

**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
DENNIS ROBINSON**

1. My name is Dennis Robinson and I live at 75 Banks Road, Banks with my wife. I am a retired Quality Controller for a fruit importer 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 on foot of the Sluice Path. This statement provides further detail about that usage.
3. I have known the Sluice Path since 1972 which is when my wife and I were living in a caravan at the back of a couple's bungalow on Gravel Lane, Banks. I used to work with a man who lived on Banks Road and when I used to visit him I walked up the full length of the Sluice Path from Station Road (point I on the Order Plan) to Banks Road (point A).
4. My wife and I moved to our current address on Banks Road in 1973 but we continued to use the Sluice Path. We used to visit the couple on Gravel Lane whose land our caravan was situated. We didn't have a car in those days so walked everywhere. We visited the couple about once a fortnight for about 3-4 years.
5. We also used the Sluice Path occasionally on family walks, probably about once a month on average.

6. I remember seeing other people using the Sluice Path but it was never a busy thoroughfare. I didn't see any horse riders.
7. I was never challenged by anybody when using the Sluice Path. I sometimes had chats with the farmers on the adjacent land.
8. I never asked for, nor was given, permission to walk along the Sluice Path. I just viewed it as a track near where I lived which I walked along as and when I pleased.
9. There were no signs indicating that the land was private and should not be used by the public.
10. I always used the Sluice Path during daylight hours and I never had to force entry. I can't remember if there was a stile at the Station Road end of the Sluice Path but the Banks Road end was open. There was about a six foot wide gap in the hedge allowing access to the Path. Subsequently, the Banks Road end of the Path was blocked up. The new owners built a little brick building about five foot high at the entrance to the Path. I think it may be used to pump water from the sluice. A fence also appeared across point A. This happened some time between 2000 and 2002.
11. In summary, I used the full length of the Sluice Path on foot from 1972 until about 1977.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed:

D. J. Robinson

Date: 11-06-2020