

**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
HOWARD MELDON**

1. My name is Howard Meldon and I am a police officer. I live in the West Midlands now but I grew up in Banks.
2. I was born in 1974 and lived with my family at 20 Ralph's Wife's Lane in Banks until 1997. Our family home is close to the path that runs from Banks Road to Station Road adjacent to the sluice (which I shall refer to as the "Sluice Path").
3. During my childhood years, from about the early 1980s, I used the Sluice Path on foot as a cut through from Banks Road to Station Road when visiting friends living on Station Road. It avoided having to walk along Water Lane. I did this about 3 to 4 times per month during daylight hours and when I was older during the evening too.
4. I saw other people using the Sluice Path, such as walkers and cyclists. I also saw people fishing. I don't remember seeing horses on the Sluice Path.
5. I never asked permission to walk along the Sluice Path. I wouldn't even have known who to ask. I didn't see any signs on the Path indicating that it was private and I don't ever remember being approached by anyone on there challenging me for being there.

6. Even when I wasn't using the Sluice Path myself, I frequently walked past the entrance to it on Banks Road (point A on the Order Plan) so I would have noticed any changes made at that location. From the start of the 1990s up to the summer of 1995 I worked in Southport and I used to get the bus there. The bus stop was at the Plough pub, which was on the roundabout where Banks Road meets the coastal road, so I used to walk past point A on my way to and from the bus stop. During this period the entrance to the Sluice Path was always open and unobstructed.

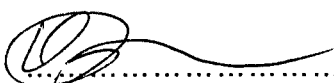
7. The last time I used the Sluice Path was sometime before leaving Banks in 1997 and the Path was fenced off at point A after I had left. I knew it had been fenced off because I saw it on my visits home and I spoke to my family about it.

8. I have never worked for any of the owners of the land crossed by the Sluice Path.

9. In summary, I used the full length of the Sluice Path on foot from around the early 1980s to around 1997.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: 

Date: 23rd May 2020