

**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
ANN MCCARTHY**

1. My name is Ann McCarthy and I live in Poulton-le-Fylde but I grew up in Banks from 1945 to 1968. During my time living in Banks I used the path that runs from Banks Road to Station Road adjacent to the sluice (which I refer to as the "Sluice Path").
2. When I lived in Banks I was living with my parents and siblings on The Avenue off Station Road until I was 22/23 years old. This is close to the Station Road entrance to the Sluice Path (point I on the Order Plan).
3. My Grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins lived in the houses at Fiddler's Ferry on Banks Road (just over the road from point A on the Order Plan). My mother and I used to walk along the Sluice Path to visit them as this was the quickest and most direct route from our house and avoided walking along the main road (Water Lane).
4. From the age of being allowed to play out on my own, I used to play with three other girls along the Sluice Path; it was our playground. I also used the Sluice Path to go over to the Ferry to play with my three cousins who were of a similar age to me. I stopped visiting my cousins from about 1960 (my mid teen years).
5. On a nice summer's day or bank holidays my family would sometimes join other families having a picnic on the bank of the sluice. I specifically remember doing this one bank holiday in about 1960/61.
6. I also used the Sluice Path for walking the family dog. I did this from the age of about 12/13 up to 22.
7. When I was using the Sluice Path for a leisurely walk with family or the dog, I would usually take a circular route, walking from point I to A and then along Ralph's Wife's Lane to the church and then heading back home via Hoole Lane.
8. I used to see other people using the Sluice Path on foot and on bicycle. Boys would fish on the sluice and they didn't always have a permit, which you could buy from the barbers shop in the village. I didn't see any horse riders on the Path. In those days not many people had horses except for shrimpers or farmers using them to plough fields.
9. There was a stile or a small gate in the hedge at the Banks Road entrance to the Sluice Path. The Path was a lot narrower at that end whereas it looked more like a drive way at the other end – from Station Road to the pumping station (point I to point E). There was a gate at the Station Road entrance to

the Path but this was always open.

10. I never asked for permission to walk along the Sluice Path and the only time I was challenged on it was by fishermen telling me and my friends to be quiet.
11. There were no signs indicating that the land was private and should not be used by the public.
12. I have never been employed by any of the owners of the land crossed by the Sluice Path.
13. In summary, I used the Sluice Path on foot from around the late 1940s to the late 1960s.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: Ann b. McCarthey
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Date: 3rd June 2020