


The Peak District and Northern Counties

FOOTPATHS

PRESERVATION SOCIETY.



REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1921.



PRINTERS:
CARTWRIGHT & RATTRAY LTD.,
12 & 14 BROWN STREET,
MANCHESTER.

M4941

THE PEAK DISTRICT AND NORTHERN COUNTIES FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY.



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Council—continued.

- E. ROYCE, 5 Byrom Avenue, Barlow Road, Levenshulme.
C. RILEY, 19 Corelli Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.
C. T. TALLENT-BATEMAN, 40 Brazennose Street, Manchester.
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D. WALLWORK, 434 Regent Road, Salford.
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S. WIGHAM, National Buildings, St. Mary's Parsonage, Manchester
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Col. H. T. CROOK, M.Inst.C.E., D.L., J.P., Lancaster Avenue,
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WILLIAM GREGSON, Edge Lane, Stretford.

Hon. Secretary :

A. R. MOON, 53 Brown Street, Manchester.

Correspondence Secretary :

T. BOULGER, c/o. A. R. Moon, 53 Brown Street, Manchester.

Inspector of Footpaths :

H. E. WILD, 20 Slade Grove, Longsight, Manchester.

Asst. Inspector of Footpaths :

G. H. B. WARD, Storth Lodge, Moorwoods Lane, Holmesfield,
Sheffield.

REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1921.

The Council of the Society has pleasure in submitting to the members the Report for the year ending December 31st, 1921.

The work of the Society continues to show its usefulness and necessity. In all cases brought to its notice the Council has made every effort to protect public rights of way where the circumstances appeared to justify its intervention.

Your Council has to report a change in the personnel of its officers. Mr. J. R. H. Cottrill, who has been for some years Honorary Secretary to the Society, and Mr. J. Clough, the Corresponding Secretary, asked during the year to be relieved of their posts. Your Council accepted these resignations with much regret and placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen to the Society.

It is a matter of gratification, however, that at the sincere request of the Council Mr. Arthur R. Moon, LL.B., Solicitor, 53 Brown Street, Manchester, has consented to be re-elected Honorary Secretary, and will be assisted by Mr. Thomas Boulger (who has been appointed Corresponding Secretary), of the same address, which address is now the place where all communications are to be sent and from which the Society will, as heretofore, gladly and willingly transact its business.

Inspector of Footpaths.

The thanks of the Council are due to Mr. H. E. Wild, who is now the Inspector of Footpaths, for the time and trouble he has given during the year to the inspection of footpaths and to the superintendence of the erection of signposts, and also to the Ramblers' Federation for the assistance they have so willingly given.

Signposts.

The Council has during the past year been able to pursue the policy adopted prior to the war of erecting signposts on public footpaths in Derbyshire for the guidance and assistance of the public. During the year the Council selected positions for and erected six new signposts.

This work is somewhat expensive, but the Council is of opinion that it is of the greatest importance in the preservation of public rights, as it removes the possibility of claims being made which might at some time in the future be urged against the public rights.

The following is a list of signposts erected during the past year :—

- No. 50. On Mickleden Edge, where the tracks from Langsett and Hazlehead converge.
- No. 51. At Little Brookhouse, on the Hazlehead Path, between Boards No. 50 and 52.
- No. 52. At the entrance to the path at Hazlehead, nearly opposite the Flouch Inn.
- No. 53. On the Hayfield—Snake Inn footpath, just below Ashop Head.
- Nos. 54 and 55. On the footpath between Long Lee Farm and Blackshaw Farm, Rowarth.

Your Council has also authorised the erection of a five-armed post at the commencement of the last-named footpath, at the Blackshaw Farm end.

In addition to the erection of new signposts much good work has been done in the re-erection of posts which have fallen down, and your Council has also made arrangements for the re-erection of the remaining signposts which happen to be down, and for the repainting and relettering of such as are in need of it, so that, by the end of the present year, the whole of the Society's signposts, &c., will be in a good condition and easily readable.

At the earliest opportunity it will be necessary to pay further attention to the way across the morass on the Hayfield—Snake Inn footpath, either by marking the route with stakes or building a series of cairns.

Footpath along East Side of Howden Reservoir from Slippery Stones to Abbey Brook.

Several complaints having been received of members being stopped from using this footpath, your Council took the matter up. As no doubt members are aware, this footpath was preserved for the public under the Derwent Valley Water Boards Act, 1899, entirely through the efforts of your Society, after a long and expensive fight. After a good deal of correspondence with the various parties concerned your Society has at last been rewarded for its persistency by receiving a letter from the Solicitors to Viscount FitzAlan, the owner of the land over which the path passes, stating that he agrees there is a right of footway along such path, so members may in future use the path without fear of interference. Your Council is also making arrangements for the notice board at the Slippery Stones end of the path to be altered so that it will denote the fact that the path is not private to pedestrians.

Signpost Indicating Entrance to Pack Horse Track from Rochdale to Marsden.

Your Council, having been informed of the disappearance of the above signpost, communicated with the Marsden U.D.C. thereon, as a result of which the U.D.C. has instructed its Surveyor to erect a stone signpost alongside the Huddersfield and New Hey Road, indicating the entrance to the track.

Footpath by Haddon Hall to Fillyfoot Bridge.

The question of the closing of the above footpath, mentioned in the last Annual Report, is still occupying the serious attention of your Council, which has now been able to trace the existence of a Bakewell and Over Haddon Inclosure Award made in 1810. At the Council's request a firm of Bakewell Solicitors has made an extract from such Award and same is now being thoroughly considered. Here we are up against the difficulties which arise when lands traversed by a path are alleged to have been under settlement for a long period. The difficulties may, or may not, prove insurmountable, but the Society can depend upon its Council to do all that is possible to get this useful, convenient and picturesque path-way re-opened. The historical researches and the examina-

tion of old documents in cases of this sort involve both trouble and expense. The necessity for stronger support to the Society's funds is dealt with at the end of this Report under the head of Finance.

Bank Hall Bridle Path.

Members will be glad to hear that this bridle path has again been re-opened for the public, thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. C. T. Tallent-Bateman, who also approved, on your Council's behalf, the inscriptions on the two notice boards which have been erected by the District Council.

Footpath Alongside the Derwent from Grindleford to Hathersage.

This path was obstructed for quite a while but happily such obstruction has now been removed and the path is in order again.

Footbridge at Monsal Dale.

Your Council being informed of the decision of the Bakewell R.D.C. not to take any steps for the repair of this footbridge, which is at present in a very dangerous condition, immediately took the matter up with such Council. They still refuse to move in the matter, their contention being that the bridge is a private one, and your Council is now engaged in obtaining all possible information from local inhabitants, etc., with a view to ascertaining whether or not it is a public footbridge.

Cheshire Footpaths.

Your Council is glad to report that the Alderley Edge, Wilmslow and District Footpaths Preservation Society (which has just become an affiliated member of your Society) has offered to undertake the investigation of any complaints relating to footpaths in and around the Alderley Edge and Wilmslow Districts. Members can rest assured that any complaints will receive the greatest attention, for this Society has shown a wonderful fighting spirit since its inception in 1914, and has done much good work in keeping open many a public footpath in the area of its activities which would otherwise have been lost.

In addition to the above matters a large number of letters have been received from time to time by your Council seeking advice and information.

Your Council desire to state that it is always anxious and willing to render whatever assistance it can in order to protect public rights of way, and will be pleased to take into consideration suggestions which any member may have to make for the erection of guide posts and notice boards where public footpaths exist, but which are not generally known.

The members of the Society and the public generally should be careful to bear in mind the importance of exercising their rights over public footpaths strictly, as complaints are often made by landowners that the public do not limit themselves to the public rights of way, but trespass over adjoining lands.

The Council desire to acknowledge the kindly spirit in which owners of land have generally treated the Society. Experience has shown that owners recognise that no complaints are made by the Society without foundation, and its representations generally receive gratifying attention.

Finances.

It is a matter of regret to your Council to find that the Subscriptions show a reduction on the previous year. Although there is a credit balance shown by the Balance Sheet annexed hereto, this should not be regarded as a sufficient reason for members withholding or reducing in any way their subscriptions, for at any time the Society might be involved in great expense in resisting interference with public rights of way and preserving their rights to traverse beautiful dales and valleys of the Peak and other districts, which rights may be lost for ever unless the Society is in a financial condition to offer strong opposition.

The Council also desires to continue the erection of guide posts and notice boards and to repaint the existing ones, and therefore urges members to get their friends to subscribe funds for this purpose. In this respect a special invitation is extended to all Rambling Clubs to become affiliated to the Society, and as affiliation carries with it the right to nominate a delegate to attend the meetings of the Council they will each and every one have an opportunity of helping in the management of this the parent Society for the Peak District and Northern Counties.

Peak District & Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year 1921.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1920.....	121	17	0	Printing	7	6	3
Subscriptions, 1921.....	27	5	6	New Sign Posts	9	16	0
Sale of Booklets	0	6	6	Privilege Rent	0	1	0
Bank Interest	2	14	4	Copy of Bakewell Award.....	1	1	0
				Hire of Rooms for Meetings.....	4	14	6
				Correspondence Secretary — Honorarium	20	0	0
				Correspondence Secretary—Expenses, Postages, &c.	7	9	6
				Footpaths Inspector—Honorarium (1920 and 1921).....	10	0	0
				Footpaths Inspector—Expenses, Postages, &c.	4	1	3
				Hon. Treasurer—Postages.....	0	6	10
				Balance in hand	87	7	0
					£152	3	4

F. W. WIGELSWORTH,
Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
W. GREGSON,
Hon. Auditor.