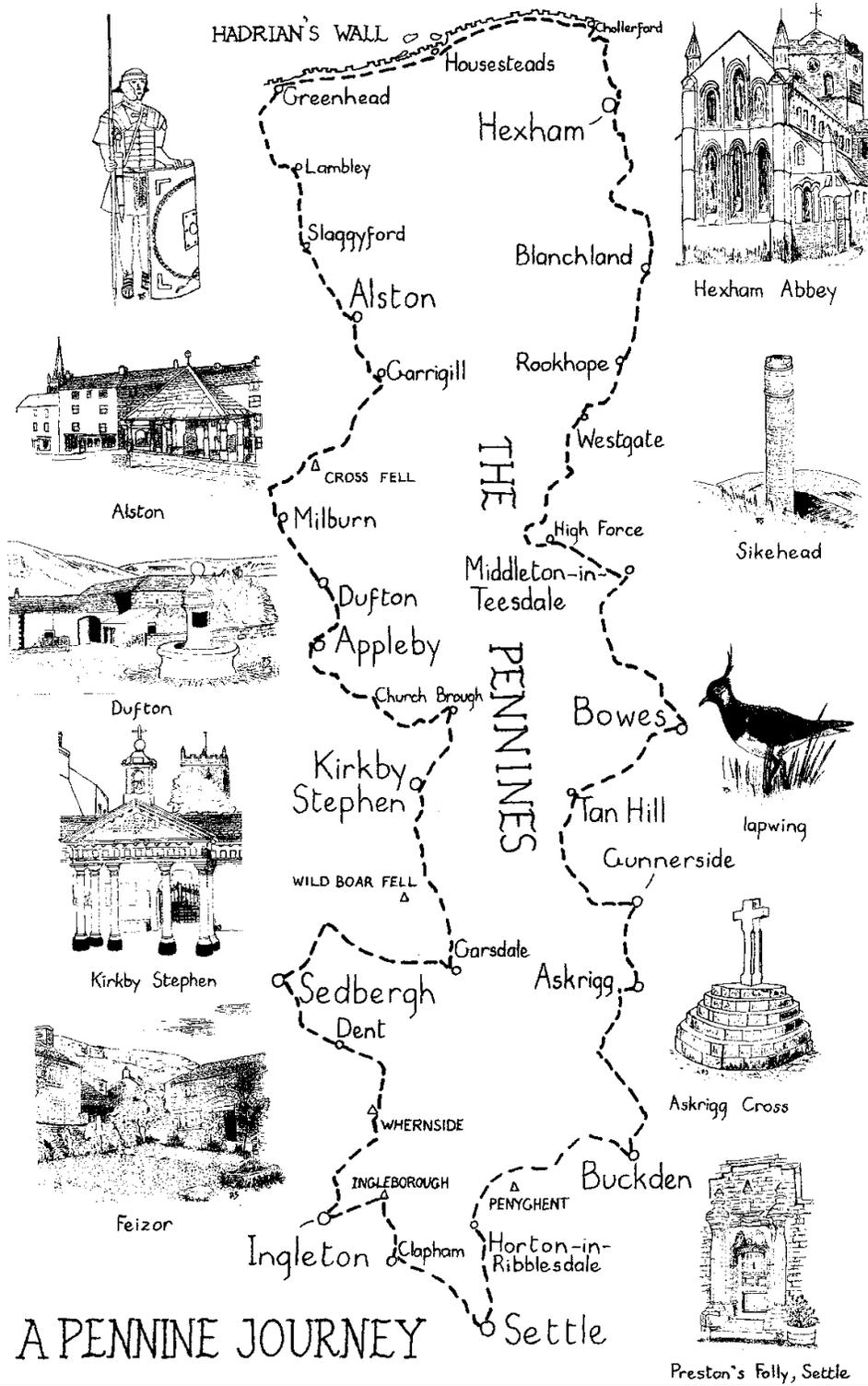
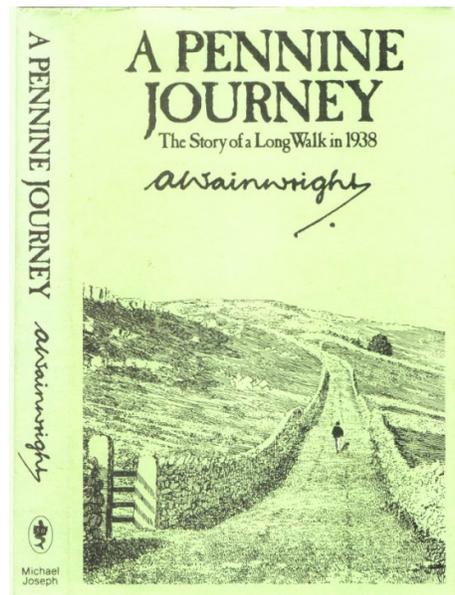


Pennine Journey Development Plan



Background

The Pennine Journey is a new long-distance footpath covering 247 miles and is based on “A Pennine Journey – The Story of a Long Walk in 1938” by Alfred Wainwright.



In September 1938 he undertook a 210 mile walk from Settle to Hadrian’s Wall and wrote a narrative description of his walk in the months immediately following. This was shown to several colleagues in Blackburn Town Hall, where he then worked as a clerk, and put in a drawer for nearly a further 50 years. When he became more widely known through his pictorial guides to the Lakeland Fells and other writings as well as TV appearances he showed it to his then editor and, unaltered, in 1989 it was published. In 1998 David & Heather Pitt devised and walked a route, using maps and guide books of the area, which would take in as many of the places AW mentioned in his book as reasonably possible, using public rights of way and not the roads that he used in 1938 – a route that AW might have chosen if he was planning it today.

Soon after the formation of the Wainwright Society in 2004 it was decided that the development of the route as a major long-distance footpath as a tribute to Alfred Wainwright would be an ideal, initial project for the Society. Members volunteered to walk and then test walk the 18 stages; Ron Scholes, a friend of Wainwright, offered to do detailed route maps; and Colin Bywater offered to provide black and white sketches. Having seen examples of the maps, sketches and a draft chapter Frances Lincoln Ltd., publishers of all Wainwright related literature, said

that they would publish the ensuing guide as a pictorial guide and it was launched on 17th April 2010 at Settle station.

Since the project was launched in April 2005 the help and advice of the rights of way officers of all the highway authorities has been most welcome and encouraging. Once the route maps had been finished, the route descriptions of the original stage walkers and consequent revisions amalgamated into one common format then, in December 2005 the maps and route descriptions were forwarded to the authorities. These were then scrutinised by the rangers responsible for the relative sections and any observations made were accommodated. An example of this was a request by the Hadrian's Wall Path authority to look at the effect on this vulnerable structure of, possibly, a large number of users during the winter months. Heeding that comment, and seeking advice from Mark Richards, it was agreed that the guide book would request walkers during the period 1st November to 30th April to use an alternative route from Hexham to below Greenhead using the southern arc of the route devised by Mark Richards and described in his book "The Roman Ring".

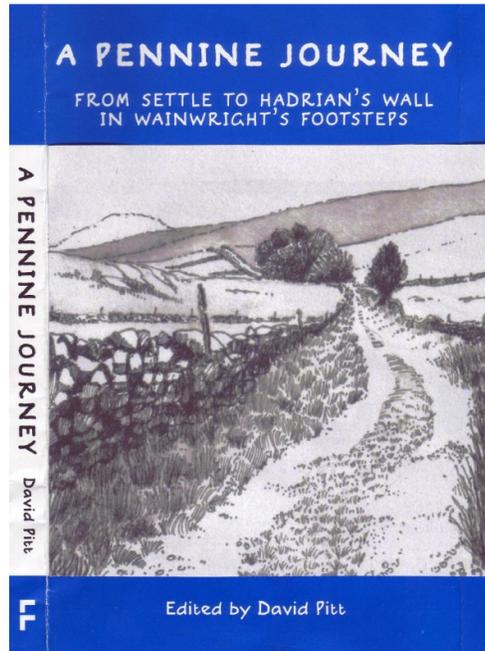
Throughout the development of the route from its early days in the winter months of 1991/2 until they finally walked in 1998 what they called their 'Settle to Settle Path' David and Heather Pitt drew on the experience gathered from walking long-distance footpaths since 1978. Annual walks in all of the subsequent years have added to this wealth of experience and they had the benefit of advice from Ron Scholes, himself a long-distance walker of some repute and author of the Ravenber Way – a 210 mile long Coast to Coast route from Ravenglass to Berwick upon Tweed.

The Route

The Pennine Journey is a circular walk, 247 miles long, passing through the wonderful variety of terrain and scenery that the north of England offers and touching on all the major rivers in the region. A large part of the route is within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is also a UNESCO European and Global Geopark. It starts in the market town of Settle in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, before heading north on the eastern side of the Pennines through the delightful Yorkshire Dales and moorland stretches of Co. Durham to arrive at Hadrian's Wall. This World Heritage site, in the Northumberland National Park, is followed for 21 miles until the route heads south on the western side of the Pennines. After traversing the Pennines just below the highest point of Cross Fell, it enters and travels

down the Eden valley before skirting the Howgill Fells then arrives back in Settle.

Guide Book



The guide book was launched in April 2010 and its early sales were such that a re-print of an additional 1000 copies were ordered within six months when it became apparent that its initial print run of 2000 was insufficient. So far it is estimated that total sales exceed 2500.

It has received much favourable comment from general press reviews but, more importantly, from the walking media.

“A superb guide, excellently illustrated in Wainwright style. A “must have” for the serious, or armchair walker.”

Yorkshire Dales Review, Summer 2010

“It’s a superb guide book, Ron Scholes’s bold maps quite outstanding and Colin Bywater’s sketches in the best Wainwright tradition.”

Tom Waghorn, Making Tracks, Manchester Evening News, May 2010

“The book is worthy of a place on the bookshelf alongside the classics of Wainwright himself, but even more so as a companion out on the moors on a Pennine Journey”

Strider, LDWA Journal, December 2010

Websites

The project is well supported by its own comprehensive website www.penninejourney.org.uk In addition to a brief summary of each stage of the ‘Journey’ it also features a brief summary of the daily stages of Alfred Wainwright’s Pennine Journey. For planning purposes for intending walkers it includes an expanding Accommodation Register of B&B’s as well as campsites.

Now that the Wainwright Society has agreed to become the ‘responsible organisation’ for the route then the Pennine Journey webpage on the Society’s website www.wainwright.org.uk will be enhanced and have reciprocal links to the project’s website.

Publicity

During the six years since the Pennine Journey project got underway there has been a succession of magazine and newspaper articles throughout the North of England. One article attracted the attention of BBC Countryfile’s researches and resulted in the Pennine Journey appearing on a programme in autumn 2009.

Also in the autumn of 2010 BBC North West showed, on two successive ‘Inside Out’ programmes, 2 short items on Alfred Wainwright and his 1938 Pennine Journey. These were then shown separately or condensed in the other BBC regions in Northern England. The material from these two programmes, augmented by additional new material, will be used for a half-hour programme on the same theme to be shown nationally this coming autumn.

One consequence of the publicity that has been generated is the Northern Rail have agreed to the installation of a ‘blue plaque’ within Settle station to commemorate Alfred Wainwright’s Pennine Journey and this will be unveiled at the station on 24th September. They have also expressed a desire for an information board to contain brief details of Alfred Wainwright and the walk and it is hoped that this will be finalised by the same date.

The Pennine Journey is mentioned on some walking group forums and features on the North Pennines AONB's website and also on Welcome to Yorkshire's website. Importantly though it is now on the Long Distance Walkers Association's list of UK long distance routes.

Waymarking

Reasons:-

1. Route promotion
2. Enables walkers to undertake the route with confidence
3. Avoids the potential nuisance to farmers/landowners from walkers going astray
4. Adds a 'seal of approval' to routes that encourages the support of walking holiday organisers and baggage carrying companies thus augmenting considerably the economic benefit that accrues to communities along the route from long distance walkers

It is proposed that any waymarking should be minimalist in nature to avoid visual intrusion into the countryside and will supplement (and not replace) existing waymarks. Any waymarking will conform to the highway authorities' criteria.

Early PJ walkers say that the guide book's route maps and route description require relatively few waymarks for a trouble-free walk. These could, initially, be on fingerposts where the route leaves metalled roads and on other fingerposts along the route. Any subsequent ones would only arise after consultation with the relevant highway authority after feedback from walkers and route monitors (see below) suggests that additional waymarks would be advisable.

Both websites will indicate to walkers that the route is a challenging one which requires a reasonable degree of walking experience

An agreement has been arrived at with the National Trail teams responsible for the Pennine Way and the Hadrian's Wall Path whereby there will be no waymarks for those sections where both routes are common. Hopefully a similar arrangement could be achieved for those sections where the Pennine Journey route coincides with the Dales Way.

Monitoring

The Wainwright Society is to establish a monitoring team to monitor the whole route in early spring reporting to the appropriate highway authority any problems. Also, via the project's website, walkers will be asked to report on any route problems which will also be referred to the authorities.

Finance

A Waymarking Fund has been established by the Wainwright Society to fund waymarking costs (new and replacement) which at present stands in excess of £2500. These funds arise from 90% of guide book royalties (the remaining 10% goes to the Great North Air Ambulance Service) together with surpluses from guide book sales and accommodation register fees. These funds would provide a modest, but increasing, resource in these difficult financial times for some route maintenance problems.

Benefits

Once waymarked the route would attract the attention of walking holiday organisers and baggage carrying companies such as Sherpa, Brigantes and Packhorse. This would bring in its wake, in addition to the very many UK LDP walkers, foreign walkers that are becoming increasingly attracted to the wonderful walking opportunities that the North of England has to offer. Wear and tear on the popular walking routes is an increasing problem. One answer is to develop new routes.

Summary

This request for the waymarking of the Pennine Journey route meets all (except in one instance) the criteria recently set out in the joint policy document by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Cumbria County Council entitled: Long Distance Routes; recognition and promotion.

The exception is that of permanence defined as ***“Routes must be expected to last (i.e. actively inspected and promoted) for a minimum of 5 years). Routes which have been in existence less than 5 years would only be waymarked in exceptional circumstances”***

It is the Wainwright Society's contention that as the route has been discussed fully with the responsible authorities since the project's

inception in Spring 2005 then this fact, taken into conjunction with the factors in this plan, make for an 'exceptional circumstance'.

The Society believes that as the guide book, which has attracted good reviews within the walking media, has in the 18 months since its launch sold in excess of 2500 copies then the Pennine Journey route, with its connection to Alfred Wainwright will become a significant companion to his very popular Coast to Coast Walk. Waymarking the Pennine Journey route and, hopefully its subsequent approval by the Ordnance Survey as a route to feature on future OS maps, would realise one of the Society's objects which is:-

“To foster and enhance Alfred Wainwright’s standing in the field of long distance footpath walking”

List of individuals/organisation/councils supporting the Pennine Journey

Parish/Town Councils/District Councils

Acomb	Greenhead
Alston Moor	Haltwhistle
Appleby	Hexham
Bainbridge	Hexhamshire
Blanchland	Holwick
Bowes	Humshaugh (Chollerford & Walwick)
Brough Sowerby	Ingleton
Buckden	Kaber
Clapham cum Newby	Kirkby Stephen
Dent	Murton
Dufton	Settle
Eden D.C.	Stainforth
Forest & Frith	Stanhope
Garsdale	Wall
Giggleswick	Westgate
	Winton

Members of Parliament

Tim Farron, South Lakeland
Rory Stewart, Penrith & The Borders
Helen Goodman, Bishop Auckland
Julian Smith, Skipton,
Guy Opperman, Hexham

Other Organisations

Sedbergh & District Chamber of Trade
Settle District Chamber of Trade
Vibrant Settle Community Partnership
Long Distance Walkers Association
Great North Air Ambulance Service
Macs Adventure Ltd
Ramblers Association (Lake District Area)
Brigantes Walking Holidays
Pennine Way Association

Individuals

Bill Mitchell
Mark Richards
Dick Capel
Martin Wainwright
Roger Ratcliffe
Colin Speakman
Tony Grogan