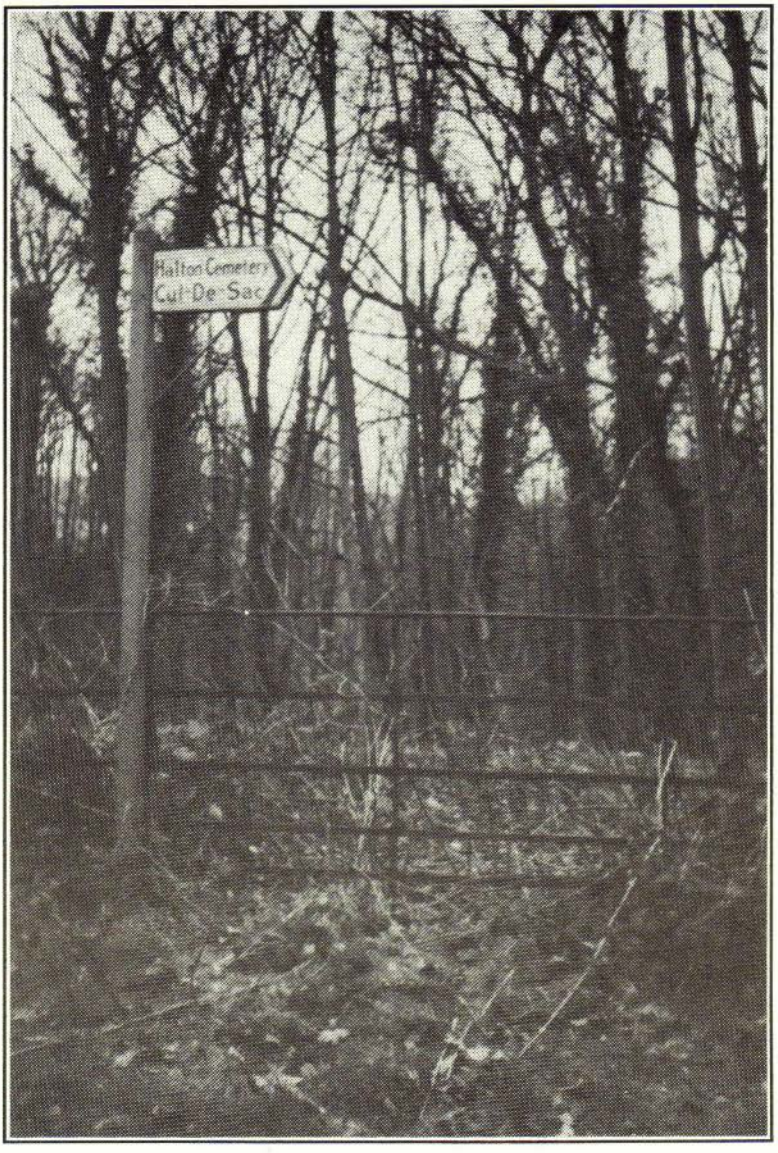
PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATHS SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 1991



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Chairman's Report

A significant feature of the year's activities has been the increased amount of personal contact we have had with local authorities. The secretary and myself have been invited to meetings with Cheshire, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Leeds, Peak Park, Salford, Stafford, Stockport, Wakefield and Wigan councils.

On several occasions we were accompanied by the Society's local footpaths inspector and overall much as been achieved, significantly on many occasions, by the subsequent performance of the authority concerned. Although both time and mileage consuming we believe the overall effect is worthwhile.

We continue to be represented on the

- *Kinder Advisory Committee* to the *National Trust*
- *Derbyshire Countryside Conservation Advisory Committee* and the
- *Northwest Federation for Sport, Conservation & Recreation*

the latter giving us access to Sports Council facilities. Each requires an average attendance of some four visits a year and, in addition, we attend annually the *Peak District Voluntary Joint Committee*. We therefore view with some concern the proposals by the Country Landowners Association to establish an additional and duplicate Forum to the above and which would involve further time by your officers if we were to be represented. Further reference to the CLA's Policy Statement is made elsewhere in this report.

We now have a link with the *Byways & Bridleways Trust* through my membership and this is proving useful. I have also attended a useful seminar on Map Modification procedures at which we were the only voluntary body present. The Course papers are especially useful to our activities as are the views of the learned QC's who presided.

Some members will be aware that the memorial indicator on Lantern Pike has once again been subject to vandalism and theft, and steps have been taken to repair and replace. I recently received hints that all was not lost and more recently was informed that the indicator plate, somewhat damaged, had *been found - behind a wall*. It was later passed over to the National Trust who are looking into the possibility of repair or replacement. One can only wonder if the person(s) responsible for the theft found that our local publicity made its retention 'too hot to handle'. ❑

Leslie Meadowcroft

Walter Brookfield

A longstanding and popular member of the Society's Council, we mourn his passing. He gave valuable and practical assistance to the Society, particularly in relation to the supply of equipment for signpost maintenance.

His ashes were scattered on Bleaklow in the presenceof a number of friends and members of the Society.

Miscellany

Country Landowners Association

The Country Landowners Association have published a report entitled – *A Better Way Forward* which has been fairly widely distributed to various organisations during the latter half of 1991.

As an attempt to foster good relations with other bodies we commend its intentions, but on certain specific issues which would affect our rights we must beg to differ. For instance, the proposal that local authorities be empowered to grant closures and diversions to which there are unresolved objections and the abolition of the 20 years claim for a right of way.

There is also a proposal to create *Countryside and Recreation Access Groups* (CRAGS) made up of interested bodies from each shire county and in addition to similar existing county bodies. In Derbyshire such a body has been in existence for many years and the CLA have been conspicuous by their absence for the last few years.

The Countryside Commission

During the year we considered and responded to two of their consultation documents –

- *Agenda for the Countryside* and
- *Visitors to the Countryside*

We would wish to express our thanks to the Commission for their generosity in grant-aid to the Society.

On the 10th April 1992 we shall be personally expressing our appreciation to their Chairman, Sir John Johnson, at our Annual Dinner in Manchester where he will be the Speaker and Guest of Honour.

Ploughing

Despite the recent *Rights of Way Act* with regard to what is now legally described as 'Disturbing the Surface', we are finding there are still a large number of farmers who continue to 'disturb' and do not reinstate.

It is extremely important, therefore, that this Society continue to press local authorities to ensure that the provisions of this Act are adhered to.

We can only do that if we are kept informed of ploughed out paths. Please therefore contact the Secretary without delay if you find a path ploughed and not restored. Please do not wait for others to inform us, they may never do so.

The Society's Slide Lecture

The Chairman or Secretary would be pleased to present the Society's slide lecture to any interested organisation. Please contact either for further information.

COSA Unit

or Consultations, Orders, Signs and Archives

T'was on a Monday morning ... is the first line, not only of an old English ballad, but of the Society's assessors who on arriving from 9 o'clock onwards are our first line of defence against those who, often by devious means, would attack our public rights of way system

The first arrivals deal with the ever increasing amount of mail which has accumulated during the past week, usually amounting to some 30+ items of correspondence. Each item is registered and allocated a file number to which is added any previous documentation relative to the current correspondence before being passed to a panel of three assessors who make individual and decisive comments on a stamped box panel. If there is total agreement, a suitable reply is sent to the authority or applicant.

If the proposals are likely to be against the public interest or lack specific information, it is likely that our local inspector will become involved or a holding objection lodged with the local authority until details are provided.

If consultations do not resolve a situation we await the Order and, if still unsatisfactory, the matter is brought to the Society's Council with the unit's recommendations. If we agree to object, the authority concerned is notified and we await their next move which, if they are determined, will result in reference to the Secretary of State to decide following a public inquiry or written representation. In these cases the file is then passed over to our Courts and Inquiries officer to deal with.

Selected items from the London Gazette are also examined and processed, much of which requires indenting for further information before a decision can be made.

On average, 50% of public path orders are diversions, 12.5% are closures and 5% are creations.

Definitive map modification orders are another operation requiring time and labour and two members of the afternoon shift usually deal with these plus amending our own maps with the details involved. Since the upturning of certain legal cases, these modifications are becoming more numerous and often need special treatment.

In addition to the above, research and technical information is often needed by other officers and manpower has to be provided for this and other tasks. Meanwhile much typing is being done and the word processor and photocopier are providing busy support.

We are now coming to the end of another busy day and outgoing mail has to be stamped, sealed and posted. We can then go home – although there remain the long distance phone calls to be made on the cheap rate after 6pm.

The COSA team comprises about 12 persons but would welcome additional members to provide cover for any that may occasionally be absent!

Monday is the principal work day from 9am to 4.30pm plus the occasional Saturday morning. Special arrangements are made for outside work. Refreshement facilities are available and the companionship is excellent. Some prior training is given. Applications to the Chairman or Honorary Secretary. ❑

Part of the COSA team busy at work in the Archive Centre

Out of Order?

Did you hear the one about the local authority who made a Definitive Map Modification Order to downgrade a 'Road used as a Public Path' to footpath status and then opposed their own Order at the subsequent public inquiry, employing Learned Counsel to present their case.

I know it sounds like something of a bad joke, but not so, for it did in fact happen in Tameside ... and it's not quite as simple and stupid as it sounds.

Briefly, the Council received a request from a local landowner to downgrade the RUPP to footpath but, based on the evidence available to them, the Council indicated that they were not prepared to make an Order.

The applicant then lodged an appeal against that decision with the Secretary of State, who felt that there was certainly sufficient to warrant a public inquiry.

So, he directed Tameside MBC to make an Order which they did (they had no choice) but subsequently at the inquiry they obviously felt that they should continue to oppose. However in so doing it cost the Community Charge payers of Tameside dear, for Learned Counsel do not come cheaply.

The interesting conclusion was that the Inspector refused to confirm the Order, so in fact the Council won the day by making an Order and then opposing it ... it's a strange world is it not? ❑

Months by the Minutes

January

● Footpaths at Hulme, Manchester: case adjourned sine die at Magistrates Court as Authority's officers had acted without powers.

February

● Proposal by Central Rights of Way Committee to make all canal towpaths of definitive status;

● Society produces new membership leaflet;

● Rochdale MBC unable to carry out maintenance due to staff being occupied with national trails etc; we refer this to Countryside Commission.

March

● Proposal to extinguish 60 paths at Gorton, Manchester;

● Pennine Way modification alignments considered.

April

● AGM considered Lode Mill to Mill Dale path creation in view of National Trust's motion at their AGM and their subsequent refusal to implement.

May

● Cown Edge Way path on Werneth Low created – at last;

● Proposals for the New Mills bypass considered.

June

● Society's review of procedures to be undertaken;

● Awareness of Society's forthcoming centenary;

● Debate on *Dogs on Lead* notices on signposts.

July

● Charity Commission rules 'no honorariums to officers';

● Irregularities by Kirklees at public inquiry; DoE subsequently awards costs to Society.

September

● Flixton Historical Society to recognise our work;

● Lantern Pike Memorial damaged and plaque stolen;

● Little Budworth Inquiry result not in our favour;

● Ashton Canal towpath closed at 'Piccadilly village'.

October

● Country Landowners produce policy document;

● A34 Handforth bypass public inquiry held.

November

● Treasurer models Society's logo T-shirt;

● Attendance at Definitive Map seminar by Chairman;

● Lantern Pike Indicator recovered but damaged;

● Council cancel December meeting and authorise officers to act.

December

● Officers meet to discuss Society's Review Report.

Wins Weeps & Wants

We were instrumental in persuading British Waterways Board to re-erect the demolished footbridge over the canal at Woodley.

After our objections, an assurance was received from Derbyshire County Council that, when the Pennine Way is diverted from the Grindsbrook, a definitive path would legally remain.

Creation of a diversionary route by Stockport through Redbrow Woods at Compstall.

Agreement for improvements to the path network around the site of the old Mines Research Establishment at Harpurhill, Buxton.

Successful claims for an omitted path at Long Edge plantation Ladder Hill, Whaley Bridge and at Charles Head Farm, Rainow.

We are grateful for the gift of a vehicle trailer from Mr & Mrs P Hutchinson.

Someone with artistic or display talents to assist with our mobile exhibition. Please contact the Chairman.

The failure by the National Trust to implement their 1990 access resolution and continue to refuse a footpath alongside the River Dove between Mill Dale and Lode Mill.

An adverse verdict from the Public Inquiry into quarrying proposals at Calton Hill.

That we now have a number of unused older type signpost plates seeking benefactors and which can be obtained at preferential rates - if you can find a path that equates with the sign's description. Details from Signpost Officer.

We are seeking the gift of a portable electric generator with a mains voltage output, such as are used to supply caravans and boats with power.

The offer to become Minutes Secretary for our Council meetings – no other duties involved. Apply to the Honorary Secretary.

More Indians to help the Chiefs – please tell us what you can do to assist.

Secretary's Report

'THE RACE IS ON'

So reads the headline in the Countryside Commission's twice yearly magazine *Enjoying the Countryside* - Summer 1991 edition. The article goes on to say - *Highway authorities throughout the country are gearing up to see who can be the first to meet the Countryside Commission's target of having every public right of way legally defined, properly maintained, signposted and publicised, by the year 2000.*

Well ... yes there is certainly some movement in that direction by some authorities but I have to say there is a distinct lack of enthusiasm in quite a number of others. For myself I am quite prepared to wait patiently for another year or so to see which of the areas we cover is first to get into top gear. If we consider the size of the task and the fact that there are only eight years to go I think we should be seeing positive signs now if the target is to be achieved. Full marks however to the Commission for providing the impetus to the campaign. Before proceeding to the resumé of the footpath situation area by area I thought it would be useful, certainly for our newer members, to comment briefly on how we deal with problems across the quite large area we cover.

The Society divides its eight-county coverage into two major areas which we describe as *Inner* and *Outer*. In the Inner area, which is that covered by our inspectorate (details on pages 20 to 24), we deal with all matters, ie closures, diversions, creations and obstructions. In our Outer area (ie the area outside that covered by our inspectorate) we deal only with closures, diversions and creations. We do however have contacts in our outer area who will deal with obstruction problems on our behalf. In this Outer area we are gradually appointing agents to be our eyes and ears and who will respond quickly to our request for on-site information with regard to proposals to close or divert rights of way. We already have agents covering Staffordshire (South) and West Yorkshire (North) and we are on the look out for the right sort of person to represent us in Merseyside and Lancashire (North).

On then to the situation by local authority areas –

Cheshire

In 1991 the responsibility for footpaths and bridleways changed from the Highways Sector to Heritage and Recreation. There has certainly been some improvement since that took place but the footpath network in the County is in a terrible state. With almost every Cheshire stone that we turn these days something nasty crawls from under. Paths are obstructed by wire, ploughing, illegal diversions and barns, houses, stables, etc are built across the line, you name it and Cheshire have it!

Having indicated the problems it is fair to say that there is a move towards further improvement and the amenity societies were in fact invited to the very first liaison meeting during the year (we hope the first of many) when we

had the opportunity to voice our fears for the path network. I am not sure that the concern is there at elected member level but we will have to wait to see how things go at future meetings.

The reaction of the County Council sometimes rather surprises me. On a number of occasions we have had to make it clear to them that we would not be prepared to talk with people wishing to divert a right of way until the definitive line is open. We believe this to be a perfectly reasonable stance. Imagine our surprise, therefore, when in May we received a letter from the County Legal Department threatening to report us to the Department of the Environment for refusing to negotiate. We told them to get on with it ... but have heard nothing further. I almost wish they had pursued the matter with the DoE for I would have been delighted to draw the attention of the Secretary of State to the way in which the County fail to carry out their statutory duty of preventing the obstruction in the first place. It would have been an interesting exercise.

One interesting and I suppose unique situation occurred during the year. I reported that a light aircraft landing strip had been constructed across a right of way in the Parish of Marthall. The County replied by asking us if we could provide them with the registration letters of the aircraft using the strip. This surely must be a first in footpath preservation circles.

In the parish of Rainow we have been successful in claiming a footpath from Charles Head to Summer Close (GR *979787*).

And finally, what of the farm gate so securely fastened as to be unopenable and firmly fixed thereon a notice – ***Country Landowners Welcome Careful Walkers.*** We have that situation in the County area.

Macclesfield BC

There is so much which could be said about the gross inefficiency of this Council with regard to footpath matters that I really don't know where to start or indeed end. There would appear to be no liaison between the Council's Planning Department and the Rights of Way Section for there are quite a number of buildings of all types built across rights of way in the borough. Almost always they know nothing about these until we tell them, they then express surprise. As the year closed we finally had to resort to reporting the Council to the Ombudsman in respect of three selected cases ... we could find many others.

Bollin Valley Project

Last year I expressed my concern at the way this body operated and I said that in despair I had written to the County Heritage & Recreation Officer. I am pleased to report that the project officers have taken our complaints to heart and are now busy removing concession paths where they were substitutes for obstructed definitive ways.

Warrington BC

This Council moves slowly but does take some minimal form of action when requested. We could usefully use some formal contact with them but that has not be possible to arrange at this time. We are concerned that here again there appears to be a lack of contact between the Council's planning officers and the Rights of Way Section for we have a garden of a new house, complete with a new fence, arranged across the line of path.

Greater Manchester

Bolton MBC

We continue to meet regularly with this Authority and there would appear to be some movement in path maintenance matters though there are a number of longstanding problems which the authority fails to address. Bolton is one of the very few authorities who consult the Society at the planning application stage and this often results in any footpath related problems being resolved before planning permission is granted. The Authority is to be complimented on this approach.

Bury MBC

A quiet year for this Authority; we continue to meet with them regularly but our Inspector for that area, Fred Darwin, has been out of commission for a short time. We hope to see him back in action in the not too distant future. Our best wishes Fred for a speedy recovery.

Manchester City Council

An Authority with very few what they call *field footpaths*. However, there are some limited signs of improvement in their attitude though there are still many old cases still outstanding. At least they are replying to letters which is a considerable improvement on past years .

Oldham MBC

Difficult to find something good to say about this Authority; our complaints to them are many and varied but there would seem to be little positive response. I get the distinct impression that they wish we would go away but of course we won't.

Rochdale MBC

In my report last year I said that we must apply increasing pressure on this Authority during 1991 and of course we did just that. The result has been disappointing; there is a massive list of outstanding complaints of obstruction which the Council fails to address. This is the Authority who advise us that their footpath officer's time is taken up by Countryside Commission surveys for long distance paths.

Salford City Council

Some considerable improvement here in that at last we are talking together and the Council has recognised the need to apply itself to footpath matters. We have now met the Council's officers on two occasions and there are signs that some long outstanding issues will be resolved. Members should note that it took a complaint to the Ombudsman to trigger off these meetings. Regrettably the path Swinton & Pendlebury 51 (GR *764007*) is not one which has been resolved; the saga of this particular path goes on and on.

Stockport MBC

Last year I described this authority as the jewel in the crown of Manchester authorities and I suppose that is still the case, but is probably so because the rest perform so badly. I get the impression that the crown is slipping slightly but they are still a good authority who respond fairly quickly to our requests for assistance. It is anticipated that the canal bridge at Bredbury (GR *935926*), missing for some years, will be completely reinstated as this report goes to press.

Tameside MBC

Again, not a lot to report except to say that we do at last have a contact with the authority and there are signs that

some effort is being applied to dealing with our complaints. In this area most of the improvements to rights of way result from the efforts of the Groundwork Trust rather than the Authority but we are reasonably happy with this arrangement and quick to give credit where it is due.

Trafford MBC

A quiet year in Trafford, there is still a certain 'distance' between us – they appear afraid that too formal a contact will perhaps involve them in spending some money on footpath matters. Early in the year we were looking at the possibility of claiming a track in Dunham Massey (GR *74198924* to *73988960*) as a definitive route. We contacted the Council for certain information and received the reply ... *It is unlikely the authority would support an application for a modification Order* ... this before we had even produced any evidence. We have expressed our concern that the Council should have prejudged our application. Incidentally we are still looking for 20 plus years use of this track. Please contact me if you could complete an evidence of use form. The track is on National Trust land.

Wigan MBC

There is only one short word to describe the concern for footpaths shown by this authority ... nil. We meet on a regular basis with the Chairman of Highways and Works and express our concern, we make suggestions as to how they can seek help both financial and otherwise but we meet with a stone wall. My forecast is that the footpaths of Wigan MB will not be right in the year 2100 never mind 2000 if their present negative attitude continues. I can see no alternative in 1992 other than an approach to the Ombudsman.

Derbyshire

The County Council deals with footpath obstruction problems in the High Peak and the signposting of paths throughout the county. I am pleased to report that in the main they do an extremely good job. We appear to have very few outstanding problems in the areas dealt with by them. However, one matter which did raise its head during the year was that they formally indicated that they would not be able to carry out their statutory duties under the Rights of Way Act 1991 (the *Ploughing Act*). We have yet to understand how a local authority or indeed any citizen of the land can decide which of the laws they obey and which they can disregard. We are watching this carefully.

We were successful during the year in establishing a claim for an additional footpath in the Black Edge Plantation Ladder Hill Area of Derbyshire (GR *025785*) but be aware that it will be many years before it appears on the Pathfinder Maps.

Derbyshire Dales DC

We have very few problems with this Authority who do an excellent job, responding quickly to any complaints we lodge. We also have a good relationship with their rights of way officer.

North East Derbyshire DC

After a very slow start, this authority is beginning to arrange for work to be done on rights of way and are at last responding to letters addressed to them.

Lancashire

The County Council deals with all paths in the Chorley area except those in a central core area – you would need a map to locate this. I am concerned that the County Council seem to take the easy option with regard to footpath matters and I recall two items which give cause for concern during the year. One was in the parish of Coppull where a garage has been built across the line of path; the County will not say if our allegations are correct but say there is an alternative line and they have put a stile *behind the garage for those who insist on walking the definitive line* which goes through the garage. The other matter relates to some reclaimed land where paths have been laid out on non definitive lines. The County will not tell me if there was a temporary closure order on the definitive lines but merely say that they have 'invited' the landowner to apply for a diversion order. Lancashire County Council is an authority to be carefully watched.

Blackburn BC

I despair that we will ever persuade this Authority to even recognise its statutory duties with regard to rights of way never mind do something about improving them ... I would like to say more but there is just nothing more to say !!

Rossendale BC

This authority tells us that they are confident of meeting the Countryside Commissions targets by 1995 or 1996, and say that at one time there were more than 200 reported path blockages but these have now been reduced by more than two thirds. I have the feeling therefore that all our problems in that area must fall within the remaining third.

Staffordshire

The County Council deal with all footpath matters and are the highway authority for the area covered by Staffordshire Moorlands DC.

There is a distinct improvement in this area, the County is well into signposting every footpath leaving a metalled road within the National Park area, even to the extent of signposting points where the actual access is obstructed. They tell me that they will deal with such problems as a separate issue. We now have regular meetings with the Council's officers and they now present us with a schedule showing work done on a six monthly basis ... so progress ... yes ... but I still have some doubts whether their clearance programme is as efficient as they would have us believe. The Society's inspectors in the area are now carrying out a survey to see just how good a job is being done. I hope to be able to report progress next year.

We are still looking for an additional inspector in this area, anyone interested should contact myself.

West Yorkshire

Calderdale MBC
There are still a considerable number of obstructed paths in this area and we have no formal contact with the Council. Some progress towards the clearing of obstructions is under way but, as the Council is very reluctant to reply to letters, it is difficult to measure that progress.

Kirklees MBC
The picture here is no clearer than it was last year, our main dealings with this authority are on closures and diversions and their track record in this area is not good. It is interesting to note that at a recent public inquiry into the proposed diversion of paths at Denby Dale the Inspector recommended that costs should be awarded to the Society against the Council for their *frivolous, vexatious and reckless* attitude towards the Society.

That then is a very brief summary of the situation as I see it throughout our area. I think we are making some progress but it is very slow and will need a rapid acceleration if the race is to be won.

Some other thoughts

Manchester Airport extension
One additional area of concern during the year has been the proposals by the Manchester Airport Authority to select an area for a second runway As the year turns we hear that they have selected 'search area three' as being the most acceptable. If their proposals come to fruition and area three is used then we stand to lose some 11 footpaths within the parishes of Wilmslow, Mobberley and Ashley. It is a very disturbing situation and one we will be monitoring carefully during the coming weeks and years. Whilst on the subject of the airport development we are aware that the airport rail link is disrupting footpaths at the moment but are assured that all will be restored when works are complete.

Membership
The membership situation really has no place in my report, but I felt that I must just comment on my concern and disappointment at the poor response to our recruiting campaign conducted via last year's report. You will recall that we inserted two copies of our recruitment leaflet into each report ... 800 reports ... 1600 leaflets. Would you believe that out of that total we recruited two new members. As I say a feeling of acute disappointment, I really thought the response would have been much better. Fortunately recruitment from other sources was much better. Membership leaflets are still available from all officers, please try to recruit an additional member in 1992.

Finally ...
Finally, once again I have the opportunity to express my thanks to all those who have helped me during the year. If I must select anyone for special mention then it must be the footpath inspectors who work quietly in the background with very little recognition of their efforts. Also special thanks to John Houfe for his gift of a 35mm camera for use in the field. ❑

Derek Taylor

Signpost Report

I regret to report that vandals have been at work. Firstly on signpost No. 10 originally erected in 1905 near the Snake Inn (GR*10990*): the dog notice – plate No. 15 has disappeared.

Signpost No. 205 at Benfield Clough (GR*963912*) erected in 1986 for Stockport CHA to commemorate their 75th anniversary has had the arms pulled off and the post broken off at ground level. A replacement will be erected as soon as possible.

Suitable locations are still being sought for commemorative signposts requested by –

- Mrs Janet Davies
- Mrs Katherine Barber
- Mr Reg Hampshire
- Friends of Mrs Mary Morgan
- Moor & Mountain Club
- Mrs Mary Lane

On behalf of the Society I wish to thank all those who have assisted with signpost work during the year and particularly whilst I have been unfit for duty.

Percy Hutchinson

Signpost work completed

181 Bowstonegate Farm *(974814)*
Post re-painted.

174 near Moorside Hotel *(984823)*
Re-painted.

152 near Moorside Hotel *(984822)*
Re-painted.

182 near Moorside Hotel *(984819)*
Replacement plate affixed and post re-painted.

14 Nether Booth *(145864)*
Post shortened and re-planted, plate re-painted.

203 Wilderness *(027016)*
At the request of his daughter, an additional plaque in memory of Walter Brookfield has been affixed to this existing post.

43 Grindleford *(249783)*
Split in post repaired.

34 Grindleford *(243778)*
Heavy deposit of lichen cleaned off plate.

98 Rushop Edge *(099834)*
Re-painted.

110 Hayfield (029891)
Plates re-painted and re-erected on new post.

228 Marple Bridge *(967888)*
New signpost erected in memory of Cyril Harris – donated by his widow, Mrs Anne Harris.

157 Reeds Bridge *(983794)*
New style cast plate erected on existing post to replace shoddy sign.

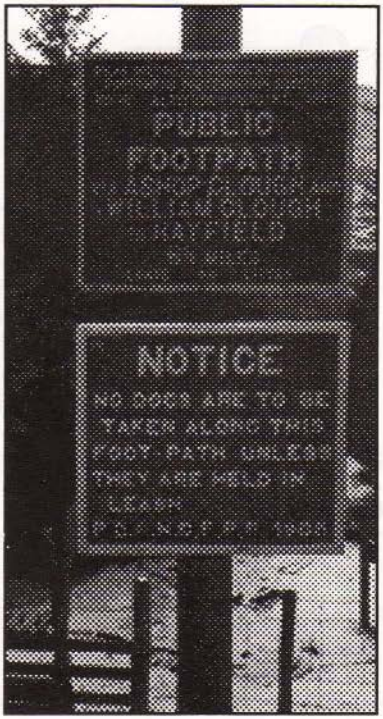
Work in progress

227 Ollerton *(779759)*
New signpost to be erected awaiting design and production of crossplate.

229 Ollerset *(014857)*
Donated by Miss O Bowyer – awaiting cast plate.

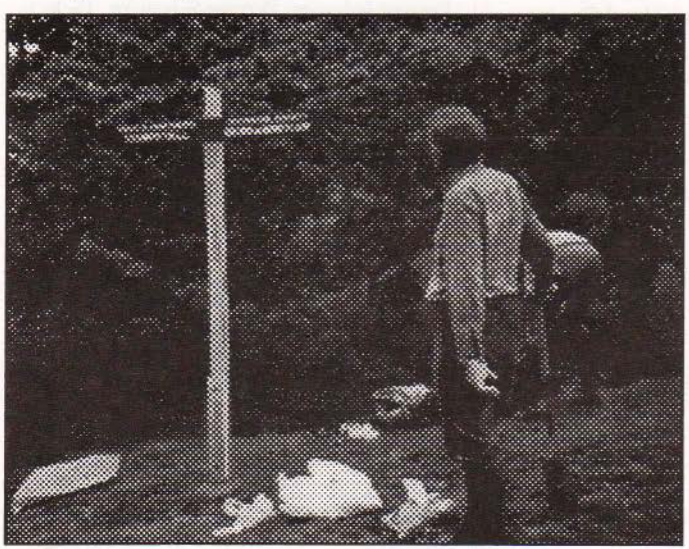
230 Ollerset *(013855)*
Donated by New Mills WEA, awaiting cast plate.

184 Stoneheads *(003817)*
Awaiting cast plate to replace arm on existing post which is partially obscured by wall. Original post donated by Mrs P Bramwell.



Signpost No. 10 (dog sign 15) near New Snake Inn

Working on signpost No. 205 at Benfield Clough



Treasurer's Report

Once more a successful year with total funds increasing by more than the rate of retail inflation. Interest rates remain higher than inflation and with corporate incomes (and hence dividends paid out!) falling, cash deposits remain a good investment, although of course any decline in interest rates (not forecast at present) would affect our income from investments.

Subscription rates
increased in 1991!!! Please ensure that you renew at the new rates and that any membership forms you may hold which quote the old rates are either amended or destroyed and new ones obtained. This will save us a great deal of administrative time.

The Society receives very valuable contributions which do not appear in the balance sheet: the contribution of time and talents by a small but hard working band of volunteers. You will see that we have the finances to fund voluntary work by more volunteers – can you assist us? Perhaps with publicity? Maybe with greater contact with our members? Footpath inspection? Office work in the Archive Centre? Signpost maintenance? There are a huge number of jobs and even an hour or so per week would be greatly welcomed.

Increasing pressures on the footpath network continue to increase the pressures on our workers and more help here **now** will avoid any possible future difficulties. Volunteers with an interest in helping the Society preserve footpaths will find a large variety of work available. Please contact the Honorary Secretary.

The CAFCASH fund you see mentioned under Assets in the Balance Sheet is operated by the Charities Aid Foundation, and has enabled us to obtain interest rates often in excess of Bank Base Rate on a fully realisable investment. The fund is open only to Registered Charities.

The Charities Aid Foundation offer other services of value to us. and you may wish to note that as we are a registered charity, donations may be made to us by the *Give As You Earn* scheme operated by CAF, and that donations may be directed to us through the CAF VOUCHER scheme.

The latter scheme is one in which you make a covenanted donation to CAF for a minimum of four years, and then make your charitable payments by means of a special voucher – rather like a cheque book. Thus you increase your charitable giving by the amount generously added by the Inland Revenue (you must be subject to income tax for this to work). You also remain fully in control of how much goes to each charity, and are not tied to giving a fixed amount to a particular charity each year for four years.

For details of this please write to: Charities Aid Foundation, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD. The CAF is itself a registered charity. The Leeds and Holbeck Building Society Charity Account offers interest rates very close to those of Cafcash, also fully realisable.

Legacies and Bequests

In 1990 we benefited from legacy income and this was most welcome. We are grateful if members would remember the Society when making or reviewing their wills.

To make a bequest to the Society the following wording is suitable

I bequeath the sum of ..... to the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society Registered Charity No. 212219 (Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Mather Way, Salford Shopping Centre) and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the said Society shall be sufficient discharge for the said sum.

The Charities Aid Foundation also offer a service which allows you to bequeath a sum or portion of your estate to charity in general, and then leave informal written instructions for specific disposal - this makes it easier to redirect funds if your interests alter without having to have a new Will made out or a codicil added, both of which may produce income for your Solicitor. The form of wording would be –

My trustees shall hold shares ..... (or I bequeath the Sum of ..... for the Charities Aid Foundation of 48 Pembury Rd, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JD (Registered Charity No 268369J upon trust to distribute the same and the income thereof for charitable purposes (including its Foundation Fund) and I request the trustees for the time being of the Foundation (without intending to create any binding trust or legal obligation) to distribute the same or part or parts thereof to such charity or charities and in such shares or proportions as I may have made known to them during my life or as may be recorded in any note or memorandum found amongst my papers after my death but so that notwithstanding such request the Trustees of the Foundation shall have absolute discretion as to the distribution of this Gift and shall be entitled to make a contribution of 3% of this gift to their founder, namely the National Council for Voluntary Organisations for its charitable purposes as required by the Trust Deed establishing the Foundation.

Rather lengthy but very valuable. Do consult your legal adviser on such matters.

Attention Affiliated Societies

It would appear from comments received that some of you did not read the Treasurers Report last year!

For the year 1992 the cost of affiliation is six pounds a year and, if you wish to receive Council minutes, there is an additional service charge of five pounds to cover costs.

Following comments received from affiliates and voted upon by their delegates at Council, the 1992 AGM is to be asked to amend this arrangement for 1993. Affiliated societies are requested to **not** pay their 1993 fees **until they receive the Annual Report in 1993** when they will be advised if the 1992 AGM has sanctioned the variations.

If affiliates must pay their 1993 subs before the annual report is published, please would they either send £12 (which includes the minutes) or £7 (without minutes) and any surplus will be treated as a donation. Additional donations are, as always, most welcome.

Stephen Shaw

Income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 1991

(please also see notes on page 28)

Income	**1991**		*1990*	
Subscriptions				
Ordinary	642		*383*	
Joint	588		*338*	
Transfer from 10 yr suspense	782		*635*	
Junior	2		*3*	
Affiliations	624		*505*	
total subscriptions	**2637**		***1865***	
Donations	1006		*1797*	
		3643		***3662***
Affiliates Service charge	95		*140*	
Consultation expenses charged	22		–	
Sale of badges	51		*10*	
		168		***150***
Investment Income				
Received net of tax	715		*834*	
Income Tax refund due	238		*278*	
	954		***1112***	
Received gross –				
Government Stock	2095		*2278*	
Short term deposits	3401		*2722*	
Total investment income		**6450**		***6112***
Total ordinary income		**10261**		***9924***
Grants received	160		–	
Legacies to General Funds	–		*2500*	
Sale of bonus scrip	16		–	
		176		***2500***
Total income		**10438**		***12424***

Expenditure	**1991**	*1990*
Postages and telephones	1057	*886*
Stationery etc	388	*600*
Photocopier maintenance	198	*487*
Office Equipment	85	109
Travel	627	*627*
Annual Report	610	*530*
Expenses of Archive Centre	142	*116*
Room costs: Archive Centre	368	*338*
Secretariat	300	*300*
Meetings	115	*95*
Publicity/exhibition	325	*66*
Subscriptions & donations	62	*43*
Conference fees	94	*214*
Purchase of maps	63	*35*
Bank Nominee Company charges	50	*30*
Insurance of work parties	20	*19*
Loss on refreshments	26	*9*
Purchase of badges for resale	141	–
Total expenses for year	**4670**	***4503***
Excess of income over expenditure	5767	*7921*
	10438	***12424***

Note

All figures in the Treasurer's Report are shown to the nearest pound; this means the sums of the figures may differ slightly from the totals shown.

Funds of the Society as at 31 December each year

name of fund	1990 b/fwd	+ income	- expenses	=	**1991** c/fwd
General	45744	10438	4670		51512
Defence	4035	–	25		4010
Signpost	770	319	178		911
Survey	399	–	–		399
Memorial funds					
E Royce	55	–	–		55
H Wild	250	–	–		250
F S H Head	142	–	–		142
	51394	+ 10757	- 4874	=	**57278**

notes

■ Our thanks to the Countryside Commission for grant aid towards the cost of attending conferences.

■ The Defence Fund is for use as and when required to cover the costs of obtaining professional legal advice and, if required, meeting expenses relating to legal actions.

■ The Signpost Fund is for the erection and maintenance of Society footpath signposts.

■ The Survey and memorial funds are not open to further donations; the Survey fund was for the original survey of rights-of-way and the memorial funds are for use when needed to maintain the appropriate memorials.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1991

	1991	*1990*
Assets		
Investments	27148	*29041*
Current Account	83	*95*
Deposit Account	–	*197*
Leeds & Holbeck Charity a/c	205	–
Premium Account	4353	*12123*
Cafcash Deposit Fund	29857	*13106*
Cash float (Archive Centre)	20	*20*
Tax refund due	238	*278*
	61905	*54860*
Liabilities		
Funds of the Society as shown	57278	**51394**
Ten year membership suspense	4627	**3466**
	61905	**54860**

Notes to Accounts

Investments

All investments are quoted on the Stock Exchange

	1991	*1990*
Equity investments		
Cost of purchase	11474	*11474*
Market value on 31 December	13924	*12015*
Government Stock		
Cost of purchase	17008	*19008*
Market value at 31 December	16630	*18953*
Maturity value	15674	*17566*

■ All investments are listed on the Stock Exchange except a government stock which was delisted during the year due to the small amount on issue. This remains repayable in 2000/2003 and has been included in the accounts, as before, at its maturity value of £490.34. It is excluded from the market value in the above table.

■ Equity investments are shown in the Balance Sheet at cost of purchase, which is lower than total market value as at 31 December. Government Stock, which is held until maturity, is shown in the Balance Sheet at the maturity value, which is lower than both purchase cost and market value as at 31 December.

■ During 1991, Treasury Stock having a nominal value of £1892.64 was repaid on maturity.

■ Assets purchased by the Society are fully written off to expenditure in the year of purchase. All sanctioned expenses for the year are shown, no signifcant claims awaiting sanction were known of at the end of the year. Income is recorded as it is paid into the accounts, the only item of accruals shown is the tax refund due on net investment income.

Auditor's report

I have examined the Society's Accounts and in my opinion and to the best of my knowledge and belief the Income and Expenditure Report and the Balance Sheet here given provide a true and fair view of the revenue and transactions for the year ended 31 December 1991 and of the state of affairs as at that date.

date *22 January 1992*

signed: *E McCormick* Honorary Auditor

Membership Report

The Society now has 11 honorary life members and the total membership at the 31st December 1991 stood at 978, a net increase of 49 over last year.

Donations for the year sent to me totalled £875 and this represents the usual generous response from members and affiliated societies. During the year I sold 30 of the Society's rucksack badges; any member wishing to acquire one should add £1 to their next subscription or write to me direct.

10 Year members

There are now 528 members under this heading including 119 joint members, an increase of 43. Regrettably 11 ten year members did not renew in 1991.

Annual members

The total membership under this heading is 439 which includes 115 joint members, an increase over last year of six. During the year, 47 annual members transferred to 10 year membership.

The recruitment drive, aided by a new membership form, was fairly successful and resulted in 130 new members but unfortunately this was offset by 72 members not renewing despite reminder letters. We were hoping that we would get a lot more new members as a result of the wide distribution of the new and well designed membership form but this did not have quite as good a result as we had anticipated. I hope for many more applications during the coming year.

Affiliated Societies

At the close of the year there were 102 societies affiliated, a reduction of three compared with last year. Societies can obtain a copy of the minutes of our monthly Council meetings at a cost of £5 per annum.

Ted Whittaker

Affiliated organisations

1 Alderley Edge & Wilmslow & District Footpath Society
2 Barlborough Bor Council
3 Barnsley & District FPS
4 Barnsley Mountaineering Club
5 Blackbrook Cons Society
6 Bradwell Parish Council
7 British Mountaineering Council
8 Buxton Field Club
9 Buxton Rambling Club
10 Chapel en le Frith Amenity Society
11 Cheshire Tally Ho Hare & Hounds Club
12 Christian Endeavour Holiday Homes:Mcr Sec
13 City College of Community Education
14 Colne Valley Society
15 Countryside Holiday Assn
16 CHA: Altrincham
17 CHA/HF: Ashton under Lyne
18 CHA: Eccles
19 CHA: Leigh & District
20 CHA: Manchester
21 CHA: Mansfield
22 CHA: Nottingham
23 CHA: Oldham
24 CHA: Rochdale
25 CHA: Sheffield Section A
26 CHA: Sheffield Section B
27 CHA: Stockport
28 Crescent Ramblers
29 Derby Nomad Ramblers
30 Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society
31 Derbyshire Pennine Club
32 Elinton with Creswell PC
33 Forest of Rossendale Bridleways Association
34 Good Companions Rambling Club
35 Greenfield & Grasscroft Residents Association
36 Halcyon Rambling Club
37 Hallhill/Springfield Neighbourhood Assn
38 Hanliensian Rambling Club
39 Hazel Grove District Scout Council
40 HF: Bolton Group
41 HF: Bury Group
42 HF: Holidays Ltd
43 HF: Manchester Group
44 HF: Nottingham Group
45 HF: Rochdale Field & Fell Club
46 HF: Sheffield Group
47 HF: Warrington
48 ICICALS Social Club Hiking & Rambling Soc'y
49 ITT Rambling Club
50 Knutsford Civic Society
51 Lazy Ramblers Club, Macclesfield
52 Leek Footpath R A Rambling Club
53 Littleborough Civic Trust
54 Longdendale & Glossop Footpath Pres Society
55 Longdendale Amenity Society
56 Macclesfield & District Field Club
57 Macclesfield Rambling Club
58 Manchester Associates Rambling Club
59 Manchester & District Rambling Club for/Blind
60 Manchester Fellowship Rambling Club Indepen't
61 Manchester Field Club
62 Manchester Pedestrian Club
63 Manchester Rambling Club
64 Marple & District Rambling Club
65 Marple Community Council
66 Marple Naturalists
67 Mid Cheshire Footpath Society
68 Moor and Mountain Club
69 National Federation for the Blind, Manchester
70 North Western Nat Union
71 Nottingham Wayfarers Rambling Club
72 Offerton Community Council
73 Pennine Paths Preservation Society Rossendale
74 Pennine Wayfarers Rambling Club
75 Poynton Rambling Club
76 RA: Barnsley & Penistone Group
77 RA: Bolton Group
78 RA: Congleton Group
79 RA: Derbyshire Area
80 RA: East Cheshire Group
81 RA: Manchester Area
82 RA: New Mills Group
83 RA: North and Mid Cheshire Area
84 RA: Oldham Group
85 RA: SYNED Area
86 RSPB: High Peak Members Group
87 Rucksack Club
88 St Catherines Rambling Cb
89 Sheffield Clarion Ramblers
90 Sheffield Co-op Party Rambling Club
91 Shirland & Higham PC
92 Stockport & District Federation of TWG's
93 Stockport East Area Bridleways Association
94 Stockport Field Club
95 Stockport WEA Social & Rambling Club
96 Sutton in Ashfield Rambling Club
97 Towpath Action Group
98 United Field Naturalist Society
99 West Lancashire Footpath Group
100 Whitwell Parish Council
101 Wickersley Evening Townswomens' Guild
102 YHA: Central Region
103 YHA: Stockport