

HPD38/8/12 C/PH/SM

These tracks have been used by horses and walkers since time immemorial. Yates map of 1786 clearly shows a roadway along the same line, the now main road through Banks Village being non-existent, this was the only way through from Hesketh Bank to Crossens. There were dwellings along the line of the old sea bank which is where the tracks run. An elderly gentleman, Mr Bill Ryding, told me his family had lived by the bank since the early 1600's. This family's name the Bounds later to become the Bonds after which Bonds Lane was named. It had been passed down through the generations that the Romans used these tracks as a road.

The horseriders of Banks have used these tracks unopposed by the landowners until recently, a locked gate has now been put across the Ralphs Wifes Lane entry. This part of the track is named Bank Pace, again clearly shown as a road on the Ordnance Survey Maps of 1896 and 1848. The tracks are invaluable as off road riding, we have no designated bridleways in this area. The locked gate stops access to the quiet roads which lead from the tracks ie: Charnleys Lane, Georges Lane and force riders along the very busy main road through the village. Horseriders also used the grass track along the sleice from Ralphs Wifes Lane to Water Lane, this also now blocked by a fence.

The tracks and bank have been extensively levelled and damaged by the landowner, Mr Crook, to make a coarse hardcored road along the line of the Right of Way. What used to be grass or cinder track is now hard core or levelled sand from the bank. There is still a strip of about ten feet between the remains of the bank and Mr Crooks road which could be made good for horses and walkers. The previous owners kept the bank in good repair and long term users of the tracks can remember being able to ride along the top.

Please help to open these tracks once again to horses and riders so that we can enjoy safe off road riding.

Thank You

*M J Marshall*  
Mrs M J Marshall