhappy compromise.

SERVICES TRAINING AREAS, BURBAGE MOOR.—On being informed that the Sheffield City Council had approved a recommendation to grant training rights on Burbage Moor to the War Department, your Council agreed with the view expressed by other amenity organisations that Burbage Valley was the worst possible choice for a training area of any kind from the point of view of the general public, and that other alternatives should be considered instead. Your Council are pleased to report that as a result of the strong protest made to the War Department a further threat to the proposed Peak District National Park was withdrawn.

SERVICES TRAINING AREAS, UPPER HULME.—Your Council were gravely concerned to learn that it was proposed to establish a Firing Range of 1,100 acres close to the Staffordshire Roaches, and that the very fine footpath from the Mermaid Inn, Blakemere, by Swans Moor to the Leek-Buxton Road was threatened by this proposal. Your Council have made the strongest protest along with other interested bodies. No decision has yet been arrived at regarding this proposal, and your Council are watching the matter with interest.

SHOOTING RANGE AT THORPE, DOVEDALE.—A further threat to the proposed Peak District National Park, and one that aroused the greatest amount of national feeling was the proposal made by the War Office to extend the Shooting

Range at Thorpe from the pre-war one of two targets covering an area of 43 acres to one covering some 475 acres. This would have taken many public footpaths including the well-known Stepping Stones, and the footpath along the river side near Lion Rock and Tissington Spires. Your Council were gravely concerned, and accordingly letters of protest were sent to the War Department, the Minister of Town and Country Planning and to the national press; as a result of the many protests being made the Derbyshire County Council called a meeting in the County Council Chambers, Derby, on November 27th. This meeting consisted of representatives from Local Authorities and amenity organisations of which your Society was one. A strong resolution of protest was accepted by the Chairman, Alderman C. F. White, M.P., and a sub-committee was elected to meet, if possible, Mr. Shinwell. Your Council are pleased to report that as a result of the very strong nation wide protest this proposal was withdrawn.

DEDICATION OF NEW FOOTPATH AT ROWLAND COTE, EDALE.—As reported last year the Youth Hostels Association, having acquired "Rowland Cote" as a Hostel, wished to dedicate a public footpath over the land which comprises Rowland Cote Moor. Much work on the footpath has been undertaken during the past year, signposts have been made, and plans have now been prepared for depositing with the Derbyshire County Council and the Chapel R.D.C. indicating the line of path. It is hoped to have the formal opening of the path in the coming spring.

NEW PUBLIC FOOTPATH CUMBERLAND CLOUGH, WILDBOAR CLOUGH.—Negotiations have been held between your Council and the Landowner of the moorland near Cumberland Clough with a view to opening up a public footpath from the right of way on Whetstone Ridge down Cumberland Clough to Wildboar Clough.

Your Council are of the opinion that this new route will prove to be very popular, and will be a valuable addition to the tracks in the area, and desire to express their appreciation to this Landowner. Arrangements are being made for the erection of the necessary Direction Posts by the Society.

FOOTPATH WESTEND TO ALPORT.—At the request of the Society the Forestry Commission provided a number of stakes with which to mark the line of this somewhat indistinct right of way; these have been erected between the crossing of the river Alport and the top of the Alport Castles.

BAKERS LANE FOOTPATH, CROMFORD.—Complaints had been received regarding the condition of this footpath, and after correspondence between the Matlock R.D.C. and the Society liability for the repair of the footpath was admitted, and the necessary repair work has now been satisfactorily completed.

FOOTPATH FROM LONG LEA TO THORNSETT FIELDS, ROWARTH.—This footpath had been obstructed by the removal of a stile and the building up of a wall, and at another stile a loop of barbed wire had been secured to the middle step. After representation had been made to the New Mills U.D.C. the stile was replaced, and the barbed wire removed.

FOOTPATH FROM HEYWOOD OLD ROAD TO PARKWOOD COTTAGES, PRESTWICH.—On the receipt of complaints regarding the condition of this footpath representations were made to the Prestwich R.D.C. Your Council are pleased to report that they have received an assurance from them that this right of way will receive the necessary attention.

FOOTPATH WHETMORE HURST TO TARDEN, MELLOR.—On being informed that an inscription "WHETMORE HURST, Private" had been painted on the gate leading into what was formerly the farm-yard, the Society felt that this inscription was rather misleading, although the right of way had not been interfered with. Representations were made to the tenant pointing out the fact that this inscription may lead to some confusion, and requesting that the words "Public Footpath" might be added to the sign or alternatively, the word "Private" be painted out. This matter is still occupying the attention of your Council.

BARBED WIRE ON WIN HILL TO HOPE STATION FOOTPATH.—Complaints had been received that barbed wire had been looped round a stile on the footpath from Hope Station to Aston Lane, the Chapel R.D.C. were called upon to arrange for the removal of the barbed wire. Your Council are pleased to report that the obstruction has been removed.

FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS MILL RACE-LEADMILL BRIDGE.—Complaint having been received that this footbridge had collapsed, the Society are endeavouring to have arrangements made with the Derbyshire County Council to undertake the necessary repairs.

FOOTPATH BROOKES DRIVE, HALE, TO HASTY LANE, RINGWAY.—On receiving complaints regarding the obstruction of this footpath by a five foot fence, representations were made to the Hale U.D.C., and your Council are pleased to report that this fence has now been converted into an excellent stile.

FOOTBRIDGE NEAR CLOUGH MILL, LITTLE HAYFIELD.—For some time now your Council have been concerned with the footbridge that was washed away during the very heavy floods in 1944, and after representations were made to the Derbyshire C.C. liability for the repair of the footbridge was eventually accepted.

BARBED WIRE NEAR INTAKES FARM, CHISWORTH.—As referred to in last year's Report, the Chapel-en-le-Frith R.D.C. were requested to arrange for the removal of the barbed wire from the stile. Your Council are pleased to report that the cause of complaint has now been removed.

FOOTPATH NEAR TUNSTEAD, HAYFIELD.—On receiving complaints that this footpath has been diverted from the true line of path and obstructed by the removal of the wall step stile, your Council have called upon the Chapel-en-le-Frith R.D.C. to arrange for the restoration of the stile and of the right of way.

PLOUGHED PATH AT BARBER BOOTH, EDALE.—Complaints had been received regarding the persistent attempts being made to divert the footpath from Barber Booth to Greenlands Farm, and after representations were made to the Chapel R.D.C. and to the Derbyshire W.A.E.C., a reply was received stating that the diversion in one field was to be marked out in its original form, and the diversion in the other field, which is to be seeded down to grass in the Spring, will then be permanently on its original course.

FOOTPATH PETRIE ARMS, TO RISHTON ROAD, ACCRINGTON.—This footpath was closed under the Requisition Land and War Works Act, 1945, but your Council are glad to say that the Minister of Transport is now making arrangements for the reopening of the footpath.

FOOTPATH BAKEWELL TO SHELDON.—This useful footpath on which the Society have a Direction Post was made up and obstructed in several places, and due to lack of use the

true line of path was difficult to trace. The Bakewell U.D.C. were requested to arrange for the removal of the obstruction and your Council are pleased to report that after some doubts as to the public nature of the footpath had been expressed, the footpath has been found to be in the Bakewell Enclosure Award, and that the owners and occupiers have been called upon by the Bakewell U.D.C. to remove the obstruction.

FOOTPATH LYME HANDLEY TO HILL TOP FARM, POYNTON.—On the receipt of complaints regarding the condition of the footpath from Middle Cale Farm to Hill Top Farm, the Macclesfield R.D.C. were requested to arrange for the removal of barbed wire that had been looped round the stile post, and to arrange for the drainage of a very boggy stretch of the footpath, and for the removal of an obstruction from another stile. Your Council are pleased to report that these matters are receiving the attention of the owner of the farm concerned.

FOOTPATH FROM TWENTY-SEVEN STEPS TO NELL LANE, CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY.—On receiving complaints regarding the condition of this footpath which due to the action of the river was practically impassible, the Manchester City Council were requested to arrange for the repair of the footpath. Your Council are pleased to report that arrangements have been made to have the banking of the brook repaired, and the footpath made safe.

FOOTPATH CHAPEL GATE TO UPPER BOOTH, EDAL.—The crossing of a step stile in a gritstone wall on this footpath was rendered somewhat difficult by two galvanised iron wires, and due to the height of the wall a certain element of danger existed to users of this right of way. After representations had been made to the Chapel-en-le-Frith R.D.C. your Council are pleased to report that arrangements have been made for the removal of the wire and the simplification of the stile.

FOOTPATH CROWDEN TO GREENFIELD.—The Society were approached by the Manchester City Council to agree to the substitution of a stile for a gate on this right of way. Through interference with the iron swing gate the sheep of the tenant had been allowed to stray, and many ewes had lost their lambs by being thus disturbed.

After consultation between the Footpaths Inspector and a representative of the Manchester City Council, your Council agreed to the substitution of a stile.

FOOTBRIDGE AT ROWARTH.—Due to heavy floods the stream at Rowarth changed its course and by-passed the footbridge that carries the very useful footpath from Rowarth to Long Lee Farm. Representations were made to the New Mills U.D.C. to arrange for the necessary repairs to be undertaken. The New Mills U.D.C. have replied that this is due to the constant erosion by the stream, and that no useful purpose would be served by extending the footbridge even if there were any liability on anyone to do so.

ABNEY TO STOKE FORD OLD ROAD.—After plans had been submitted to the Derbyshire C.C. arrangements were made for the erection of one of the Society's Direction Posts in Abney Village to mark the Abney-Stoke Ford Old Road. Shortly afterwards your Council were informed that the Landowner disputed the right of way, and that the Notice Board had been removed. Arrangements have been made for a meeting between representatives of the Society and the Landowner.

STILE BETWEEN LYDGATE AND BRADSHAW HALL.—A complaint was received regarding the unsatisfactory stile on the footpath from Lydgate to Bradshaw Hall. At a point where sometime ago a completely new post and wire fence was erected to mark the boundary of a small transfer of land, there are two stumps designed to act as a gap stile, these stumps are only 11 inches apart, and your Council feel that they cause an obstruction. Representations have been made to the Chapel R.D.C. to have the obstruction removed.

FOOTPATH FROM BOWSTONEGATE ROAD TO HANDLEYFOOT FARM.—Further complaints regarding the obstruction of this old road have been received. After representations to the Macclesfield R.D.C. arrangements were made for the removal of the obstruction, but shortly afterwards it was reported that once again obstruction had taken place, and that a "Private, No Footpath" Notice had not been removed. The Macclesfield R.D.C. have been requested to arrange for the removal of the obstruction and the misleading notice boards.

DIRECTION POSTS.—Direction Posts have been dealt with during the year as follows :—The Society's direction post at Stoke Ford, near Abney, and the post near Longside

Plantation on the Disley-Whaley old road were removed for "security" reasons during the war, but since 1944, in spite of many enquiries, the whereabouts of the two posts could not be ascertained. They were eventually found—the former in a farm building, and the latter in a Golf Club House, and they have now been repainted and re-erected. The direction post on Chapel Gate marking the footpath to Upper Booth has been repaired and repainted, and a new cross plate will shortly be added. The direction post at Barber Booth disappeared during the year, but was eventually found in the bed of the stream near-by. It is hoped to have it repainted and re-erected in the near future. One of the Society's 3 direction posts at Tunstead Milton had fallen. This has now been repainted and re-erected. The Society's direction plate on the Pym Chair Road above Goyt's Bridge had been broken by stone throwing. A new plate has now been fixed, and the post has been repainted. Below Goyt's Bridge, the Society's post marking the Stake Side footpath has been repainted. The Society's post at Great Rocks Dale has been refixed in a better position, and has been repainted. An additional cross plate has been prepared to fix to the Society's direction post at Brough. A new direction post has been erected on the Disley-Whaley old road east of Badgers-clough, to mark the paths to Bollinhurst and Rocks Farm, this post being erected as a memorial to the late Henry Brown of Stockport.

Instructions have been given for the re-erection or repainting of several of the Society's posts, but considerable difficulty is still being experienced in securing local men to do the work.

FOOTPATH LIBRARY.—The following additions to the Society's "Footpath Library," housed in the Special Collections Department on the Fourth Floor of the Manchester Central Library, have been presented during the year:—

- Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbook, 1947-8.
- C.P.R.E. Sheffield and Peak District Annual Report, 1947.
- Ordnance Survey Sheet 33-89 Manchester. 2½ inches to 1 mile.
- "In Lakeland Dells and Fells," by W. T. Palmer.
- "The Northern Rambler," Nos. 117-128.
- 16 Photograph Albums of the late Edwin Royce.
- Edwin Royce Presentation Tribute.
- Annual Report of Wirral Footpaths Preservation Society, 1946.
- Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society Journals for April, June, September and December, 1947.
- C.P.R.E. Lancashire Branch Annual Report, 1947.

FINANCE.—The appeal made in last year's Report for a membership and income more in keeping with the status of the Society has not met with the response that it merited, and although 62 new members were enrolled and 7 further organisations affiliated, 61 members and 3 organisations have failed to renew their membership. On the whole this is most discouraging to the Council, and it is obvious that the membership income must be increased if a full time organisation is ever to be inaugurated. Your Council would once again emphasise that the amount of work undertaken by the Society must be determined by its income. Accordingly it becomes the duty of members to encourage others to join the Society. If each member during the current year made himself or herself responsible for only one new member, the membership would bound up to nearly 800, and if this was repeated the following year the Society's membership and income would be reaching a figure more in keeping with its status than the present figure, and within measurable distance of a membership income requisite for all the needs of the Society.

The Defence Fund has been augmented by £27 10s. 0d. during the year to £444 8s. 0d., including another generous donation of £13 0s. 0d. from the Sheffield Clarion Rambling Club. The Special Reserve Fund was augmented by a legacy of £500 0s. 0d. from the late Edwin Royce.

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION.—The terms of membership are simple, involving no formalities other than the payment of a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum, which entitles a member to receive a copy of the Annual Report, together with any information which it may be within the Council's scope to afford. It must be emphasised that in fixing the *minimum* subscription the Society has in view the desirability of obtaining the fullest possible public interest, and that the revenue derived from minimum subscriptions is inadequate to meet the increasing demands for the Society's services. The Secretaries of Rambling and kindred Clubs can perform a very useful service by bringing to the notice of their members the objects and claims of the Society *and urging individual membership*. Some Secretaries make themselves responsible for the collection of subscriptions from the Club members, which are forwarded

to the Honorary Treasurer in bulk. Other Secretaries are urged to adopt a similar method, as it ensures that subscriptions are not overlooked, and is very helpful to the Society and its Officers.

The minimum Affiliation Fee for Clubs and Societies is 10s. 6d. per annum which includes the privilege of appointing a Delegate to attend the Council's meetings.

Affiliated Rambling Clubs & Societies

Accrington Naturalist & Antiquarian Society.
Alderley Edge, Wilmslow & District Footpaths Preservation Society.
Art Museum Field Club.
Ashton-under-Lyne & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bury & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bolton C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Bramhall Ratepayers' Association.
C. E. Holiday Homes, Ltd.
Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland (L.C. & N.W. District Association).
Central Rambling Club.
City News Fellowship (Ramblers Section).
Co-operative Holiday Association.
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Manchester Sec.)
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Stockport Sec.)
Comradeship of the Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes (Oldham Sec.)
Crescent Rambling Club.
Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society.
Derby C.H.A. & H.F. 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)
Karabineer Mountaineering Club.
Lower Mosley Street Institute Rambling Club.
Manchester A.E.I. Rambling Club.
Manchester Amateur Photographic Society.
Manchester & Salford Council of Social Service Benevolent Fund.
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.
Manchester & District Rambling Club for the Blind.
Marple Field Club.
North Staffordshire Field Club.
North-Western Naturalists' Union.
Northwich Urban District Council.
Oldham & District C.H.A. Rambling Club.

Oldham Holiday Fellowship.
Ramblers' Association (Sheffield & District Federation).
Ramblers' Association (Liverpool & District Federation).
Ramblers' Association (Manchester & District Federation).
Rochdale C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Rucksack Club.
S.E. Lancashire County Scout Council.
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 & District Rambling Club.
United Field Naturalists Society.
Vegetarian Society Social & Athletic Club.
Warrington C.H.A. Rambling Club.
Willersley Sidholme & Sidestrand Ltd.
Workers' Educational Association (Rambling Section) Stockport.
Workers' Travel Association Ltd.
Y.M.C.A. Rambling Club.
Youth Hostels Association (Sheffield Sub-Regional Group).

DEFENCE FUND AT 31st DECEMBER, 1947

Balance brought forward from 1946	£416 13 8	Balance carried forward to 1948	444 4 8
Add Donations received during the year to December 31, 1947... ..	27 11 0		
	<u>£444 4 8</u>		<u>444 4 8</u>

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND AT 31st DECEMBER, 1947

Balance brought forward from 1946	776 6 8	Balance carried forward to 1948 (Arnold Wilson Legacy, £713 16s. 8d. ; G. H. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.G.S., Gift towards Erection and Maintenance of Signposts, £50 ; Anonymous, £12 10s. 0d. ; Edwin Royce Legacy, £500) 1,276 6 8	1,276 6 8
Edwin Royce Legacy received during the year ended December 31, 1947	500 0 0		
	<u>£1,276 6 8</u>		<u>1,276 6 8</u>

MANCHESTER & SALFORD SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1947

Deposits at December 31, 1947, at 2½%	540 7 11	Balance on deposit carried forward to 1948 ...	1,609 18 9
Deposits at December 31, 1947, at 2¼%	538 8 6		
Received during year to December 31, 1947	500 0 0		
	<u>1,038 8 6</u>		
	1,578 16 5		
Interest to December 31, 1947	31 2 4		
	<u>£1,609 18 9</u>		<u>1,609 18 9</u>

POST WAR RESERVE FUND

Brought forward from 1946	75 0 0	Balance carried forward to 1948	78 11 0
Donations received during 1947	3 11 0		
	<u>£78 11 0</u>		<u>78 11 0</u>

CASH POSITION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1947

1946		1946	
219 18 3	Cash at Bank	416 13 8	Balance at credit of Defence Fund
1,078 16 5	Cash on Deposit with M. & S. Bank	776 6 8	Balance at credit of Special Reserve Fund
..	Cash in Hand	75 0 0	Balance at credit of Post-War Reserve Fund
...	Debit balance of General Fund	6 8 0	Subscriptions paid in advance for 1948
		24 6 4	Credit Balance of General Fund
		...	Honorariums accrued but not paid
		...	Bank Charges accrued
<u>£1,298 14 8</u>	<u>£1,817 4 8</u>	<u>£1,298 14 8</u>	<u>1,817 4 8</u>

(Signed) G. S. COOPER, Hon. Treasurer, February 19, 1948.

(Signed) G. SMITH Hon. Auditor, February 19, 1948.

Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

1946			INCOME			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
£ s. d.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
	Subscriptions for 1947 :-										
2 6 0	Paid in advance as per 1946 Statement...					6	8	0			
151 5 1	Paid during the year ended December 31, 1947 ...					141	0	9			
			147	8	9						
8 10 1	Balance brought forward from 1946 ...					24	6	4			
26 6 0	Bank interest on deposits at M. & S. Bank ...					31	2	4			
188 7 1						202	17	5			
	Balance being excess of Expenditure over Income ...					38	18	11			
6 8 0	Subscriptions paid in advance for 1948...					6	1	0			
			202	17	5						
			38	18	11						
			6	1	0						

1946			EXPENDITURE			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
21 0 0			Printing Annual Report ...					22	0	0		
4 0 0			Circulars, Posters and Envelopes...					4	14	11		
			6 12 6						26	14	11	
7 10 4			Hire of Rooms ...					7	0	0		
3 15 3			Printing and Stationery ...					30	18	11		
12 12 6			Insurance Premiums ...					0	17	1		
2 2 0			Signpost Account ...					31	16	7		
			Subscriptions to Commons, Open Spaces & Footpaths Preservation Society ...					2	2	0		
2 2 0			Affiliation Fees to C.P.R.E.—4 Branches ...					2	2	0		
2 4 1			Advertising and Sundry Expenses ...					46	11	6		
3 5 1			Maps and Plans ...					1	6	0		
2 17 0			Annual General Meeting ...					0	15	0		
30 0 0			Secretary's Honorarium ...					30	0	0		
22 10 0			Footpaths Inspectors' Honorariums ...					22	5	0		
									52	5	0	
11 17 9			Footpaths Inspectors' Travelling Expenses ...					21	19	2		
0 12 11			Other Officials' Travelling Expenses ...					1	8	6		
0 1 0			Inspection Fees re Awards ...									
14 16 1			Postages ...					14	18	4		
0 4 2			Cheque Book...					0	4	2		
0 8 0			Bank Commission ...					0	17	2		
9 15 1			Amount transferred to Post-War Reserve ...									
									241	16	4	
164 0 9			Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure ...									
24 16 4												
188 7 1									241	16	4	
6 8 0			Subscriptions for 1948 carried forward ...					6	1	0		

£194 15 1

£247 17 4

£194 15 1

£247 17 4