

Lancashire
County
Council



1. (D)
Orig. to Martin Willbroad 28.11.2001.
(Re: Bridleway?)
B Jackson MA DAA; County Archivist
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Providing archive services to Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool

Mrs B Crook
Southport Land & Property Ltd
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Preston PR4 6XP

Please ask for Andrew Thynne
Telephone (01772) 263036
Your ref
Our ref LL/RO/A1/C/AT
Date 22 November 2001

Dear Mrs Crook

Thank you for your letter of 21 November.

The OS 6 inch map surveyed in 1891 shows only a curving embankment (passing Goose Dub House and Taylors Farm) and this is presumably the older embankment. The later edition c1910 shows an additional embankment further out, running very straight for about two miles.

There is a large bundle of papers in the Scarisbrick archive here relating to the building of defences and other works on Banks Marsh (ref: DDSC 80/5). The papers date from 1880s to c1895 and perhaps a close inspection of them would establish the date of completion, but unfortunately we cannot undertake this sort of research. However, it looks likely that this bank was completed in the mid 1890s.

As for the inner bank, which you think was built about 200 years earlier, I can find no information from a brief look through the catalogue of the Scarisbrick papers, though the answer is probably there somewhere, if one had time to research in detail.

Peter Iles at the Sites and Monuments Record in LCC's Environment Directorate thought that there was a whole series of banks, not just two, all dating from different periods but mostly built post 1840. Apparently it is possible that the first was of medieval origin, though he said that Alan Crosby (a local historian) had evidence pointing to a pre-Conquest origin.

I am sorry I cannot be more specific about the earlier bank but I hope this information will help anyway.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Jackson, County Archivist

Please address your reply to the County Archivist and quote our reference

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE
Jack Bennett
Acting County Director

Providing Education, Library, Arts, Museums and Archive Services