

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES  
FOOTPATHS  
PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

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REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1912.*

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MANCHESTER:  
ABEL HEYWOOD & SON, 47 to 53 LEVER STREET.

1913.

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

1912.

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**President :**

SIR WILLIAM H. BAILEY, Sale Hall, Cheshire.

**Vice-Presidents :**

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

Colonel CANDLIN, Heaton Chapel.

T. SKELTON COLE, Sheffield.

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

Sir HAROLD ELVERSTON, M.P., Fulshaw Hall,  
Wilmslow.

ABEL HEYWOOD, J.P., Manchester.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

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

C. P. SCOTT, J.P., Manchester.

JAMES WATTS, Abney Hall, Cheadle.

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

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

## Council :

Col. H. T. CROOK (Chairman), Lancaster Avenue, Manchester.  
E. E. AMBLER, 20 Gloucester Road, Pendleton.  
W. BECKETT, 1 Lawson Street, Moss Side.  
W. BROOKES, Holmside, Altrincham.  
W. P. CHALLONER, 170 Mottram Road, Hyde.  
J. CHORLTON, Arts Club, Manchester.  
G. P. COOKSON, 596 Stretford Road, Manchester.  
W. CRAIG, 7 Muslin Street, Newton Moor, Hyde.  
LUKE GARSIDE, Hayfield.  
ABEL HEYWOOD, J.P., Lever Street, Manchester.  
E. G. HILLER, Oakholme, Wilbraham Road, Alexandra Park.  
H. HOLLAND, 185 Hyde Road, Woodley.  
W. HUGHES, Minden, Mossley Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.  
W. INGHAM, Cromwell Buildings, Blackfriars St., Manchester.  
T. A. LEONARD, College House, Brunswick Street, Manchester.  
J. MACAULEY, 60 Albert Grove, Longsight.  
F. E. MARSHALL, 156 Corn Exchange, Manchester.  
A. W. MASSEY, 33 Dale Street, Manchester.  
R. MOWER, Buxton Road, New Mills.  
T. MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.  
H. S. PORTER, 28 Welbeck Road, Smithills, Bolton.  
Dr. SANDIFORD, University, Manchester.  
C. T. TALLENT-BATEMAN, Brazennose Street, Manchester.  
WM. TATTERSALL, Strutt Street, Manchester.  
Professor F. E. WEISS, University, Manchester.  
J. WILDING, 88 Monton Street, Moss Side.

### 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.

### Correspondence Secretary :

EDWARD WILLETT, 49 Spring Gardens, Manchester.

### Inspector of Footpaths :

THOMAS MOWER, Torr Street, New Mills.

### Assistant Inspectors of Footpaths :

ROLAND MOWER, Buxton Road, New Mills.  
G. H. B. WARD, 390 Cricket Road, Sheffield.

# REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1912.

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The Council herewith present the Annual Report of the Society for the year 1912.

At the commencement of the year under review we had the misfortune to lose the services of our Chairman, Mr. Abel Heywood, J.P., who could not see his way to again accept office, and the Council wish to call your attention to the great loss thus sustained. Only those who came into intimate touch with Mr. Heywood can fully appreciate the invaluable service he constantly rendered to the Society by his keen foresight and mature counsel. The following resolution, passed by the Council, was forwarded to Mr. Heywood:—

“That this Council accepts, with great regret, the resignation of Mr. Abel Heywood, J.P., from the position of Chairman of the Council. They desire to place on record their high appreciation of the services which he has rendered to the Society and, through it, to the public, and especially that the Council have been continually indebted to him for the wisdom of his advice on matters coming before them. They are gratified that he has consented to retain his position on the Council, and that the Society will still have the benefit of his experience and judgment.”

The Council were extremely fortunate in securing as their new Chairman the services of Col. H. T. Crook, M.I.C.E., J.P., who, since the formation of the Society, has fulfilled the position of Hon. Surveyor, and at all times made the Society (and the public) his debtor by his invaluable professional assistance.

The work of the Society during the past year has not been of a very unusual nature, but a considerable amount of quiet and patient investigation has been proceeding, and the Society is fully alive to its responsibilities, and is quite ready to take resolute action where any is called for.

A wish was expressed some time ago that a fuller account of the work of the Society should appear in the Annual Report. There are, however, many delicate cases and enquiries which it is inadvisable to mention in the Report. This less obtrusive is not the least important part of the work of the Society. This portion of the Council's work goes on almost continuously, and advice is freely given in all cases.

The Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Accounts occupies its usual place in this Report, and you will observe therefrom that if the work of the Society is to be efficiently carried on, it will be necessary to secure additional subscriptions, and thus maintain a reserve fund sufficient to enable the Council to deal with exceptional cases of an urgent character.

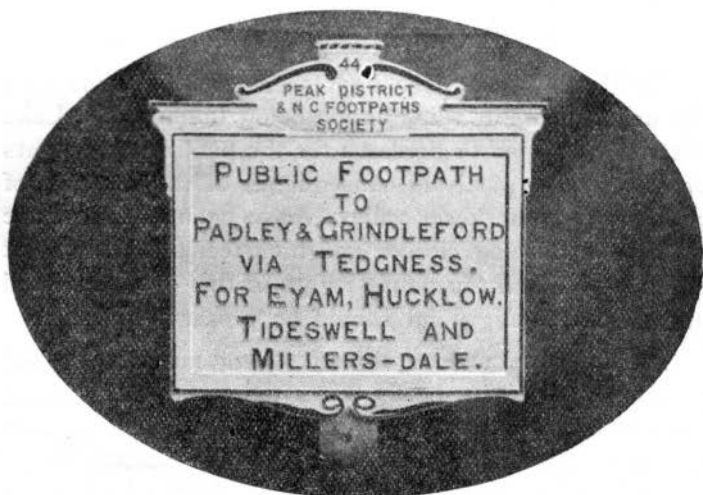
The Council desire to rouse public interest in matters of public import, and to awaken local bodies to a full comprehension of their duties with regard to public footpaths. It is increasingly necessary that this process of education should go forward with all the

vigour which the Society can command, if the public are to remain in possession of those privileges of free access to pleasant valley and moorland paths, the use of which are so beneficial to the health and wellbeing of those who work in the whirl and turmoil of our crowded cities; and to that end we make a confident appeal for new members and an increased financial and moral interest in the work of the Society.

The more important matters which came under review during the year are detailed below:—

#### GRINDLEFORD (“TEDGNESS”) BRIDLE PATH.

In our last Report we announced that the Society had decided to give financial support to the defendant in the case of the “Tedgness” Path dispute. We are pleased to report that the defendant won the case, and the path is now declared to be a public right of way. We are particularly pleased to note this success, as several recent decisions in the Law Courts had almost led one to fear that the rights of the public received but scant consideration there. As a direct result of this case, another path which had been closed in the vicinity, and known as the “Padley Path,” has now been reopened to the public, and we trust that the moral effect of the victory will be very beneficial to public action elsewhere. During the progress of the action the judge, Lord Coleridge, visited the *locus in quo*, and is said to have taken a bunch of twigs and scraped away at the path till he uncovered the old stone-flagged path on which the defendant mainly relied. We reproduce in this Report photographs of the signposts erected at each end of path. We regret, however, that although eight months have elapsed since the trial in July last, the path is not free from obstruction, and the Council trust that further legal action will not be necessary.



## PICKMERE.

The Council received notice of an attempt on the part of the farmer to conceal the commencement of a path running from Barber's Farm (on the Altrincham to Northwich main road) to Yew Tree House. The path was visited by members of the Council, who were convinced that it was a genuine right of way. The Society proposes to erect notice boards at each end of the path, and are approaching the Cheshire County Council for the necessary permission.

## MOTTRAM TO GODLEY PATH.

In pursuance of many requests the Secretary asked for, and was courteously granted, an interview with the Town Clerk of Hyde. Your Council are of the opinion that the Hyde Town Council is fully alive to its responsibilities, and that the interests of the public in this matter are quite safe.

## ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT.

The Council have been impressed for some time with the urgent need of some action being taken in the Lake District to reopen or preserve for the public many rights of way which, partly in consequence of the increase of residences in the lower valleys, have been closed or are in danger of being closed, and they feel that it is most essential that all the public rights in this great national and natural playground should be preserved intact.

Consequently, investigation is being made as to the possibility of action being taken either (*a*) by arousing local interest sufficiently to get the local people to take up the matter themselves, or (*b*) by this Society itself, backed by the help and support of all those who have at heart the necessity of keeping our Lakeland fells, valleys, and dells free of access to all.



### HALLAMSHIRE RAMBLERS' FEDERATION.

The Society has for some time past received help in various ways from friends at Sheffield. They are therefore pleased to note that the Hallamshire Ramblers' Federation and Footpaths' Preservation Society, have organised themselves into a public body, and that one of their principal objects is to act as an auxiliary to the Society. Although only in the first stage of their existence, they already number over 100 members. Sharing, as Sheffield does, the benefit of the work of the Society in the Peak District, it is gratifying to know that they have realised their responsibility, and it is hoped and believed that the Society will be strengthened by an auxiliary body created in such a spontaneous and healthy fashion. Your Secretary attended their inaugural meeting, and gave an address upon the "Need for the Preservation of Footpaths." For the benefit of pedestrians in the Sheffield district, we have pleasure in announcing that the Hon. Secretary is Mr. Henry Bishop, Avon House, Fieldhead Road, Sheffield.

### CARR MEADOW BRIDLE PATH.

In our last Report it was not possible to state the conclusion of the negotiations with the Stockport Corporation. We regret that they declined to restore to the public the road over the dam, but now compel them (except with special permission) to walk below the embankment and in the shadow of the dam. The lesson for the future is that in all negotiations with public bodies we must take the precaution to get signed plans, as was done in the case of the Derwent Valley Waterworks. Had we done this in the case of Carr Meadow, instead of relying on mere promises, we should not have to

lament the mutilation of one of our finest walks. We reproduce in this Report a photograph of the path as it used to be, and the public may learn by comparison what they have lost.



#### DAMAGE TO SOCIETY'S PROPERTY.

Your Council regret to have to report during the past year several cases of wanton destruction of signposts erected by the Society, and also serious damage to the bridge in Lady Clough, on the Kinder Path. It seems inconceivable that wilful or "interested" hooliganism should go to such extremities. At the moment of going to press it transpires that the new signpost, No. 44, an illustration of which appears in this Report, after having been pulled down once, has been entirely removed. It is hoped that the public will help the Society by giving speedy information of any conduct of this nature, so that any reported case may be promptly dealt with.

# The Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

*Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year ending December 31st, 1912.*

INCOME.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1911 .. .. .	51	2	9	Printing, &c. ... .. .	12	14	3
Subscriptions, 1912 ... .. .	42	7	6	Hire of Room for Meeting ... .. .	1	1	0
"    1913 (in advance) .. .. .	1	6	0	Work & Material, Repairing Footpaths, Notice Boards, &c. ... .. .	22	1	2
Bank Interest ... .. .	0	9	10	Footpaths' Inspector (Honorarium) ...	5	0	0
				Grindleford right of way case—Outram v. Maynard—part of defendant's costs	25	0	0
				Privilege Rent of Notice Plate at Strines, 1912 ... .. .	0	1	0
				Hon. Treasurer's Expenses (Postages, &c.)	0	16	11
				Hon. Secretary's Expenses (Postages, &c.)	1	0	0
				Assistant Hon. Secretary's Expenses for Clerical Work, Postages, &c. ...	12	3	2
				Assistant Footpaths Inspector's Expenses	2	9	8
				Balance in hand ... .. .	12	18	11
	£95	6	1		£95	6	1

F. W. WIGELSWORTH, Hon. Treasurer,  
19 DERBY ROAD,  
HEATON MOOR,  
NR. STOCKPORT.

*Audited and found correct,*  
WM. GREGSON, Hon. Auditor.