

**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**

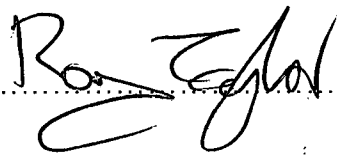
**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
ROY EDWARD TAYLOR**

1. My name is Roy Edward Taylor. I live at 61 Church Road, Banks and I am a qualified aerospace design engineer. 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 for most of my life, having grown up in Banks, living with my mother, father and sister firstly in Glebe Lane and then 49 Ralph's Wife's Lane which is located very close to point A of the Sluice Path (as shown on the Order Plan). We moved to Ralph's Wife's Lane in 1980 when I was aged 11.
4. I started using the Sluice Path after we moved to Ralph's Wife's Lane and I started going out on my own around the village on my bike.
5. I had a friend that lived on Lancaster Drive who I used to play Dungeons and Dragons with. From around 1980-1985 whilst I was at secondary school, I used the full length of the Sluice Path (from point A on Banks Road to point I on Station Road) to get from my house to his. This was about once a week over the summer. I had my bike with me but I used to walk my bike along the path.

6. As a teenager, between 1982 and 1987, I used to walk along the Sluice Path when I got the bus from Southport. This bus stopped at the bus stop on Station Road and I would walk along the Sluice Path from point I to point A to get home. This happened about once a week at the weekends.
7. I also used the Sluice Path as a child to walk our family dog. I went away to university between 1987 and 1990 but would still use the Sluice Path occasionally to walk the dog when I came home during the holidays.
8. After university I used the Sluice Path even more infrequently as I was then living away from Banks so I only had the opportunity to use it when visiting my parents.
9. I moved abroad in 1999 and stopped using the Sluice Path then. I moved back to Banks in May 2017, and following that date I was disappointed to find that the Sluice Path had been closed. I don't know the date on which I discovered that this had occurred.
10. I cannot remember if I ever saw any horse riders on the Sluice Path. I have a vague recollection of seeing fishermen.
11. There were never any gates or fences along the Sluice Path and nothing to prevent or hinder access to or along the route.
12. I have never been challenged whilst using the Sluice Path and I never saw any signs suggesting that the route was private and not open to the public to use.
13. I never asked permission to use the Sluice Path.
14. In summary, I used the full length of the Sluice Path on foot for approximately twenty years between 1980 and 1999.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: 

Date: 27/6/2020