

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES
FOOTPATHS
PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

REPORT

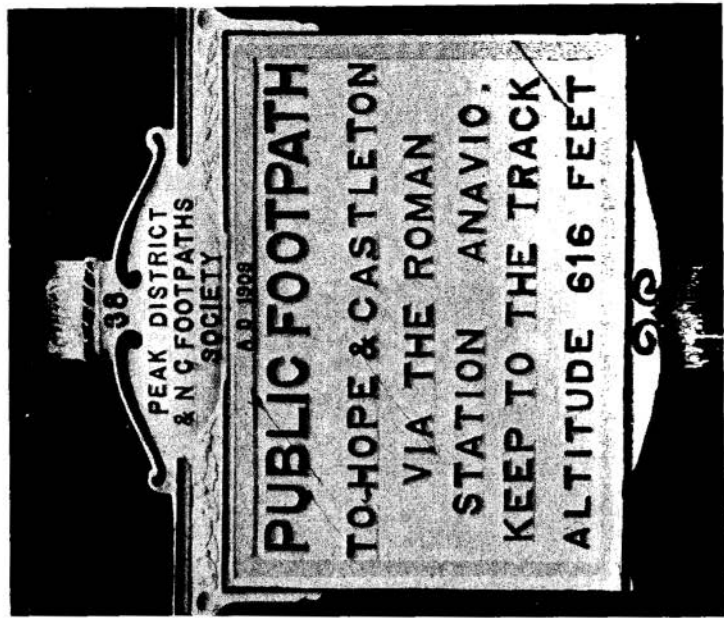
OF THE

COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1909.

MANCHESTER:
ABEL HEYWOOD & SON, 56 & 58 OLDHAM STREET.

1910.



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

1909.

President :

SIR WILLIAM H. BAILEY, Sale Hall, Cheshire.

Vice-Presidents :

W. P. BYLES, M.P., 3 Northumberland Street, Higher
Broughton.

Colonel CANDLIN, Heaton Chapel.

T. SKELTON COLE, Sheffield.

HAROLD ELVERSTON, M.P., Cheadle Hulme.

ABEL HEYWOOD, J.P., Manchester.

Rev. Canon HICKS, M.A., Salford.

GEORGE MILNER, M.A., J.P., Manchester.

JAMES WATTS, Abney Hall, Cheadle.

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

HENRY J. WILSON, M.P., Sheffield.

HERMAN WOOLLEY, F.G.S., Manchester.

Council :

- WILLIAM BROOKES, Parkfield, Hale, Altrincham.
 LUKE GARSIDE, Hayfield.
 J. OGDEN HARDICKER, Northern Assurance Buildings.
 ALFRED E. HANSON, c/o J. Ogden Hardicker.
 ABEL HEYWOOD, J.P., Oldham Street, Manchester (Chairman).
 EDWARD G. HILLER, 22 St. Ann's Square, Manchester.
 WM. INGHAM, Cromwell Buildings, Blackfriars Street,
 Manchester.
 T. A. LEONARD, College House, Brunswick Street, Manchester.
 A. W. MASSEY, 33 Dale Street, Manchester.
 ROWLAND MOWER, Buxton Road, New Mills.
 THOMAS MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.
 WILLIAM TATTERSALL, Manchester.
 J. H. WRIGLEY, Bradla, Port Erin, Isle of Man.
 Together with the Honorary Officers of the Society.

Hon. Solicitor :

L. CARADOC EVANS, Town Hall, Salford.

Hon. Treasurer :

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

Hon. Surveyor :

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

Hon. Auditor :

WILLIAM GREGSON, Edge Lane, Stretford.

Hon. Secretary :

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

Inspector of Footpaths :

THOMAS MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st. 1909.

The Council have pleasure in presenting to the members the Annual Report,

They had at the end of last year to report the loss by death of their esteemed late Treasurer, Mr. J. B. Elverston. As his successor they requested Mr. F. W. Wigelsworth, who for some time had acted as Assistant Honorary Treasurer, to accept office, and they desire to express their gratification that he was able to accede to their request.

The work of the Society during the last year has been of a more or less routine nature. Many questions have been dealt with from the Secretary's office, and many Associates and persons interested in the object of the Society have availed themselves of the means of acquiring information and obtaining advice.

The apathy shown by local inhabitants who should be most active in preventing the filching of their rights is still a matter of surprise. Most enquiries and complaints which come to the Society are not from residents, but from people who find their chief recreation in wayside rambling. The Society is crippled in dealing with these cases—firstly, because the inhabitants are in many cases indifferent; and, secondly, because District Councils are mostly unmindful of their duties as custodians of public rights of way. It would be well if this could be borne in mind when cases are reported to the Society.

The weight of public opinion is the strongest lever, but that opinion should be lawfully and strenuously expressed. Your Society have in mind a case of obstruction of an old highway within twelve miles of Manchester. A contractor has been allowed to deliberately block up one half of this. The Society could not interfere, as the contractor had left half the road, so that pedestrians were not obstructed. The rights of the public to use it as a carriage road have, however, been deliberately taken from them, and yet the Local Council refuse to move in the matter.

The Society have continued their useful work in erecting boards to indicate public footpaths. The public are reminded that this work is undertaken and maintained solely by the Society and at its expense. The following are the particulars of the guide-posts erected during the past year and the descriptions they bear:—

“No. 37. Public Footpath to Brough via the Roman Station, Anavio. Keep to the track. Altitude, 700 feet.”

Erected in the lane from Hope to Bradwell, not far from No. 36.

“No. 38. Public Footpath to Hope and Castleton via the Roman Station, Anavio. Keep to the track. Altitude, 616 feet.”

Erected near the bridge over the Bradwell Brook. The path passes through the site of the Roman Station, Anavio, now known as the Halsteads, and is a continuation of the path Nos. 35 and 36, Hope to Castleton.

“No. 39. Public Footpath to Whaley Bridge via Hill Top Farm and the Roosdyck. Keep to the path. Altitude, 919 feet.”

Erected in the lane on the way to Eccles Pike, near Chapel-en-le-Frith, about midway between Nos. 24 and 27.

Your Council have to report a striking instance of the difficulties put in their way by the smaller Councils. Travellers through Derbyshire will have observed the Society's guide-posts dotted all over the northern part of the county except in one district. The Derbyshire County Council have given permission for the erection of the guide-posts on all the main roads under their control, but the Bakewell Rural District Council have declined to allow them to be erected on the roads under their control. No reason has been alleged for the refusal. In other parts of the county even private landowners have consented to what is considered a public benefit by the thousands of walkers who go into Derbyshire and incidentally bring profit to the town of Bakewell. Your Society has always declined to interfere in any matters which do not originally come within their sphere of influence. They consider, however, that they are justified in protesting against the action of the Bakewell Rural District Council, and in giving publicity to this extraordinary attitude on their part, hope that by this means public opinion may be brought to bear on the matter. In that case your Society will be prepared to continue its useful work.

Derbyshire still furnishes the chief object of the Society's protection. Many enquiries have been dealt with relative to alleged obstruction, but no cases have arisen which have justified the Society in taking any steps.

Thornsett.

A complaint from Thornsett as to the closing of a foot-path near that village. Being in the Urban District of New Mills, the matter was very properly taken up by the Council in that place.

Doctor's Gate.

No satisfactory conclusion has been come to about the obstruction at Doctor's Gate, which is still under consideration.

Little Hucklow.

The Council dealt with a complaint as to obstruction of a right of way on the path to Birr Torr, near Little Hucklow, but came to the conclusion that the complaint was groundless.

Finance.

The Treasurer's statement shews a balance in hand. The Society makes no appeal for funds, but would like to extend its membership.

The subscription is merely a nominal one, in order that it may be no hindrance to any lover of the open air to become a member.

A large increase in membership would strengthen the Society in the cheerful and ready performance of that duty to the public which was the cause of its institution.