

**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
BARRY PRESCOTT**

1. My name is Barry Prescott and I live at 11 Todds Lane, Banks. I am a retired motor mechanic and I have never been employed by any of the owners of the land crossed by the track 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 a long time as I grew up in Banks. As a child I lived with my parents in Square House Lane on the other side of the village. I started going fishing when I was about 15 or 16 years old and it was then that I realised there was a track running along the sluice as that's where I sometimes fished. Once I discovered the Sluice Path I started using it when I went fishing. That would have been from about 1964.
4. I was 24 when I moved to my current home (in 1972) and after moving there I started to walk along the Sluice Path more often as I used it for walking my dogs as well as for fishing. I don't particularly enjoy having to walk along the same stretch twice on a walk and using the Sluice Path meant I didn't have to do that as it allowed me to take a circular walk. I used to walk south along Hoole Lane, west along Station Road to the start of the Sluice Path (point I on the Order Plan) and then along the Sluice Path to Banks Road (point A). From there I would cross over the road and walk along the bridleway towards Banks

enclosed marsh, where there are numerous tracks I could walk along depending on how far I wanted to walk. I then would head home down Charnley's Lane or George's Lane and along Vicarage Lane. I used to walk along the Sluice Path about once a month.

5. I didn't see other people using the Sluice Path that often except for people fishing on the sluice. You didn't have to belong to a fishing club to fish along that stretch of the sluice as you could just buy a day ticket. I never saw any horses riding along the Sluice Path.
6. I never asked permission to walk along the Sluice Path as I never thought I needed it. There were no signs up indicating that the land was private and nobody ever challenged me for being there.
7. I continued to walk my various dogs along the full length of the Sluice Path regularly until my dog died in the late 1990s. I then stopped using the Sluice Path until I got another dog and resumed dog walking again in around 2009/2010.
8. When I started using the Sluice Path again it had been blocked off where the sluice bears left (point B) so I could no longer walk the full length of the Path to Banks Road. I now have to turn around at point B and walk back the same way I came. Signs are also present stating that trespassers will be prosecuted. The Sluice Path is now blocked on Banks Road (point A) too but I don't know when that happened.
9. In summary, I was a regular user of the full length of the Sluice Path on foot for over 30 years from around 1964 to the late 1990s.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: 

Date: 28TH APRIL 2020