

**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**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF  
LINDA LINNELL**

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1. My name is Linda Linnell and I live at 80 Lancaster Drive. I am a retired teaching assistant 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. 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 about the existence of the Sluice Path since moving to Banks from Buckinghamshire in 1969. I don't remember using the Path straight away as my children were only two and three and a half years old at the time so couldn't walk very far. However, three to four years after moving to Banks we got a dog and I used to walk along the Sluice Path with the dog. It was a way of cutting through to the embankment for a longer walk. I used the Sluice Path (from point I to point A on the Order Map) as part of a circular walk from home from the mid-1970s.
4. I estimate that over the years I used the Sluice Path at least 50 times per year for walks with the dog, my family and visitors staying with us. I always used it during daylight hours.

5. I saw other walkers using the Sluice Path and know of friends using it on foot too. I also saw horse riders using it and know of friends who rode along there towards Charnleys Lane and Vicarage Lane. It was a well-used route.
6. There were never any locked gates across the Sluice Path. It was an open path from I to A.
7. I never asked for permission to use the Sluice Path as I assumed it was a public right of way. I was never given permission to use the Path either.
8. There was never any signs on the Sluice Path indicating that it was private land.
9. I was never challenged when using the Sluice Path and I don't know of anybody else being challenged either.
10. I stopped using the Sluice Path in around the mid-1990s. Barbed wire was placed across the Path and a fence was put up at the Banks Road end. Car boot sales then started happening in the field adjacent to the Path and in between sales sheep grazed the land.
11. In summary, I regularly used the full length of the Sluice Path on foot from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s.

**STATEMENT OF TRUTH**

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

Signed: R. E. Linnell

Date: 15th May 2020