

**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
ELLEN TAYLOR**

1. My name is Ellen Taylor and I live at 49 Ralph's Wife's Lane, Banks. As far as I am aware, 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"). After leaving school I worked as a wages clerk in the department store in Southport. I later had other jobs and worked as a school dinner lady and a shop assistant.
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 am 86 years old and have known the Sluice Path for as long as I can remember. I was born in 1934 at 68 Ralph's Wife's Lane where I lived until I was married at 21 and moved to Glebe Lane with my husband (in 1955). We lived there with our two children until we moved to the home where I still live today when my son was 11 years old which was in 1980.
4. I was aware of the Sluice Path as a child living on Ralph's Wife's Lane. I remember being able to see from our house across the fields at Station Road and watching the trains go past. As a child I used the Sluice Path for little walks although I don't remember going as far as Station Road.
5. After I was married and was living on Glebe Lane, I continued to use the Sluice Path. Over the years, we had three family dogs and we used the Sluice

Path as one of our many dog walks, although it was mainly my husband that took care of the dog. Again, I don't remember walking all the way to Station Road as I was still working so it was usually a quick dog walk.

6. My husband had a heart attack in 1994, when I was 60, followed by a stroke and for a while I took over the dog walking whilst he recuperated. During this time I used the Sluice Path more than usual. When my husband was feeling better he started taking the dog out again and used the Sluice Path often. Sometimes I accompanied him but not all the time because I would be at school helping with the dinners.
7. I cannot now recall when I stopped using the Sluice Path.
8. Prior to it being blocked off on Banks Road, there was nothing to prevent access to and along the Sluice Path. I don't recall there being any stiles that you had to climb over.
9. I have seen other walkers on the Sluice Path and a lot of people fishing. I don't remember seeing any horse riders.
10. I never asked permission, nor was ever given permission, to walk along the Sluice Path.
11. I was never challenged by anybody whilst using the Sluice Path and I never saw any signs indicating that the Path was private. If I had seen any signs, I would not have used it.
12. In summary, I have known of the Sluice Path since I was a child in the 1930s and over the years I have used it on foot occasionally.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed:

E.G. Taylor

Date:

11th June 2020