

# **Trustees' annual report for the period**

## **from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022**

### **Reference and administrative details**

Charity name	Peak and Northern Footpaths Society
Other names charity is known by	PNFS
Registered charity number	212219
Charity principal address	Taylor House 23 Turncroft Lane Stockport SK1 4AB

### **Names of the charity trustees who manage the society**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>
Kathy McLean	Chair
David Gosling	Vice Chair
Paul Easthope	Treasurer
David Brown	Acting Secretary (since 22 September)
David Morton	
Mel Bale	
Jenny Allen	Secretary (until 22 September)
Tim Lewis	
Suzanne Longworth	
Stuart Proud	
Chad Wilkinson	

### **Names and addresses of advisors**

Bank	Cooperative Bank, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Direct debits	CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA
Financial advisor	Redmayne-Bentley

## Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution adopted 04 April 2018
How the charity is constituted	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection method	Trustees are elected or reappointed at the AGM in April

### Additional governance issues

The Society is a statutory consultee on all proposed changes to public rights of way in our area, which comprises the ceremonial counties of Lancashire (south of the River Kent), Cheshire, West Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

## Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document

- a) Creating, preserving and improving open spaces, public access rights and rights of way (other than for mechanically propelled vehicles); particularly in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire, the former Metropolitan Counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South and West Yorkshire and in Blackburn & Darwen, Blackpool, Derby, Halton, Stoke-on-Trent and Warrington
- b) Preventing the abuse of such rights
- c) Monitoring, supporting and opposing proposals and orders for the creation, closure, diversion and regrading of public rights of way
- d) Erecting and maintaining direction posts, signs, footbridges and commemorative and other structures which improve access

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

- Scrutinising proposals to modify the public right of way network in our area
- Arranging a programme of inspection for that network
- Taking legal action to deal with faults on that network
- Funding improvements to that network
- Erecting signposts
- Funding footbridges

### Additional details of objectives and activities

We are grateful for the many hours volunteers have spent working, both inside and outside. Without these volunteers the Society would be unable to function.

## Achievements and performance

## Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our membership has increased from 1326 to 1418, an increase of 7%, and we have 95 affiliated walking groups and parish councils.

As statutory consultees we have examined 178 public paths orders and dealt with 267 consultations, 2 public space protection order, 13 objections and 63 other matters. This is a substantial increase on to last year.

We have increased our Inspector numbers from 179 to 184 covering over 700 parishes. They inspect the footpaths in their parishes under the guidance of 8 Area Officers and have discovered over 7000 faults. Only 35% of these have been resolved, largely because financial cutbacks mean that local authorities rarely have the manpower to deal with them all.

We have launched a Path Checker App which allows walkers, who do not wish to commit to being inspectors, to report faults through their mobile phones.

But we do not hesitate to be robust about dangerous or persistent faults and our 6 Courts and Inquiries Officers (C&IOs) have been authorised on several occasions to serve notice (under s56 or s130A of the Highways Act) on highway authorities. We always precede serving the notice with sending a letter before action. This often prompts them to repair the fault without our needing recourse to serving the order.

The Society has been involved in a number of cases to claim paths on behalf of the walking public where the route is not recorded on the definitive map (DMMOs). This involves extensive work in collecting both verbal and historic evidence.

13 new signposts have been erected throughout our area making a total of 567. The programme of inspecting and maintaining each signpost every three years remains on track, helped by the addition of a number of people to the signpost team. Many signposts are funded by member's donations often in memory of deceased relatives. A few vandalised signposts have been repaired or replaced. Total expenditure £6213.

Seven footbridges were funded by the Society at a cost of £2586. We hand these over to the appropriate highway authority as we are unable to guarantee to maintain them in perpetuity. Highway authorities seem to be increasingly reluctant to take ownership of bridges.

We are continuing to fund improvements to the public rights of way network despite the reluctance of many Highway Authorities to take on additional commitments. And have spent £42,909 on these improvements. We are now approaching other organisations such as Wildlife Trusts, Walking Groups and Park Authorities.

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the Society's policy on reserves

Our balance sheet at year end 2022 was £454,471 held in a combination of cash, investments and fixed assets (our office building, computer equipment, furniture and fittings).

Within this figure we have restricted funds of £61,010 and fixed assets of £60,654. We maintain a contingency fund of £10,000 for repairs to the aging office building and have ring-fenced legacy funds of £113,212

This leaves a reserve of £209,595. We look to maintain our reserves at between £183,000 and £243,000. These figures are reviewed annually and increased in line with RPI.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

### Further financial review details

Our main sources of income are subscriptions (gift aided where possible); dividends from investments; donations; and legacies. Since donations and legacies are sporadic and not guaranteed, we strive, successfully, to meet our day-to-day running costs from subscriptions and dividends and use other income to fund our programmes.

Since we are an unincorporated charity, we have vested title to our office building with the Official Custodian for Charities. The building is valued in the accounts at its purchase price rather than its current market value.

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## Other optional information

### Future plans

We are attempting to widen the demographic of the Society, which is currently dominated by retired people. We are attempting to reach out to universities, Duke of Edinburgh award groups and other younger people.

We continue to recruit Path Checkers who are encouraged to use modern smart-phones to report faults when they see them, but who are not, unlike Inspectors, actively encouraged to seek out faults

We will continue instigating DMMOs and anticipate taking some of the current applications to public inquiry.

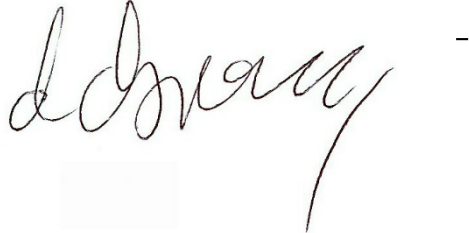
We are planning to move our office based computer system to a cloud based model

## Declaration

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.**

Name David C Brown  
Position Acting Honorary  
Secretary  
Date 09 March 2023

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Brown', is written over a light grey rectangular stamp area.



# Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

No 212219

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period  
from

01/01/2022

to

31/12/2022

## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>			
Subscriptions	15,358		15,358
Affiliations	1,970		1,970
Legacies, bequests	500		500
Donations general	7,395		7,395
Donations signposts & footbridges		5,547	5,547
Gift Aid tax	5,516		5,516
Interest/Dividends	4,060		4,060
Miscellaneous	155		155
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	<b>34,954</b>	<b>5,547</b>	<b>40,501</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales</b>			
Nationwide BS stock redemption			0
Charles Stanley Investments sold	157,642		157,642
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>157,642</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>157,642</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>192,596</b>	<b>5,547</b>	<b>198,143</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>			
Taylor House running costs	3,966		3,966
Signpost & Footbridges	3,252	5,547	8,799

Travel & Subsistence	5,768		5,768
Printing,Copying,newsletter	6,396		6,396
Postage Telephone Stationery	3,326		3,326
Computer, Software & maintenance	2,778		2,778
Functions / Fundraising costs	1,421		1,421
Insurance	1,268		1,268
Subscriptions, Donations, Training	1,418		1,418
Footpath Improvements projects	42,909		42,909
Legal Professional & Secretarial	8,902		8,902
Badge purchases, bank charges & Sundries	661		661
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>82,065</b>	<b>5,547</b>	<b>87,612</b>
<b>P &amp; L SURPLUS</b>			<b>-47,111</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases</b>			
Redmayne Bentley Investments bought	156,917		156,917
			0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>156,917</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>156,917</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>238,982</b>	<b>5,547</b>	<b>244,529</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>-46,386</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-46,386</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>228,307</b>	<b>61,010</b>	<b>289,317</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>181,921</b>	<b>61,010</b>	<b>242,931</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds
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**B1 Cash funds**

Savings accounts	to nearest £ <b>162,210</b>
Current accounts & petty cash	<b>19,711</b>
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>181,921</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK

**B3 Investment assets**



Details	Cost (optional)
Redmayne Bentley Investments	
TOTAL	0

**B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use**

Details	Cost (optional)
Taylor House building	<b>60,153</b>
Computer Equipment	<b>13,458</b>
Furniture fittings & other	<b>4,351</b>
P A sound system	<b>1,509</b>



Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print name
	P Easthope
	K McLean

**CC16a**

**Last year**

**to the nearest £**

<b>15,428</b>
<b>1,883</b>
<b>27,295</b>
<b>7,224</b>
<b>7,233</b>
<b>5,018</b>
<b>10,684</b>
<b>112</b>
<b>74,887</b>

<b>14,000</b>
<b>0</b>
<b>14,000</b>

<b>88,887</b>
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<b>10,323</b>
<b>8,524</b>

<b>4,721</b>
<b>5,914</b>
<b>4,699</b>
<b>5,173</b>
<b>0</b>
<b>1,143</b>
<b>455</b>
<b>4,997</b>
<b>1,783</b>
<b>50</b>

**47,782**

**27,095**

<b>0</b>
<b>0</b>
<b>0</b>

**47,782**

<b>41,095</b>
<b>0</b>
<b>248,222</b>
<b>289,317</b>

**od**  
**Restricted funds**

to nearest £

<b>61,010</b>
<b>0</b>
<b>61,010</b>

OK

Current value  
(optional)

<b>150,886</b>
<b>150,886</b>

Current value  
(optional)


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Date of  
approval

23/1/2023
23/1/2023

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Peak and Northern Footpaths Society (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth Hudson ACA  
16 Lindridge Lane, Desford LE9 9GN  
10th March 2023