

**THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AT BANKS ENCLOSED MARSH, NORTH MEOLS, WEST
LANCASHIRE BOROUGH (DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION) ORDER 2014**

WITNESS STATEMENT OF BRIAN HARRISON

1. My name is Brian Harrison and I live at 83 New Lane Pace, Banks. I was born in 1948 am a retired joiner. I have never been employed by any of the owners of the land crossed by the footpaths that run across Banks Enclosed Marsh (the 'Order routes').
2. I have known the routes across Banks Enclosed Marsh for most of my life, having been born in Banks.
3. I completed user evidence forms confirming my use of two routes on Banks Enclosed Marsh. I completed the forms at the request of Kath Prince and other local residents who were gathering evidence of use of the footpaths after the landowner started to challenge local people who were using the routes. Having known and used the routes since the 1950s I did not think this was right.
4. I completed my user evidence forms in 2012. I have reviewed the content of each one and this Witness Statement provides further information regarding my use.
5. I used two of the routes across the enclosed marsh enabling me to walk 'round the block' from New Lane Pace via the New Embankment.
6. With specific reference to Order route 1 which ran from Georges Lane to the New Embankment (shown between points A-B-C-D-E on the Order Map) I have known of this route for most of my life and can remember using it as a

boy of 10 years of age (1958). I was still using it in 2012 when I completed my user evidence form.

7. I would use it to go for walks, often with one of our dogs. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route.
8. Like many people of my generation in Banks, I would shoot on the Marsh and would fish in the drains and pools from quite an early age. I probably started shooting when I was about 13 and was a member of the Southport and District Wildfowlers. Shooting was allowed between 1st September and 20th February and I know that permission was given for Members to access the Marsh on foot along Order route 1.
9. Despite this I had always used Order route 1 to walk – not just for shooting. I used it all year round as did my wife and her friends. The route was well used by the villagers, most of whom were not going to shoot.
10. I used the route on foot over 100 times a year and would often see other people walking it to. Everyone thought it was a footpath and just went down it. I also saw people on horseback although horses couldn't get beyond the end of the track because of the locked gate.
11. I don't recall any signs saying the route was private until they were erected in about 2011-2012.
12. With specific reference to Order route 5 which ran from Cross Bank Cottage through the wood to the footpath along the new embankment (shown between points S-T-U-V on the Order Map) I also used this route from childhood from approximately 1958 to 2012.
13. I only used the route on foot and I remember there being a trodden track along the full length through the woodland. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission or was given permission to use the route. The route through the woods was not one that the Southport and District Wildfowlers had permission to use to get


to the outer marsh.

14. I recall other people using this route – less so when it was owned by the Scarisbrick Estate but much more so from the late 1970s and through the 1980s and 1990s.

15. In summary, I have known of and used the full lengths of Order routes 1 and 5 for most of my life and have lived in Banks all that time. My use and knowledge of the route's dates from the late 1950s onwards.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: 

Date: 18-3-2025