

**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
DAVID RIMMER**

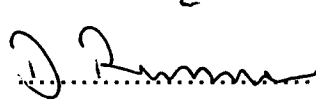
1. My name is David Rimmer and I live at 3 George's Lane, Banks. I am a horse trainer and I have never been employed by any of the owners of the land crossed by the path that runs from Banks Road to Station Road (which I refer to as the "Sluice Path").
2. In 2012 I completed a user evidence form confirming my usage of the Sluice Path on foot, horseback and bicycle. This statement provides further detail about that usage.
3. I have known the Sluice Path for most of my life, having been born in Banks. Until I was 27/28 years of age, I lived at 29 Vicarage Lane, Banks with my parents. I then moved to Crossens, followed by a few other local places, including 27 Vicarage Lane, before moving to my current address in 2008.
4. I started using the Sluice Path from the age of about 11/12, so from about 1969. I discovered the Path after I went fishing with my brother along the sluice. We never bought a day pass to fish there and we never asked permission to use the Sluice Path.
5. As a child I used the Sluice Path on my bike as I rode all around Banks. I also used the Sluice Path on my horse. I used the full length of the Path from Banks Road to Station Road. It was a means of me riding to Three Pools in

Crossens via the A565. From 1988 I no longer had a horse that was suitable to take across the A565 so I stopped riding along the Sluice Path.

6. I used to ride my horse along the Sluice Path monthly but even more often than that when I was younger. I went along the Sluice Path with other people on horses too but when I was younger there weren't that many people in Banks with horses.
7. I used to see other people on the Sluice Path – for example, dog walkers and people fishing.
8. I can't remember when the Sluice Path was blocked off but it was blocked at the Banks Road end with rails erected to prevent access. Prior to this there nothing to prevent access on to or along the route and there were no gates or fences across the Path.
9. During the years I was using the Sluice Path I was never challenged by anybody for being there and I never saw any signs suggesting that the route was private and not open to the public to use.
10. I never asked permission to use the Sluice Path.
11. In summary, I used the full length of the Sluice Path on foot, horseback and bicycle for approximately nineteen years between 1969 and 1988.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: 

Date: 16 7 2020