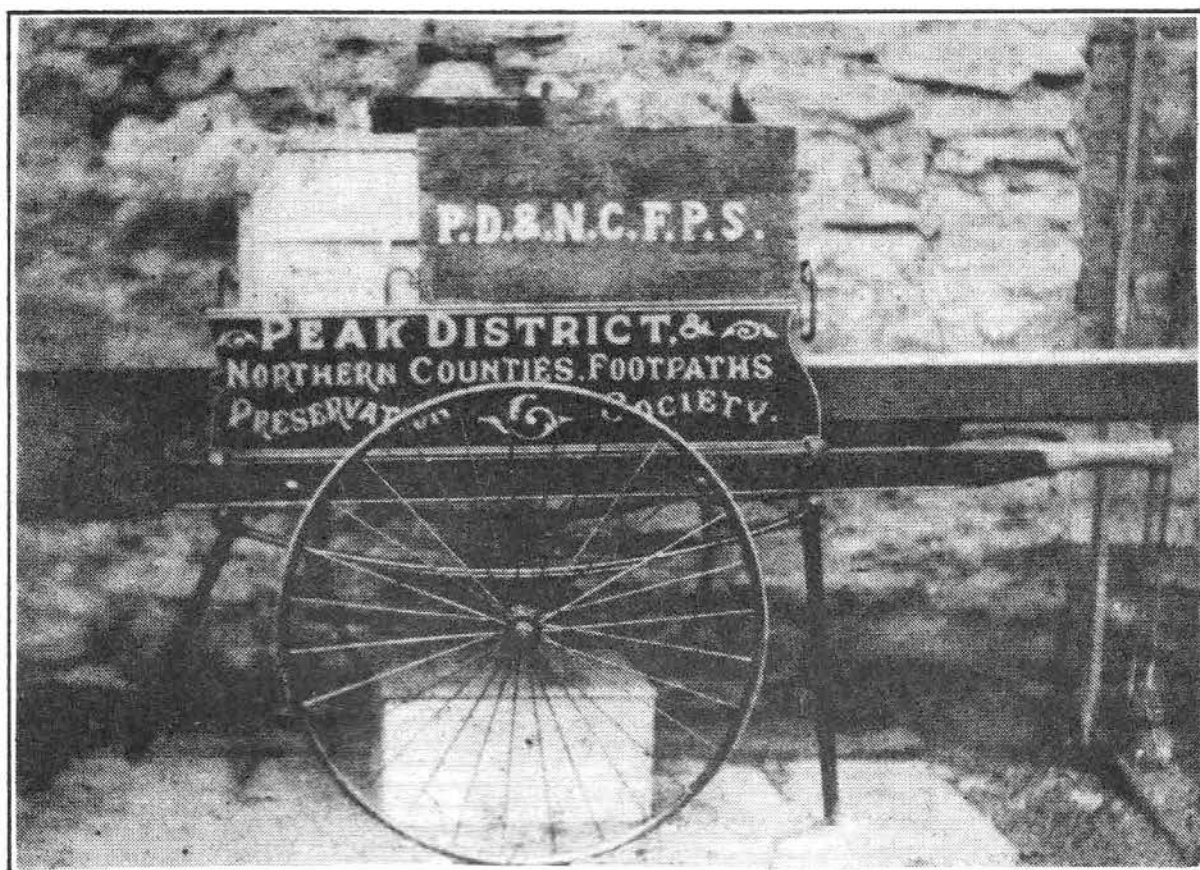


# Peak and Northern Footpaths Society



— ANNUAL REPORT 1986 —

**PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY**

Founded in 1894; Manchester Association Founded 1826

**President:**

**Vice Presidents:**

D T Berwick  
G S Cooper

P Daley  
Mrs E Evison

T Ewart

**Officers & Council Members**

L G Meadowcroft (Chairman)

J F Houfe (Vice Chairman)

N H Edwards (Vice Chairman)

**Hon General secretary:**

D Taylor, 15 Parkfield Drive, Tyldesley, Manchester M29 8NR

061 790 4383

**Hon Treasurer:**

S Shaw, 10 Alstone Road, Stockport SK4 5AH

061 432 6097

**Membership Secretary:**

T Whittaker, 51 Queensway, Heald Green, Cheshire SK8 3ET

061 437 1226

**Closure & Diversions Secretary:**

D W Lee, 7 Mossway, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester M24 1WR

061 653 4560

**signpost Supervisor:**

C R Peers, 228 Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 3AA

061 439 4855

**Auditor**

E McCormick

**Council**

Mrs L Barton  
A Bennett MP  
W Brookfield  
Mrs E Daley JP

F Darwin  
G Haigh  
Miss R Irlam  
P Kenyon  
J L Lewis

P J McCarthy  
Mrs L Meadowcroft  
J Ogden  
Mr B Rothman

## FOREWORD

I am often buttonholed by people who tell me of their problems in using footpaths. Quite often they have gone for a run in the car and parked either in a lay-by or country road, seen a footpath sign and started out over the stile. In no time they are hopelessly lost and hastily retreat their steps intending never to try a public footpath again! Should we be pressing the local authorities to carry out more waymarking? In the majority of cases the answer will be that there is no legal obligation for them to do other than sign a way from a metalled road.

The attitude of the Country Park Rangers differs. Some go all out to waymark paths and Teggs Nose is a prime example whilst others who shall be nameless see no reason to do so. I believe there are many local rambling groups, amenity societies and the like that would be prepared to help in waymarking. Not that the waymarking would eliminate the need for a good map and map-reading knowledge.

The need for the Society to call upon the Ombudsman to get some Local Authorities to carry out their statutory functions is one which we use only after exhausting all other means. It is therefore sad that when we do call upon him to deal with the problem the results are far from satisfactory. Our Secretary is put to untold work in corresponding with the office of this Ombudsman over his report and putting straight inaccuracies. We were under the impression that the local authorities would fear being reported, but having regard to the weak and often unsatisfactory reports this does not appear to be the case. The point has been made, however, that we are not prepared to accept the slow and inefficient approach of some footpath authorities. I hasten to add that there is a good relationship with the majority of authorities but there are a few which give little or no assistance, and are always crying poverty and/or staff shortages to avoid carrying out their statutory duties

We would like some feedback on the activities of the Society, not only of complaints but of satisfaction. The closure of footways and access to the new type of shopping malls brought response from some members. The local and district plans occupy a great deal of our time and suggestions are welcome as to whether we should object or accept the scheme. The plans have often taken years to prepare and then the Society is given a short time to comment on the proposals. With a Voluntary Society like ours it is impossible to give most plans a complete inspection due to the shortage of time and other commitments. Yes, we have Council to help, but I am sure that there must be many who have the time to just cast their eyes over and comment on the parts of the plan that they know. And what about our signposts? Any suggestions or comments?

This year sees our twenty-fifth Annual Dinner. It gives us great pleasure that the National Park Officer of the Peak Park has accepted our invitation to attend and speak to us. May I commend to you this gathering. Why not get up a small party for this auspicious occasion. At a cost of £6 50p it can hardly be called an outrageous sum. If you do attend make yourself known to one of the officers, because some of the Inspectors are merely names to us. This is an ideal opportunity to meet.

(NHE)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A feature of the past year has been the number of requests for the Society's illustrated lectures given by the Secretary and myself. Due to our geographical locations we are able to deal with requests over a wide area and during the year the Secretary gave six lectures, I have presented eleven and two more were given by Mr. Walter Mason. We have addressed Townswomen's Guilds, Probus Club, amenity societies and the Cheshire County Council Rangers. In most cases we received donations to the Society's funds.

We held our usual Annual Meeting with the Peak Park Planning Board with a useful exchange of views. Our suggestion that they should publish a map showing footpath alterations made during the year is being considered and is likely to be adopted in the near future. We were told that 150 direction signs had been erected, 13 bridges erected or repaired, about 150 footpaths had received attention and some 214 stiles and 20 bridgways repaired or replaced. We also raised the question of the Milldale to Lode Mill footpath and on the last day of 1986 we, and various Ramblers' Association areas, again met representatives of the National Trust on-site in Dovedale; their committee will consider our second request at their next meeting.

Early in 1986 we were involved in the Public Enquiry at Buxton into the appeal by T.W. Ward to carry our quarrying at the Eldon Hill quarry. We have just heard that the Secretary of State has rejected the appeal which, following his rejection of a proposed extension to the Topley Pike Quarry, is marvellous news for all who are concerned to preserve our National Parks.

Our exhibition stands were again on display at the Castlefield Carnival and also a one-day event at Marple. However, we should be making greater use of our facilities and we urgently require a publicity minded person to manage the display, preferably somebody with transport and a flair for art and display work. Offers please to the Chairman.

We are still represented on the Kinder Advisory Committee and this involves some five or six meetings a year for your Chairman together with four/five meetings with the Derbyshire County Conservation Advisory Committee in Matlock. We also hold regular meetings with the Sports Council and the North West Sports Federation. After some 12 months' persistence we managed to arrange a meeting in September with Stockport Council when we discussed a number of outstanding footpath items and a request that a further meeting be held in six months' time. We also offered help with their completing the Stockport Definitive Map Review and several weeks later were able to provide all their outstanding status requests for what were previously RUPP's. We look forward to receiving a copy of their revised map.

The archive/research team has had another busy and successful year and we are deeply indebted to those who attend regularly each Monday which is now a whole day operation divided into two shifts. They are now also dealing with closures and diversions for the counties of Derbyshire (including the Peak Park), Staffordshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. Some members of the team also take an active part in our signposting work including work on certain Thursdays. We are now looking for two additional members for the team able to travel to Hazel Grove, particularly if they can supplement our lady members. I would like to pay tribute to one of our volunteers who recently completed a reference index to the West Yorkshire Definitive Map, the largest in our area. Many man hours were involved but which should help to save much time and effort in the near future.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to all members who have consistently supported the Society throughout the year by their regular attendance and devotion to the work of the Society and without which we could not maintain our present standards of activity.

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

The format of this year's event was slightly different when our guest speaker, Mr. John Findley - Chief Area Surveyor for the Ordnance Survey - illustrated his talk with slides. We all enjoyed and learnt a great deal from his most interesting address about the work of the Ordnance Survey. This event was organised by our Vice Chairman (Norman Edwards), and we are grateful for his capable efforts. Needless to say, the catering was up to the usual high standard we have now come to expect at the Masonic Temple.

## **SOUTH HEAD**

Negotiations have been proceeding for some time between interested parties for the purchase of the summit area of South Head as a memorial to the late Dr. Frank Head. These have now reached a successful conclusion as a result of much devoted effort by your Chairman, Vice Chairman (Norman Edwards), David Wilson of the National Trust and the Ramblers' Association who have agreed to purchase the site. The final transfer will take place early in 1987 and we are now discussing the erection of a suitable memorial. The Society has agreed to pay for this and members are asked to send a contribution towards this work to our Honorary Treasurer.

## **COVER PHOTOGRAPH**

We are indebted to Mr. Frank Barnes of Hazel Grove and Mrs. Pam Gee of Hayfield for this unique illustration of some of the Society's early transport. We have no idea whether it still exists but we believe it originates from the Hayfield area and was possibly the work of Thomas Mower, a one time joiner and builder and a tireless campaigner for this Society. Further information can be obtained from "Kinder People" by Pam Gee at Hill House, Kinder, Hayfield or from the Hayfield Information Centre. (Price 50p plus postage).

(LGM)

## **REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

### **Affiliated Societies**

There are 106 Societies affiliated at 31st December 1986 compared with 104 in 1985. Four new Societies joined during 1986 and only two have not yet renewed.

### **Annual Members**

Individual members total 387 which includes 104 married couples, an increase on 12 over last year. Recruitment of new members has again been good but once more has been offset by the 41 members who did not renew. Several members have died during the year and the Society offers condolences to their families.

### **Ten Year Members**

There are now 321 members, including 60, married couples, an increase of four.

### **Total Membership**

The Society has 10 Honorary Life Members and the total membership at 31st December 1986 stands at 718, a net increase of 18. The Clubs and members contrive to make regular and substantial donations to Society funds and I can assure them that the money is put to very good use in furthering the aims which we all support. I would specially like to thank the family of Mr. Ife, who died very recently, for the donation of £50 in his memory.

Ted Whittaker



## GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present for your consideration my report for the year ended 31st December 1986.

### The Ombudsman

In my report for 1985 I referred once again to the strange story of Staffordshire County Council, footpaths Grindon 18 & 40 and the Ombudsman's attitude towards our complaint. I said then that, hopefully, the final episode of the saga would appear in the next years report and here it is!

I am pleased to be able to report that the footpaths Grindon 18 & 40 have now been cleared and my thanks must go to Andrew Bennett M.P. for his efforts to have this matter resolved. Shortly after this clearance, I was asked by the Ombudsman to submit details of any other problems in Staffordshire and he promised that he would follow these through.

One of the tactics of Staffordshire County Council has been to write to me saying "the path is now clear of obstruction" but I have suspected that in a number of cases this statement was patently untrue and subsequent inspections by the Society's Inspectors have confirmed this. When the Ombudsman asked for additional cases therefore, I took the opportunity to submit five where the County Council has said that the paths were clear when in fact they most certainly were not. Most of these have now been resolved.

When the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council wrote to the Ombudsman, two particular paragraphs of his letter caused me some concern. In relation to one footpath in the Parish of Heathylee he says "there is no provision for walkers to negotiate the three foot dry stone wall at the roadside. A walker might injure himself in attempting to scale the wall but the greatest risk is that the wall might be broken down allowing livestock to escape onto the roadway". You will recognise the Council's concern for the walker in this particular instance. Later in his letter the Chief Executive says "I do not think that the County Surveyor has been providing blatantly wrong information. On one footpath there is a different interpretation as to what constitutes an obstruction and on another footpath, for significant parts of the year, the lack of a footbridge clearly is an obstruction and the County Surveyor's statement is incorrect". The Chief Executive then goes on to define what he sees as the criteria of an obstruction to a right of way. He says "The criteria of an obstruction which the County Council considers reasonable is that there should be no likelihood of injury to a reasonable person attempting to negotiate the obstruction nor the probability of damage to property".

Members can now see, I am sure, the size of the problem we have with Staffordshire County Council.

### Proposed Extension to Military Training Area - Holcombe Moor

An application to extend the military training area at Holcombe Moor was submitted in September 1986 by the Property Services Agency. The extension was quite considerable and generated substantial local opposition. The Society was invited by members and local amenity groups to lodge objections to the proposals. After giving the matter serious consideration, Council agreed to object to the proposals despite assurances from the P.S.A. that rights of way would not be affected. It was felt that an extension as large as that proposed would seriously damage the environment of the area.

### Magistrates Courts

As the year drew to a close and following complaints made by the Society, Derbyshire County Council took a landowner in Charlesworth to court in view of his refusal to remove a blockage from a stile. The court found the landowner guilty of obstructing the way but gave him an absolute discharge. As a Society, we are reluctant to press Local Authorities to prosecute in cases of obstruction until all consultation procedures have been tried. In this case we felt that all reasonable persuasive methods had failed and we were pleased when the County Council decided to take the case to court and have written to the Clerk to the Justices at Glossop expressing our disgust.

The only good point to emerge from this is that the Derbyshire County Council have indicated that this result will not prevent them from prosecuting in similar cases if they feel that the situation warrants it. We applaud this decision by the County Council.

#### Computerisation of Records

We now have almost 2,000 obstruction cases on our files and it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain an adequate "follow-up" system whereby Local Authorities are "reminded" on a regular basis until the obstruction is cleared. The Society's Officers and Council are agreed that there is now a need to consider computerisation of our records. We do have an amount of money earmarked for such a project but at the moment we are carrying out a survey to determine the benefits which would accrue. By the time I report to you next year, hopefully the Society will have taken the first step into the computer age.

#### Bridges

In the Parish of Gawsworth, Cheshire, there is a swing bridge which should carry Public Footpath Gawsworth 5 over the Macclesfield Canal. The Society's attention was drawn to the fact that the bridge was locked and chained in the "open" position, thereby constituting an obstruction of the right of way.

British Waterways Board claim that the bridge is "out of repair" but cannot, or will not, recognise that it has fallen into disrepair as a result of their neglect. As is usual in these cases, they have applied for a closure order which we have opposed. There is certainly an alternative route which is about the same length, but our objection is one of principle.

Just how many bridges carry footpaths across canals, railways and motorways is impossible to decide. One thing is certain however, that if all the authorities concerned allowed their bridges to fall into disrepair and then claimed that, being unsafe, the path should be closed, the footpath network of this country would be decimated. We will continue to oppose all such closure applications.

#### A Plea

Every year I appeal to members to try to walk the paths mentioned in the footpath report and to let me know if they have been cleared. Every year I have a nil response. Nothing daunted, I ask again please tell me if a path shown in the report as obstructed has been cleared. I depend on you all to make the system work.

#### And Finally

My thanks to all those who have assisted during the year and a special word of thanks to all Inspectors - the Society could not continue without you.

(Derek Taylor)

## REPORT OF SIGNPOST SUPERVISOR

This has been another busy year and included the erection of eight new posts. All are memorial or anniversary posts with the sponsor paying between £30 to £50 each to cover materials, signwriting, travel and administrative expenses. Most of the work was carried out by a team of three using the archive centre as a base. Details of major work carried out during 1986 are shown in the schedule on the following page.

The appearance of glossy new signposts advertising the Society is very pleasing when first erected but they may reflect rather less credit after a few severe winters. It is disappointing to carry out so much work which will probably need constant renovation. Our usual signpost is made of wood apart from metal bolts. The printed lettering on the arms of some recent posts is starting to look tatty already and I suspect this may be caused by the poor quality of the wood. When this report appears it is hoped we will be experimenting with posts with 'routed' arms; these have no metal components, are unpainted and have incised lettering. At sites allowing easy access, we use concrete footings wherever appropriate. Another type of post we use is made entirely of metal with vertical direction plates.

My last report mentioned the problem of vandalism, but I am glad to say that no further cases have been reported since then. I am very keen that all our existing posts should bear their identification numbers and I am aware that several erected in recent years do not. If not marked on the plate or arm it could be painted at the base of the post (any volunteers?). To help in completing our records I would be grateful if members could advise me of any post where the number is missing, and, of course, to let me know about damage or deterioration to any of our posts.

We received some very welcome and useful publicity when Clive Price of "The Outsiders" programme on BBC Radio Manchester visited us whilst we were erecting their posts on the Arnfield site and made a recording which was later broadcast.

Work currently in hand includes preparation for two new signposts in the Darwen/Edgeworth area and which we hope to complete in the Spring. The Society will meet the costs of these posts although we invite any society or individuals with an interest in that area to sponsor one or both of the posts. We are looking for suitable sites for signposts for Stockport Field Club and Altrincham CHA.

Our Inspector for the Oldham area has suggested that we should consider replacing the post at Grains Bar which has been missing for several years, but we are waiting to see whether the highway authority will do this. I mention this as an opportunity to restate our general policy of not erecting any signpost where the highway authority has a statutory duty to provide a post, notably where a path leaves a metalled road.

Finally, on behalf of the Society I would like to thank all those who have assisted in any way with our signpost work. I must also draw attention to the very generous donation referred to in the following table in relation to signpost number 207.

(CRP)



## SIGNPOST WORK COMPLETED DURING 1986

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Type of Work</u>  | <u>Location</u>          | <u>GR</u> |
|------------|--|--------------------------|-----------|
| 3          | Plate repainted and new wooden post being prepared (at request of NT Warden).                                  | Stoney Ford              | 072863    |
| 33         | Post re-erected with concrete footing.   | Mount Famine             | 051854    |
| 123        | Post renewed.  | Ilam                     | 137509    |
| 134        | Renovation work.   | Lyme Handley             | 983808    |
| 177        | Arm renovated.   | Windgather               | 992786    |
| 201        | New all-metal post on Rossendale Way for BBC Radio Manchester.   | Holcombe Moor            | 77201922  |
| 202        | New wood post for BBC Radio Manchester signposts numbers 201 and 202 are dedicated "for outsiders everywhere". | Devils' Bridge, Arnfield | 009983    |
| 203        | Memorial post (Mrs. Brookfield) for Mr. Walter Brookfield.   | above Chew Valley        | 027016    |
| 204        | Memorial post (Dr. Frank Head) for Manchester Associates Rambling Club.  | Mellor Church            | 98228887  |
| 205        | Anniversary post for Stockport CHA; third arm to be added for Bredbury FP5.                                    | Benfield                 | 963912    |
| 206        | Memorial post (Phyll Pott) for relatives and archives' colleagues.   | Norbury Brook            | 937854    |
| 207        | Memorial post (Mr. & Mrs. Boyle) for Mr. N. Boyle, a member who has also kindly donated £50.                   | Whaley Bridge            | 999818    |
| 208        | Anniversary post for Eccles CHA.   | Allstone Lee, Combs      | 044776    |

Work was also carried out on two signposts on behalf of the Ramblers' Association (Lockerby Fund).

## FOOT PATH REPORT - OBSTRUCTIONS AND CLEARANCES 1986

### COUNTY OF CHESHIRE

Adlington 14: Local Authority signpost at Claytongreaves 92748205 has been relocated 50 yards to the east of the definitive line. Macclesfield B.C. say they will re-site the post.

Agden 3: Path ploughed and not reinstated. 71558570 to 71008545. Reported to Cheshire C.C.

Ashton-by-Budworth 10: A number of problems on this path which are being investigated by the Society's Inspector. All in the area 686787.

Betchton 1, 2, 4 & 5: There are problems on all of these paths and a detailed list has been submitted to Cheshire C.C.

Betchton 13 & 14: On the former the path is obstructed by barbed wire at two points and a signpost is required at the south end. On the latter, the stile at the north end is badly overgrown and the path requires signing at both ends.

Burtonwood 43/Winwick 13: A bridge is required at the Parish boundary 58449306. Warrington B.C. have been asked to provide.

Chelford 7/Siddington 10: Footbridge collapsed and lying in the stream at 83307320. An unofficial diversion is in operation. Cheshire C.C. are dealing.

Chorley 6: Several stiles and a new footbridge have now been erected on this path which can now be said to be clear. 82807724.

Chorley 18: The damaged stile on this path has now been repaired but a "through" step is still required. 82907827.

Chorley 23: A large new "Private Road" notice has been erected at 83737799. A Public Footpath notice is required to counter this and Cheshire C.C. have been asked to provide.

Disley 35: The track is ankle deep in mud and sludge and is said to be impassible without wellingtons. 994841. Reported to Cheshire C.C.

Disley 45 & 46: Allegations that 45 is obstructed by barbed wire and 46 by a bank. 979853. Inspector has checked and confirms that 46 is "lost" in the Mill Yard but that 45 was found to be clear. Cheshire C.C. have been asked to investigate the missing 46.

Disley 54: An area some 50 yards square across the line of path has been evacuated and covered with aggregate. There is a suggestion that this will form an extension to the Car Park of Moorside Hotel. 98388227. Macclesfield B.C. have been asked to comment.

Gawsworth 5: Swing bridge over the Macclesfield canal is chained in a position which closes the path to walkers. 91037065. Negotiations have taken place with British Waterways Board and Cheshire C.C. who are in favour of the path being closed. We are not ... and have asked that the bridge be put back into use.

Great Warford 4 & 5: Obstructed by fencing at the junction of these paths. G.R. 82157757. Also footpaths 5 & 7 are affected by ploughing. Cheshire C.C. have been informed.

Great Warford 11/Nether Alderley 2: A substantial footbridge some 9 feet in length has been constructed on this continuation path at 81727657.

Hassall 9: Part of the South Cheshire Way. New stile and footbridge erected at 763580. Path is now clear of obstruction.

Higher Hurdsfield 5, 6, 7 & 11: New stile erected at the junction of these paths 92887512. Footpath 5 is still affected by some boggy ground but all paths can now be said to be clear.

Little Bollington 2: Stile obstructed by thorn bushes at 733857. Local assistance being sought to see if this can be easily cleared.

Lyme Handley 5: Wood step stile obstructed by barbed wire, also "through" step is required. 96238409. Cheshire C.C. have been informed and are dealing.

Macclesfield Forest 7: Walking party misdirected by farmer at Clough House. Some waymarking required. Deep fluid mud and manure obstructs the way between 95197257 and 95327247. Cheshire Countryside and Recreation have been informed.

Mobberley 20a: A 6 feet high lapped fence with barbed wire atop has been constructed across the right of way at 78917952. Cheshire C.C. have been asked to take urgent action.

Mottram St. Andrew 6, 7 & 8: Two sections of permissive path are in use, one of the definitive lines is obstructed. All in the area of Woodside Farm. 88387800 to 88547878. Countryside and Recreation (Bollin Valley Project) are investigating.

Nether Alderley 1: Broken down stile has now been replaced by a substantial wood step stile at 82707680. Path now clear.

Nether Alderley 4: Two stiles, both difficult to negotiate obstruct the passage of walkers on this path. 83587690 and 83607697. Cheshire C.C. are aware of our concern.

Nether Alderley 24 & 25: New footbridge and stile erected at 83507603. Both paths now clear.

Nether Alderley 25: Electric fence has been erected in such a way as to prevent use of this path. 83507601 to 83497591. Cheshire C.C. are aware of our concern.

Over Alderley 9: Path was obstructed by a compound containing dogs, and walkers had to ring a bell to gain access to the path. New owners have now arrived and path is clear. 86517685 to 86787708.

Over Alderley 15: Ladder stile in dangerous position. 86357600. Local Authority signpost requires re-fixing.

Over Alderley 21: Allegations that this path is impossible to travel due to poor conditions underfoot. The farmer has allowed his midden to overflow across the path. Inspector confirms the allegations and Cheshire C.C. have been informed. 88077615 to 88007585.

Peover Superior 17: Obstructed by barbed wire where the path leaves the road at its south west end. 79207300 to 79367322. Reported to Cheshire C.C.

Plumley 12: Path through Holford Moss now cleared and two new stiles erected. 71757458 to 71347438.

Pott Shrigley 19: The bridleway from 953803 to 956796 was subject to a diversion some 20 years ago for quarry working. Waymarks originally placed are now missing in many places and the line is difficult to find. It is said that the new line is no substitute for the pleasant green lane it is supposed to have replaced. Cheshire C.C. have been asked to comment.

Poynton 12 & 13: Allegations that 12 is obstructed in woodland and there has been an illegal diversion at the farm. There is also some doubt as to whether 13 is on its correct lane. Inspector is investigating.

Poynton 17 & 18: Allegations that both these paths are obstructed by a root crop are being investigated by the local Inspector. 937851.

Poynton 22 & 27: The field bordering the Lyme Park track has now been fenced and no provision made for walkers wishing to use footpath 27 going south west to the canal. 949829. Cheshire C.C. are investigating.

Poynton 55: Allegations that there is no access from the east/west path are being checked by the Society's Inspector. 932841 to 935836.

Poynton 80: Plank bridge required over a deep drainage ditch. 90478294 to 91588273. This path is also obstructed by the runway of the British Aerospace airfield at Woodford.

Rainow 16: Inspector reports that where this path leaves the A5002 at 96887782 there is neither stile nor signpost. Reported to Cheshire C.C. Countryside & Recreation Division.

Rainow 21: Allegations that walkers have either to touch an electric fence or clamber over an insecure gate are being investigated by the Inspector for the area. This path is part of the Gritstone Trail. 947782.

Rixton-with-Glazebrook 5 & 14: Bridges required on both these paths. F.P. 5 683914 to 683919. F.P. 14 - 696918 to 694919. Referred to Warrington B.C.

Rixton-with-Glazebrook 6: Locked gate and very difficult stile require attention at Hollingreave Farm. 69069178. Warrington B.C. informed.

Rixton-with-Glazebrook 7, 8 & 9: A number of problems on these three paths which Warrington B.C. have been asked to resolve.

Sandbach 24: Path obstructed by locked gates on each side of the railway underpass. 75605933. Reported to Cheshire C.C.

Sandbach 25: Stile requires repair and path is not on its definitive line. 756583. signpost required at north end. All reported to Cheshire C.C.

Siddington 24: Allegations that this path is not on its correct line and does not leave the A34 at 84627222 as is shown on the 2½' Ordnance Survey map. Inspector is investigating.

Sutton 19: Path obstructed at two points. 94116994 and 94056989. The obstructions take the form of sheep netting topped with barbed wire. Cheshire C.C. are dealing.

Toft 1: Footbridge is broken and lying partly in water at 753746. Signpost at Heesome Gree Farm has been located in an incorrect position. Cheshire C.C. have been informed and are dealing with both problems.

Wildboarclough 10, 11 & 33: Several obstructions and other problems on these paths. Grid references are as follows: F.P. 10 99146825 to 00126706, F.P. 11 00066700 to 99626725, F.P. 33 99956718 to 99986710. All reported to Cheshire C.C.

Wildboarclough 16: Inspector reports ladder stile and all other stiles now in good condition. 97886823. signposts in position at both sides. Path now clear.

Wilmslow 9: Ladder stile erected over sheep netting fence at 84118393. Path now clear.

Wilmslow 102: A firm path some 3 feet wide has now been established across the previously ploughed field. A full height signpost has replaced the 2 foot high waymarker which was difficult to see. Please now use this path. 81658288 to 81618252.

Wincle 23: Obstructed by an electrified fence at 961657. Reported to Cheshire C.C.

Wincle 32 & 35: Two bridges missing which would, if present, allow crossing of the Dane into Heaton Parish. 96086432 and 96216458. At this point the Dane is not on the boundary and the responsibility for the bridge lies with Cheshire C.C. who have been informed. They plead "insufficient funds".

## COUNTY OF DERBYSHIRE

Aston 7: Footpath signs have been removed from each end of this path which was recently won after a public enquiry. There is also a "private" notice on a gate which could be said to deter walkers. Derbyshire C.C. have been asked to investigate.

Bonsall 20: Three or four new stiles have been erected on this path and the Inspector reports it as clear. 264579.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 89: Allegations that the ladder stile at 08258180 has been wired up. Inspector is investigating.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 103: Path obstructed at two points. A barbed wire fence at 08068149 and at 07958128 an old gate, iron bedstead and barbed wire make progress very difficult. Reported to Derbyshire C.C.

Chapel-en-le-Frith 113: Allegations that this path is obstructed by barbed wire at 07098030 are not substantiated as there has been a diversion to accommodate the Whaley Bridge by-pass. The path is, in fact, clear.

Charlesworth 29: The stile at 02299180 is quite sound, but when travelling south west there is a post and wire fence which obstructs the way. Referred to Derbyshire C.C. who have indicated that they are aware of the situation.

Charlesworth 31 & 32: Previously obstructed at 02919042 and 03089029, now clear.

Charlesworth 47: New stile provided at Peniston Road, Torside, 05209800. Path is now clear and needs to be used.

Charlesworth 70: Path obstructed by barbed wire across top of stile 99279288. Reported to Derbyshire C.C.

Chinley 8: Path now clear, all stiles well maintained. 0165835 to 01908345.

Chinley 11: Path was obstructed by flooding due to a B.R. blocked culvert. This has now been cleared. 015831 to 025823.

Chinley 14: Stile previously obstructed by barbed wire but the wire has now been well wrapped with hessian and poses no real problem. Can be said to be clear. 02858330.

Chinley 35: the definitive map shows this path to be split into two before reaching the road. There is no sign of the southerly path and the northerly one is blocked. Reported to Derbyshire C.C.

Chinley 44: Fence obstructs the way at 052844 and a signpost is required at 048843. Derbyshire C.C. is dealing.

Glossop 1 & 23: Housing development by Egerton Construction causing problems on these paths. Derbyshire C.C. are aware and intend to use "fairly strong persuasion" to resolve the matter.

Glossop 4: Reports of obstruction by person on this path. Two brothers occupy the farm and refuse to let people through the farmyard, indicating a way round the back which is deep in mud and totally unacceptable as an alternative way. Grid references 03729518 to 04009526. Reported to Derbyshire C.C. Walk leaders to inform the Secretary of any further trouble.

Glossop 71: Allegations that there are two locked gates across the right of way and that the path has been built over at one point. Derbyshire C.C. is investigating.

Hartington Middle Quarter 7 & 8: Obstruction by person at Glutton Grange Farm. West Derbyshire Group Ramblers' Association are asking members to use these paths as often as possible. Please report any attempt to prevent use of the path to the General Secretary. Footpath 7=08476704 to 08256760. Footpath 8=07826682 to 08476704.



Hartington Middle Quarter 31: New stile installed on the Axe Edge Road. Path now clear 07456907.

Hartington Upper Quarter 62: Walking parties are occasionally confronted by a Clay Pigeon shoot of some 50 guns some 100 yards from this path and firing over it. 02826937 to 02986856. The Police, Derbyshire C.C. and the Society's Inspector for Quarnford have been involved in negotiations with the farmer concerned. We hope that the matter has now been resolved but if you experience problems on this path, please let the Secretary know.

Hassop 9: Stiles now repaired. Overgrowth clearance has been undertaken by the Peak Park Ranger Service. Path now clear. 23257235.

Hathersage 27: "Private" signs encouraging an unofficial diversion of this path have now been removed. 344813 to 243813.

Hayfield 4: Plank bridge required south of Phoaside Farm. Stile also required. Derbyshire C.C. are dealing. 03128695 to 03838592.

Little Hucklow 1: Barbed wire fence removed, path now open. 17017785 to 16537855.

Nether Haddon 6 & 11: There is a possibility that the Car Park of Haddon Hall is being extended to cover these paths at 23346618. Inspector is maintaining a careful watch on the situation.

New Mills 85: Path obstructed by a new fence at its junction with footpath 111. Grid reference 99518611. A signpost is also required. Derbyshire C.C. have been informed.

New Mills 110: Path is flooded to such an extent that waders are required. 00198595. Derbyshire C.C. have been informed and have acknowledged.

New Mills 143: This bridleway has developed into a stream but a M.S.C. or other voluntary team has spent a considerable amount of time doing up the path and it is now in first rate condition. Please use it. 03238436.

New Mills 161: A precarious stile previously caused an obstruction of this path. It has now been repaired. 019842.

Outseats 8: New stile erected and drainage work underway. Waymarking has been organised. National Park Rangers are to be complimented on a prompt response to our complaint. 228838.

Parwich 4/Eaton & Alsop 8: Obstructed by barbed wire at both ends of field, 178546 and 177546 Inspector confirms the obstruction and West Derbyshire D.C. have been informed.

Taddington 4: There is no stile in the wall at 147722 and a drinking trough has been placed in the gap. 143722 to 158714. Reported to West Derbyshire D.C.

Thorpe 2: A substantial step stile has now been erected and a council type signpost erected. The final clearance was effected by the Society's Inspector sawing away a rather large branch from a fallen oak.

Whaley Bridge 58: This path has been unofficially diverted by the new owner of "The Chimes" at Taxal and signs have been erected in front of the official ones.

#### COUNTY OF GREATER MANCHESTER

Ashton-under-Lyne 37: Allegations that this path is in poor condition have been investigated by the Society's Inspector who can find no substance in the complaint. Path now classed as clear.

Ashton-under-Lyne 53 & 54: These paths have been temporarily diverted but the landowner is seeking a permanent diversion. The Society is to oppose. All adjacent to Knott Hill Farm 95630140. Closure & Diversions Secretary is now dealing.

Aspull 11: Stiles missing and path cropped in parts, grid references 62620830 to 61900822. Reported to Wigan M.B.

Aspull 22: Path ploughed out between 60727035 and 60950735. A signpost is also required where the path leaves the B5238. Wigan M.B. have been informed.

Blackrod 12: Three problems on this path. Overgrown hedges, steps in a dangerous condition and barbed wire. All reported to Bolton M.B.

Blackrod 15 Horwich 179/Blackrod 11/Horwich 106: This is a continuation path which crosses and recrosses the boundaries. There are also a number of unacceptable factors, not least of which are notices "Asbestos - Keep Out" 63191053 to 64200997. Bolton M.B. have been asked to deal with this as a matter of urgency. The Society has also sought the assistance of the Health and Safety Executive.

Bolton 59: A superb double span bridge has been erected on this path. One of the last acts of the Greater Manchester county council. A flight of steps has also been provided. One wonders if Borough Councils will undertake this sort of work now that the County Council has gone.

Bolton 110: An opening has now been created in the fenceline and the path, which is quite well used, can now be said to be clear.

Bolton 165: A path, which over the years has been the subject of dispute over almost its entire length, now has a large locked gate erected across the line. 686108 to 690106. Bolton M.B. have been asked to take urgent action in this particular case.

Bolton 332: Temporary closure in operation for no good reason. Moves afoot to make the order permanent. 672077 to 673083. This is not acceptable to the Society. Bolton M.B. have been so informed.

Brebury & Romiley 64: This diverted path is now open along its entire length, with good stiles erected. 933926 to 933928.

Cheadle & Gatley 21: An urban path running from 866882 to 868882 blocked by dumping and an illegal fence where the path joins footpath 20. Stockport M.B. have been informed and have acknowledged.

Cheadle & Gatley 49: An urban path in a very poor condition underfoot. There is also some encroachment by adjacent gardens, 85338743 to 85378768. Stockport are aware and have been asked to take action.

Haigh 40: Path obstructed by an impenetrable hedge where it leaves Copperas Lane. 60310894. Strangely, a footpath sign is in position. Reported to Wigan M.B.

Hazel Grove & Bramhill 2: Inspector reports that there is no erosion or undergrowth on this path and now lists it as clear. 89168179 to 90108167.

Heywood 15: Path obstructed by barbed wire fencing at 836148. Reported to Rochdale M.B.

Hyde 82: Previously obstructed by dismantled fencing and stone work. Now clear. 959946 to 959945.

Kearsley 30, 32 & 33: Kearsley 30 has been temporarily closed due to asbestos found on the line of the path. The alternative route shown on the order carefully ignores two other rights of way, Nos. 32 and 33, which provide much shorter diversion routes. The reason for this was not immediately apparent until inspected. Both paths were found to be obstructed. Bolton M.B.C. has been asked to deal with the obstructed paths as a matter of urgency. footpath 32 - 75650490 to 76000473 and footpath 33 75510481 to 75850469.

Leigh 13: Path passes between houses where it leaves Corner Lane A577. The path is obstructed over its entire length and a signpost is required. 64470301.

Leigh 195 & 211: Obstruction by person. Farmer maintains that there is no right of way but path is definitive and has been well used for years. 68199940 to 68209886. Wigan M.B. have been asked to take action.

Littleborough 65: Allegations that a Shippon has been erected across this bridleway. reported to Rochdale M.B.

Littleborough 258: Allegations that access to the canal bank is obstructed by a fence at 92651520. Residents of Smith Bridge Road are said to have extended their gardens to include the towpath. Rochdale M.B. are not providing the Society with the right answers to this problem and devious dealings are suspected.

Longdendale 2/Tinwistle 6: Bridge has been missing for some time. Alternative route is via stepping stones which are useless when Ogden Brook is in flood. 017989. Tameside M.B. are the responsible authority and they have been informed.

Longdendale 104/Hyde 54: Allegations of obstruction by person in the vicinity of Mottram Miniature Castle. 982959. Inspector has visited the site and consulted with the owner. He advises that the only problem is a gate which has to be climbed but he can find no evidence of obstruction by person.

Manchester 211: Prompt action by the City Council resulted in the overgrowth on this path being cut back. 83459095 to 83909072.

Manchester 233: Some 400 yards of this path is obstructed behind houses in Swalecliffe Avenue. There is also a suggestion of obstruction by person at Woodwiss Farm. 80299003 to 80019013. Referred to the City council.

Marple 50: Obstructed by barbed wire at 97189025 and again at the bungalow. Signposts are also required at each end. Stockport M.B. area are aware and have indicated that they will finance the work during the current financial year if possible.

Marple 171: Allegations that the flooded area on this path at 96638600 is caused by the farmer discharging waste down a black pipe. Inspector cannot confirm this at the time of his visit the pipe was discharging clear water. Being kept under review.

Marple 173: Not now obstructed but signposts are required at each end. 96758610 to 96938605. The Society's Inspector suggests more frequent usage of this path would be advisable.

Marple 212: Obstruction by person. The owner of Green Gates Farm states the path is a private drive. 98909050 to 99629168. Please use this path and report any obstruction to the Secretary.

Middleton 90: Line of path blocked and illegally diverted onto an estate road. 85540536. Rochdale M.B.C. have been informed of our concern and have agreed to reinstate.

Milnrow 14b: Obstructed by a broken wall repaired by a wooden fence at 96761160. This is at the junction with 14 and 14a. Rochdale M.B. have been informed.

Milnrow 215: Four strands of barbed wire across a gateway obstruct this right of way at 93231380. Rochdale have been informed.

Milnrow 372: Obstructed by sheep netting at 94851196. Rochdale have been informed.

Rochdale C1: Allegations that a house has been built across the line of this path. Inspector is checking.

Rochdale 33: Path obstructed at several points. At 84811597, 84801605 and 84791607. there is a stone wall at 84771610 and a pallet secured by three lots of wire constitutes the final obstruction at 84651650. Rochdale M.B. have been asked to take remedial action.

Rochdale 37: Path obstructed by a gate which is secured by a rusty chain just west of Higher Knowl, 84601602. Rochdale M.B. are dealing.

Rochdale 322: Signpost now erected at the Shaw Road / Chadwick Lane junction. Path can now be said to be clear.

Saddleworth 7: Obstructed by a wooden fence almost on the Rochdale boundary at 96951148. Oldham M.B. have been informed.

Saddleworth 24: Path obstructed at Slack Gate Farm 97820980. The obstruction takes the form of a padlocked gate; Oldham M.B.C. are dealing.

Saddleworth 27/29: Footpath obstructed by barbed wire at the junction of these paths 97970968; Oldham M.B.C. are investigating.

Stalybridge 6: An unofficial diversion has been set up and notices intended to deter walkers have been erected. Inspector has raised this direct with Tameside M.B. and a supporting letter has been sent by the Secretary. 96869967 to 96719964.

Stalybridge 101: An error in last years report showed this as being footpath 60. The beech hedge has however now been cut back and the path is clear. 97659761.

Turton (Egerton) 15 & 16: Paths now clear after a considerable amount of pressure on Bolton M.B.C. There is a slight problem with the position of some barbed wire and footpath signs are still required, but the paths are most certainly clear of obstruction.

Tyldesley 142/145: There is no access to these paths from bridleway 146/144 at grid references 70970134 7 71100133. Wigan M.B.C. have been informed and are dealing.

Tyldesley 262: Path diverted from its correct line to allow encroachment by a house garden. 69730038. Wigan M.B. who are aware of the situation have failed to take action. Pressure being applied by the Society.

Wardle 145 & 146: Society's Inspector confirms that these paths are now open on their correct line. 91981682.

Westhoughton 23, 24 & 236: Allegations that the above paths are obstructed are being investigated by the Society's Inspector. All in the area 62700820.

Westhoughton 40: A diversion order was confirmed for this path in May 1985 but the diversion route was not created. Bolton M.B.C. were challenged to say if the order could therefore be operative. They have subsequently confirmed that the necessary works have now been completed.

Westhoughton 112 & 113: Both these paths obstructed by barbed wire at each side of a sewer work excavation. No provision made for walkers and no temporary orders have been made. Typical of Bolton M.B.C.'s lack of concern for the walking public. They have been asked to take action but it is doubtful if they will.

Westhoughton 121: This path has been obstructed for some time and includes stables which have been illegally erected across the line of path. 686069. Bolton M.B. have allowed this situation to develop without taking action. An application for Opencast Coal Mining now affects the path. There will be a need for a diversion. Bolton M.B. will use this to bring about a diversion to tidy up the mess they have allowed to develop if we are not careful.

Whitefield 2: A 10 feet high enclosure has been erected across line of path and stiles are said to be non-existent. 83600883 to 93460838. Inspector is investigating.

#### COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

Bacup 390, 391 & 392: In April 1984 the junction of these paths at 891242 was obstructed by a high barbed wire fence. Rossendale B.C. now advise "Access is now available".



Bacup 454 & 429: The former obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 88432286 and the latter by a barbed wire fence and a fastened gate at 88502310. Reported to Rossendale B.C.

Bacup 458: Brokdown wall has been repaired by the erection of barbed wire at 89322262. A stile is now required. Rossendale B.C. have been informed.

Bacup 461: A barbed wire fence across a gateway obstructs the line of path at 88432285. Rossendale B.C. have been asked to investigate.

Brindle 9: The bridge over the stream some 100m west of Brown House Bridge No.86 over the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, lies with one edge in the water and requires urgent attention. 60502275. Lancashire C.C. have been informed.

Brindle 23: Step stile surrounded by deep mud and a further stile which is unstable cause problems on this path. 61002321 to 60092372. There is also a problem due to a missing "through" step at 60352355. Reported to Lancashire C.C.

Charnock Richard 16: Previously obstructed by barbed wire at 55451532. Lancashire C.C. advise that this obstruction has now been cleared.

Darwen 136: Large house with forecourt and gardens built across the line of path 70301925. Blackburn B.C. Legal Department have been notified and are dealing.

Haslingdon 158: Previously obstructed by an iron gate with spikes on top and secured by a lock and chain. Rossendale B.C. now advise "chain removed, new stile 10m west of gate".

Haslingdon 331: Excellent ladder stile erected at 76601960. Path now clear of obstructions.

Ramsbottom 15, 16: These paths meet at Holcome Brook. A bridge was required and has now been provided at 76701625. First reported January 1984.

Ramsbottom 30: High wall with no "through" stones at 78021695. A similar problem exists at 78251683, although at this location one side of the wall is alright, reported to Rossendale B.C.

Ramsbottom 119: Obstructed by sleepers at Lumb Village and by a ranch type fence with no "throughs" at 78661972. A signpost arm is required at the Holcombe Road end. Rossendale B.C. have been informed.

Ramsbottom 147, 172 & 173: New stiles and ladder stiles erected on these paths, Inspector reports them as clear.

Ramsbottom 209, 210 & 211: Several obstructions on these paths first reported in April 1984. Now reported as "access now clear on these paths".

Turton (Belmont) 19: A rail has now been fitted to the bridge at 695150 making it safe to use.

Turton (Bradshaw North) 25: Inspector reports "no danger to path users on this path at Owd Ned's. 75151289. Path therefore listed as clear.

Turton (Chapelton) 27, 36 & 43: All paths obstructed by wire and other obstacles; reported to Blackburn B.C.

Turton (Chapelton) 31: A satisfactory stile has now been erected at 724431546. Path now clear.

Turton (Chapelton) 41: Broken stile has now been replaced with one of an acceptable design. Path now clear. 726146.

Turton (Edgeworth) 1, 15 & 158: These paths all cross footway 7 which is fenced on both sides by sheep netting. Only one stile was seen and five are required. All in the area 71531925.



Turton (Edgworth) 13: The structure which previously obstructed this path has now been cleared away and the path is clear. 71901970.

Turton (Edgworth) 14: At Top o'th Meadow Farm which is unoccupied, restoration work was commenced but abandoned. Stile is blocked by an accumulation of builders rubbish. 71401973 to 71651900. reported to Blackburn B.C.

Turton (Edgworth) 29: Stile previously obstructed by pile of wood, now clear. 716182.

Turton (Edgworth) 46: Allegations that electric fences obstruct the line of path are being investigated by the Society's Inspector. 729186.

Turton (Edgworth) 50: This path, which was always in a poor condition, has now been restored. 73301760 to 73501765.

Turton (Edgworth) 67: Path obstructed by a barbed wire fence surmounted by an electric fence at 72982024. reported to Blackburn B.C.

Turton (Edgworth) 76: Obstructed at several points, as indeed are many Edgworth paths. Sign required at 738212, obstructed by a fence at 738213, by barbed wire 50m from the east end and again by barbed wire at 73782127 and 73812128. The path line is lost when it reaches "Pastures". Reported to Blackburn B.C.

Turton (Edgworth) 81: Allegations that this path, which runs from 735215 to Pastures Farm, is obstructed by a new fence enclosing a tree planting area near the site of an old colliery.

Turton (Edgworth) 84: The Society is advised that a slight diversion of this path has been agreed with the Ramblers' Association by the owner. 74452074 to 73702030.

Turton (Edgworth) 86 & 90: Several problems reported in the area around Longshoot Farm. Being investigated by the Inspector for the area. 74052150 to 73752035.

Turton (Edgworth) 95: Path obstructed in a number of places. 737185 to 741197. Reported to Blackburn B.C. who seldom reply to letters and are very reluctant to take any sort of action.

Turton (Edgworth) 152, 153 & 161: Several problems on these paths including a dangerous footbridge. All have been reported to Blackburn B.C. Area around 74201555.

Tockholes 7: Barbed wire has been continued across the stile at 65452340 making it extremely dangerous when approaching from the "wrong" side. Reported to Blackburn B.C.

Tockholes 10: Stile replaced by a ranch type fence at 65302370. A through step is required to make it acceptable. Reported to Blackburn B.C.

Tockholes 11: Gate across path, previously locked has now been opened. 65242340.

Tockholes 47: Signpost has been renewed, the gate can now be opened and a new stile has been provided. Path now clear. 66232309 to 65952335.

Wheelton 7: Some dispute as to whether or not this is a right of way. Farmer considers it as to have been closed. 60162117 to 60162170. Lancashire C.C. have been asked for their comments.

Wheelton 9: Path appears to have been unofficially diverted at Lower Simpson Fold, 60502230. Lancashire C.C. have been asked to advise if the diversion is legal.

Wheelton 11: Path obstructed by fencing. A relative of the farmer concerned advised that the right of way no longer exists. 60952095 to 61322172. Lancashire C.C. have been asked to advise.

Whitworth 5, 8, 9 & 19: Obstructed by fencing, barbed wire, etc at the following grid references: 89122145, 89722085 & 89052120. All reported to Rossendale B.C.

## COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Alstonefield 0.1684: Allegations that this path is obstructed by a stone wall with barbed wire atop at 12725645. Inspector is checking.

Biddulph 99: Path obstructed by barbed wire at 89676097. Signposts are required at each end of the path. Staffordshire C.C. have been informed.

Farley 25: Allegations that this path is obstructed by railings where it goes north into Wooton Park 087437, the J.C.B. Estate. Inspector is checking.

Fawfieldhead 26: Obstructed at both ends by barbed wire 062614 to 060613. Inspector is checking.

Fawfieldhead 74/65: Stile obstructed by barbed wire on this continuation path at 05656035. Inspector is checking.

Grindon 12: The several problems on this path have now been resolved. The path is now unobstructed.

Grindon 13: Vertical drop of 9 feet on line of path and no facility to cross the stream. Path from 07085320 to 08425437. Staffordshire C.C. have been informed.

Grindon 16: Several new stiles erected on this path which the Inspector considers to be clear. 07005518 to 07485618. Signposting is still required.

Grindon 18 & 40: The long standing problems on these paths, which resulted in a case being put to the Ombudsman, have finally been resolved. Paths now clear.

Heathylee 16: New stile in position and yellow waymark arrow on the gate at Downsedale. Path now clear.

Heathylee 17/Quarnford 23 & 0.1812: On Heathylee 17 at 017639 a locked gate topped with barbed wire obstructs the way. On Quarnford 23 the gate to the road is locked at 999662 and an electric fence obstructs the way at 999661. A high fence obstructs Quarnford 0.1812 at 001657. All have been reported to Staffordshire C.C.

Heathylee 29 & 30/Leekfrith 58: A number of problems on these paths including the need for a bridge to connect Leekfrith 58 with Heathylee 30. 01506180 to 01486179. Reported to Staffordshire C.C.

Horton 29: Stile erected and diversion route well defined. 938585.

Horton 30: North end not accessible since a school was built over the line. Inspector is watching the situation and advises that in view of the financial situation, some patience will be necessary.

Horton 52: Stile required at junction of fields 940583. S.M.D.C. are dealing.

Ipstones 53: Post and wire has now been removed at 028488. Path now clear.

Rushton 49: Path previously obstructed by canal dredgings, is now clear 93956235 to 95356385.

Warslow & Elkstones 0.1864: Previously obstructed by a 3½' high electrified fence. Path now clear, 08825822 to 08805821.

Warslow & Elkstones 5 & Butterson 1, 13, 23 & 24: Allegations that this continuation path is obstructed at several points along its entire length have been checked by the Society's Inspector and certain recommendations have been forwarded to Staffordshire C.C.

Waterhouses 14 & 19: Path 14 is obstructed at a stile which is topped with two rows of barbed wire. 08255130 to 08025114, the obstruction is at the junction of the two paths. On 19, a barbed wire fence and a hawthorne hedge obstruct the line. 08085052 to 08105148. All reported to Staffordshire C.C.

## COUNTY OF WEST YORKSHIRE

Blackshaw 10: Obstructed by barbed wire across top of step stile 94502811.

Blackshaw 12: A bridleway obstructed at three points. Gate fastened up at 95142839, wall and barbed wire at 95102816 and a further wall and barbed wire at 95102816 and a further wall and barbed wire at 94862788.

Blackshaw 20: Obstructed by a wooden fence and barbed wire at Burnt Edge Farm. 94542792.

Blackshaw 28: Fence erected across line of path. 96792800.

Blackshaw 32: Gateway blocked with heavy pieces of metal at 97262745.

Blackshaw 41: Obstructed by barbed wire at its junction with footpath 20 94482792.

Blackshaw 46: Obstructed at two points by barbed wire. 94572705 & 94722732.

Blackshaw 188: Obstructed by an earth embankment and 3' high posts ready for fencing. 93142756. All Blackshaw paths reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Colne Valley 23: Paths obstructed by barbed wire at 03631540, 04151583 & 03611544. Reported to Kirklees M.B.C.

Elland/Sowerby Bridge 83: No footbridge at the point where the stream marks the boundary. 07852270.

Elland 59: Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 07301974.

Erringden 2: A drystone wall obstructs the way at 97852498.

Erringden 11: Obstructed by a fence and pallet at 98302467 and by a sheep netting fence and the remains of railings at 98112478.

Erringden 14: Obstructed by barbed wire at 96682542. All Elland and Erringden paths reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Halifax 18: Quarry workings have affected this path at 07653130.

Halifax 82: Path illegally closed following the erection of a new house adjacent to the line of path 06342946.

Halifax 137: Path obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 04302883.

Halifax 143: A misleading "private road" sign on this path needs to be countered by a Public Footpath Sign. 04522868.

Halifax 188: Obstructed by barbed wire at 04972850. This is a bridleway and its use by horseriders is not possible.

Halifax 195: Gate securely fastened at 04952850. All Halifax paths reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Hebden Bridge 105: Gap stile previously obstructed now open. Path clear 01422369.

Hebden Royd 45: At 99532563 a barbed wire fence obstructs the way.

Hebden Royd 78: A wooden fence obstructs the line of path at 98802348.

Hebden Royd 83: A stone wall obstructs the way at 99422398. At 99472386 the gate is secured with two strands of barbed wire atop. At 99502369 a 6' high stone wall obstructs the way.

Hebden Royd 93: Obstructed by a wall at 01222477.

Hebden Royd 107: Path obstructed at eight points. Missing stiles, barbed wire fences across the line. Path from 00802330 to 01372350.

Hebden Royd 110: Obstructed by a stone wall which is wired atop. 00882319.

Hebden Royd 118 & 120: Three obstructions on this path which runs from 99702141 to 99912318. All Hebden Royd paths reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Heptonstall 2: Path obstructed by barbed wire at junction with footpath 995353262.

Heptonstall 11: Path obstructed by barbed wire on each side of the Pennine Way at 94903243.

Heptonstall 21: The gate at 96793050 is secured by binder twine and is in a dangerous condition.

Heptonstall 26: Three obstructions on this path; a wall, a fastened gate and a fence and a wall. 95542932 to 95512895.

Heptonstall 28: This path is now blocked at two points by rubble tipped across the line of path. 95952890 and 95952899. All Heptonstall paths reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Holmfirth 95: Works rubbish piled across the path forces walkers to use a works loading bay, and the lack of a stile in the boundary fence compounds the difficulties. Reported to Kirklees M.B.C.

Ripponden 1/Sowerby Bridge 1245: This continuation path is obstructed at several points. At a gateway 02342166, by barbed wire at 02202198 and again at 02252181.

Ripponden 4: Two walls constructed across the path at 02142134 & 025502146.

Ripponden 9: Path obstructed at six points. Path runs from 01522072 to 02232106.

Ripponden 15: Obstructed at five separate points by wire and built up wall, etc. Path runs from 03172038 to 02672076.

Ripponden 20, 31 & 32: Walls, wire fences and fastened gates obstruct these rights of way.

Ripponden 47: Blocked by a barbed wire fence and no signpost where this path leaves the A58 in a northerly direction. 033193.

Ripponden 53, 54 & 56: Fences, walls and a misleading notice affect these paths.

Ripponden 81: A gateway and stiles and obstructed by baulks of timber at 05921950.

Ripponden 84, 86 & 87: On 84 the gate at 06471970 is padlocked and the adjacent stile has wood nailed across it. There is a dangerous stile at 06431961 and a wall has been built across the line at 06381961. The track at 06311957 is totally obstructed by trees planted as part of a garden. On footpath 86 the gate at 06401903 is securely fastened, as is the one at 06631950. On footpath 87 the gate at 06421869 is also securely fastened.

Ripponden 88: Path is impassable along its entire length. Improved drainage is required 05821892 to 06001888.

Ripponden 98: An unofficial diversion has been set up between 04351789 and 04491799. The path is obstructed by a sheep fence at 04441790 and again at 04351789. The gap stile has been blocked by a pile of tyres at 03971833 and the stile at 03821842 has been replaced by two strands of barbed wire.

Ripponden 99: Gate securely fastened at 04071811.

Ripponden 105: The lane adjacent to Park House Farm is impassable due to holly bushes, etc, and there is barbed wire across the track. A garage has been built across the line of path. All in the area 06101815.

Ripponden 108: A wooden fence has been erected across the path at 05481776.

Ripponden 122: Obstructed at three points, 03401757, 03331703 and 03201682. All Ripponden paths have been reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Sowerby Bridge 35: Gateway at 04782468 is secured with binder twine and a heavy iron rod has been laid across the gateway.

Sowerby Bridge 70: Bridleway obstructed at two points. At 03602345 the gate is fastened and at 03622345 a wall and barbed wire are across the track.

Sowerby Bridge 114, 140 & 141: Two blocked stile gaps and a stile obstructed by barbed wire are the problems on these paths.

Sowerby Bridge 116 & 117: On 116 the obstruction is by barbed wire at 02742210 and a wire fence and a load of rubbish across the line. 117 is obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 02752216, a blocked gap stile and a barbed wire fence at 02862214, a further blocked gap stile at 02932215. A blocked gateway at 03042214 and a further blocked gap stile at 03182228.

Sowerby Bridge 118: Obstructed at 6 points. Stile removed and wall built at 02352265, barbed wire fence at 02442257, a 4' high fence and a double row of pallets at 02572237 and secured gates at 02822223 and 02552207.

Sowerby Bridge 123: Obstructed by barbed wire fence at 02052192.

Sowerby Bridge 132 & 133: The former obstructed by an electric fence and a blocked gap stile at two points. Path runs from 03702189 to 04202177. The latter obstructed by a blocked gap stile at 04142190 and a broken stile at 04132210. All Sowerby Bridge problems referred to Calderdale B.C.

Todmorden 14: Obstructed by a barbed wire fence at 96682538.

Todmorden 16: Path totally out of repair. 94832630.

Todmorden 21: Gap stile blocked with stones 94252628.

Todmorden 24 & 30: Gates securely fastened on both these paths, no stiles. 95052566 & 95072580.

Todmorden 36, 178 & 182: On 36 there is a fence across what is a bridleway. On 178 there is a "private road" notice which requires countering. A barbed wire fence across the top of the stile obstructs the way on 182.

Todmorden 44: A wooden fence some 4' high obstructs the way at 92932727.

Todmorden 45: Gate blocked by large stones at 92272615.

Todmorden 47: previously obstructed by a secured wicket gate. Now clear. 92512710.

Todmorden 49: Gate firmly fastened across bridleway at junction with footpath 19. 91902697.

Todmorden 73: Stile blocked and adjacent gate locked. 90902459.

Todmorden 82: Gate previously secured now open, path clear. 92122507.

Todmorden 102: Obstructed by a wooden fence in the vicinity of Watty Farm, 92752337.

Todmorden 112: Wall topped by a wooden fence obstructs the way at 92722272.

Todmorden 114: Two strands of barbed wire at 92692269, further barbed wire at 92702275 and a dry stone wall at 92702273 has been replaced by a wooden fence.



Todmorden 124: Path obstructed by a 6' high wall just north of Heys. 91772197.

Todmorden 144: Gate fastened by a metal chain and wire at 93832045.

Todmorden 160: Stile blocked with sheep netting some 3 feet high topped with barbed wire.

Todmorden 193: At 92372164 both the field and wicket gates are secured. All problems on Todmorden paths reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

Wadsworth 23: The gate at 98673061 is fastened by a rusty chain and padlock. A large number of big stones have been dumped around the bottom of the gate to prevent it from being opened.

Wadsworth 38: Obstructed by wire at 98453010 and by a dry stone wall at 98483028. At 98292988 the stile has been removed and the wooden gate will not open.

Wadsworth 39: The gate at 98323045 is secured by binder twine and cannot be opened.

Wadsworth 41: Obstructed by a wooden fence and a wall at 97403030. The gateway at 97503032 is blocked by the continuation of a dry stone wall. All Wadsworth path problems reported to Calderdale M.B.C.

## TREASURERS REPORT

1986 has been a successful year for the Society with a satisfactory financial result maintaining the real value of our fund base.

During 1986 our investments have been diversified to include a small proportion of equities to strengthen our financial position at a time of political and economic uncertainty. The equities have been purchased with a long term view (ten years or so) and temporary falls in the stock market will be of little consequence.

Please would members note that in 1986 subscriptions were increased and the subscriptions due for 1987 are as follows:

Ordinary: £2.00, Husband & Wife £3.00, Junior £1.00, Club Affiliations £5.00, Ten Year Membership: £17.00, Husband & Wife: £24.00.

Additional donations are welcomed, either with subscription renewals or at any other time. At the present time I would request that no additional donations are made to the Survey Fund.

The Society is a registered charity and can be a recipient of funds under the GIVE AS YOU EARN scheme which comes into effect in April 1987. This tax efficient charity giving scheme allows recipient charities to receive MORE money than you give. Members may also donate money to the Society through the Charities Aid Fund, who operate several tax efficient schemes, in which you covenant a fixed sum to charity IN GENERAL (subject to various conditions - eg, cancelled if you lose your job), and then direct the CAF to make payments from the covenant as you wish. Such schemes are, of course, only applicable if you have EARNED income which is subject to income tax. High rate tax payers have additional advantages. The Charities Aid Foundation also operate the Give as You Earn scheme. Their address for information (SAE requested) is: 48 Pembury Road, TONBRIDGE, Kent, TN9 2JD. They are not a Government department, but a private charity, and will be under some pressure for the introduction of Give as You Earn. So please allow them ample time to reply.

When drawing up or reviewing your wills, please remember the Society welcomes bequests and legacies. Unconditional bequests to the General Funds of the Society are the simplest for us to administer.

Subscriptions to the Society are due under the constitution on January 1st each year. Members who have been paying their subscriptions in the latter half of the year are requested to consider bringing their payments forward - if you pay a month earlier each year we can make some progress! By paying your subscription earlier you can make our administrative task easier, and help to keep our costs down. In practice, payment before the end of April is quite satisfactory as the Society does not advise its members of "current" subscription rates until the Annual Report is sent out.

I should like to express special thanks to those members who do so much work for the Society - their time is valuable and much appreciated. Thanks also to those who have added donations to their subscriptions and to those who have sponsored our new signposts.

**STEPHEN SHAW. JANUARY 17th 1987.**  
Honorary Treasurer

| INCOME             |                         | 1985   | 1986    |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Subscriptions:     |                         |        |         |
| 270.50             | ORDINARY                | 324.50 |         |
| 250.50             | JOINT                   | 272.50 |         |
| 327.75             | TFR FROM 10 YR SUSP.    | 344.90 |         |
| 5.00               | JUNIOR                  | 2.00   |         |
| 429.00             | AFFILIATIONS            | 494.00 |         |
| 1282.75            |                         |        | 1437.90 |
| 444.37             | DONATIONS               |        | 452.21  |
| Investment Income: |                         |        |         |
| 313.26             | INCOME PAID NET         | 334.66 |         |
| 134.24             | TAX RECOVERABLE         | 137.58 |         |
|                    |                         |        | 472.24  |
| 3127.67            | INCOME PAID GROSS       |        | 3172.57 |
| 0.00               | PROFIT ON ANNUAL DINNER | 6.89   |         |
| 2.50               | PROFIT ON SALES         | 0.00   |         |
| 0.00               | RUCKSACK BADGES SOLD    | 66.40  |         |
| 5304.79            | TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME   |        | 5608.21 |
| 0.00               | GRANT FROM G.M.C.       |        | 1000.00 |
| 5304.79            |                         |        | 6608.21 |

| EXPENSES           |                             | 1985 | 1986    |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------|---------|
| 272.79             | ANNUAL REPORT               |      | 239.38  |
| 245.81             | STATIONERY &c               |      | 306.64  |
| 53.85              | MAPS                        |      | 27.30   |
| 482.58             | POST + TELEPHONE            |      | 669.77  |
| General Secretary: |                             |      |         |
| 100.00             | HONORARIUM                  |      | 100.00  |
| 150.00             | EXPENSES OF OFFICE (NOTE 1) |      | 112.50  |
| Travel:            |                             |      |         |
| 191.34             | CLOSURE & DIVERSIONS        |      | 103.04  |
| 172.63             | FOOTPATH INSPECTORS         |      | 179.06  |
| 79.14              | OTHER TRAVEL                |      | 81.90   |
| Room Rents:        |                             |      |         |
| 84.90              | MEETINGS                    |      | 80.70   |
| 248.91             | ARCHIVE STORAGE             |      | 262.66  |
| 35.00              | SUBS AND DONATIONS          |      | 10.00   |
| 52.84              | PUBLICITY                   |      | 15.24   |
| 64.30              | ARCHIVE RUNNING EXPENSES    |      | 71.67   |
| 13.50              | BANK NOMINEE CHARGES        |      | 66.50   |
| 0.00               | LOSS ON AGM TEAS            |      | 2.00    |
| 13.72              | LOSS ON ANNUAL DINNER       |      | 0.00    |
| 121.00             | RUCKSACK BADGES             |      | 3.95    |
| 330.00             | RETURN OF GRANT             |      | 0.00    |
| 0.00               | PURCHASE OF WAY MARKERS     |      | 9.00    |
| 2712.31            | TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES     |      | 2341.27 |
| 778.24             | Transfer to Defence Fund    |      | 0.00    |
| 130.13             | Investment Revaluation      |      | 227.64  |
| 1684.11            | Surplus Income for Year     |      | 4039.30 |
| 5304.79            |                             |      | 6608.21 |

#### NOTE

Interest rates as at the year end were as follows.  
1985 rates in brackets:  
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT...6.69% (7.75%)  
PREMIUM ACCOUNT...10.37% (11.00%)  
INVESTMENT A/C...11.25% (11.50%)

#### NOTE: Gen Sec Expenses of Office:

During 1985 an overpayment of £25.00 occurred.  
The payment for 1986 has been reduced by £12.50 and  
the 1987 payment will also be reduced by £12.50, to  
adjust the total.

#### NOTES:

EQUITIES are shown in the balance sheet at market value on 31st December.  
STOCKS are shown in the balance sheet at maturity value. Adjustments to investment values are shown in the income and expenses accounts in the year in which they occur.

Cost of equities includes purchase commissions and costs of £274.98

Equity investment is in the following shares:

ICI, MIDLAND BANK, ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND,  
TATE AND LYLE, and TRAFALGAR HOUSE, SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE

Government Stocks have maturity dates spread over the years 1990 to 2003.

#### INVESTMENTS:

| 1985      | 1986                              |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| EQUITIES: |                                   |
| 0.00      | COST OF PURCHASE.....9656.43      |
| 0.00      | MARKET VALUE 31ST DEC.....9538.45 |

#### GOVERNMENT STOCKS:

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 20,398.38 | COST OF PURCHASE.....19,998.38    |
| 22,118.47 | MARKET VALUE 31ST DEC...21,405.17 |
| 19,175.95 | MATURITY VALUE.....18,666.29      |

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December

| 1985        | 1986                                |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| ASSETS      |                                     |
| 19,175.95   | INVESTMENTS.....28,204.74           |
| 2,217.14    | BANK DEPOSIT AC.....74.63           |
| 3,709.98    | BANK PREMIUM AC.....4,051.37        |
| 4,955.50    | NAT.SAV BANK INV AC.....1,779.52    |
| 134.24      | INLAND REVENUE.....137.58           |
| 74.65       | BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT.....76.01      |
| 0.00        | ARCHIVE CENTRE CASH FLDAT.....20.00 |
| 30,267.46   | 34,343.85                           |
| LIABILITIES |                                     |
| 28,202.51   | FUNDS AS BELOW.....32,207.30        |
| 2,064.95    | 10 YR SUSPENSE.....2,136.55         |
| 30,267.46   | 34,343.85                           |

There were no significant accruals, contingent liabilities or capital commitments known to the treasurer as at year end.

#### THE FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY:

|                    | B/FWD            | INCOME           | EXPENSES         | CARRIED F/W        |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND       | 24,161.36        | 6608.21          | 2568.91          | 28,200.66          |
| DEFENCE FUND       | 3,000.00         | 35.00            | 146.75           | 2,888.25           |
| E ROYCE MEMORIAL   | 79.66            | 0.00             | 0.00             | 79.66              |
| H WILD MEMORIAL    | 250.00           | 0.00             | 0.00             | 250.00             |
| DR F HEAD MEMORIAL | 0.00             | 7.00             | 0.00             | 7.00               |
| SIGNPOST FUND      | 347.96           | 321.60           | 269.36           | 400.20             |
| SURVEY FUND        | 363.53           | 18.00            | 0.00             | 381.53             |
| <b>totals</b>      | <b>28,202.51</b> | <b>+ 6756.59</b> | <b>- 2994.02</b> | <b>= 32,207.30</b> |

#### AUDITORS REPORT:

I have examined the accounts of the Society. In my opinion and to the best of my knowledge and belief the Income and Expenditure Accounts and the Balance Sheet here given provide a true and fair view of the revenue and transactions for the year ended 31st December 1986 and of the state of affairs as at that date.

#### SIGNED:

January 23<sup>rd</sup> 1987  
J. McCormick

E McCormick  
Honorary Auditor