

**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
RUTH GREEN**

1. My name is Ruth Green and I live with my husband at 38 Skipton Avenue, Southport. I am a retired nursery nurse. 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. In 2012 I completed a user evidence form confirming my usage on foot of the Sluice Path. This statement provides further detail about that usage.
3. I have known the Sluice Path since around 1970 which is when my husband and I moved to our current home from outside the area. From our home we could use the full length of the Sluice Path to walk a circular route. We also used it during the early 1970s when walking to visit friends living off Station Road.
4. Our children were born in 1972 and 1976 and when they were young I would often take them out for walks exploring the outdoors. We would walk along the Sluice Path together as it was a safe route away from traffic. This would always have been during the hours of daylight.
5. By the time our youngest child went to school we had a pet dog and the Sluice Path was one of the many places we would walk the dog.

6. I went back to work in the mid-1980s and after that I did not have the same opportunities to use the Sluice Path midweek. However, I did still walk along it at the weekends.
7. I cannot remember the last time I used the Sluice Path but I do remember that it was the blocking up of the Path that stopped me being able to use it. A sign then appeared on Banks Road stating that the land was private. However, prior to this there were never any signs up along the Sluice Path indicating that it was private. Had there been, then I most definitely would not have used the Path.
8. I used to see other walkers along the Sluice Path but I can't remember if there were horse riders.
9. I recall there being a stile at the Banks Road entrance to the Sluice Path but this did not prevent access for walkers and there were no other fences or gates across the rest of the Path.
10. I was never challenged when using the Sluice Path and I never asked for permission, nor was ever given permission, to use the Path.
11. In summary, I used the full length of the Sluice Path on foot from 1970 until it was blocked at Banks Road.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed:



Date:

21/5/20