

**THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT OF
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH FROM BANKS ROAD TO STATION ROAD, NORTH MEOLS,
WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH (DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION)
ORDER 2014**

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
TRACEY BLAIR**

1. My name is Tracey Blair and I live at 69 Banks Road, Banks. I am a Credit Manager and I have never been employed by any of the owners of the land crossed by the path that runs from Banks Road to Station Road (which I refer to as the "Sluice Path").
2. I know of the Sluice Path (marked from point A to point I on the Order Plan) because I grew up living on Banks Road – at number 70. I first used the Sluice Path on foot from the age of about four accompanied by an adult (which would have been around 1974).
3. As a child I had a friend who lived off Station Road, on Rufford Drive, and we used to walk along the Sluice Path to get to each other's houses as this was a shortcut and avoided the roads.
4. I had a friend (Donna Cumia) who lived across the road from me at number 67 Banks Road who kept horses. She used to walk her horses along the Sluice Path and sometimes I would accompany her.
5. I was also friends with the daughter of the couple who live in the end house on Banks Road next to the Sluice Path (at number 100). I remember her telling me that her parents didn't like people walking along the Sluice Path because it made their dogs bark.

- 5.
6. In 1990, when I was 20, I moved across the road to number 69 Banks Road, which is my current address. I got my own dog and I used the Sluice Path as one of many regular dog walking routes. Once a week I used to take my dog along there with one of my elderly neighbours and her dog. We started doing this together from the mid-1990s until around 2006 but only used the Sluice Path until we couldn't walk along its full length.
 7. I stopped walking along the Sluice Path when it was closed off. I can't remember when this was but it must have been some time after the mid-1990s as I continued to use the Path after I moved to my current home.
 8. During the years that I used the Sluice Path, the full length of the path was open and available. I don't recall there being any stiles or gates.
 9. There were no signs indicating that the land was private. In fact, there used to be a green public footpath or bridleway sign on the path near Station Road.
 10. I never asked permission, nor was ever given permission, to use the Sluice Path. I was never challenged when I was using the Path and I never heard of anybody else being challenged there.
 11. In summary, I was a regular user of the Sluice Path from 1974 until it was closed off some time after 1990.

6.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: 

Date: 13/5/20