

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 DOROTHY HAMES

1. My name is Mrs Dorothy Hames and I live at Bank View Farm, George's Lane, Banks. I was born in 1959 and am a retired cancer research scientist. 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 grew up in Mere Brow several miles from Banks but would visit family in Banks and remember the route from George's Lane out to the New Embankment since childhood.

3. My family have lived at Bank View Farm on George's Lane for over 100 years and I have lived there since 2003.

4. I completed a user evidence form in 2012 confirming my use on foot of the route which continues from the north western end of George's Lane along the farm track to the footpath along the New Embankment. I completed the form at the request of Kath Prince who was gathering evidence of use of the footpath and of other footpaths leading out across the

farmland towards the marsh. I only completed 1 form because I only used the route from George's Lane.

5. I have reviewed the content of my user evidence form and this Witness Statement provides further information regarding my knowledge and use of the path that I understand to be referred to as Order route 1 (as shown between points A-B-C-D-E on the Order Map).

6. I used the path on foot from being a child from about 1965 when I was 6 years old to 1985. I stopped using it in 1985 because I moved away from the area.

7. I started to use the path again in 2003 because I moved to my current address in Banks and continued to do so until 2012 when I completed the user evidence form.

8. From 1965-1985 I used the route on foot approximately 10 times a year. I would walk out onto the New Embankment ('the bank') and enjoyed looking to see what the tide had washed up. When I resumed using the route in 2003 I used it more regularly, mainly to walk the dogs and probably about 20 times a year.

9. During the period 1965-1985 and from 2003 onwards I used the route on foot and would see other people also using it on foot. I remember that there was a gate and stile at the far end of the route. I think the gate was locked but you could always get onto the New Embankment by using the stile.

10. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission or was given permission to use the route. I always thought it was a public footpath.
11. In May 2012 I heard that people had been stopped when using the route and saw that signs had been erected saying that the land was private and that legal action might be taken against unauthorized people on the land. I don't recall any signs telling you that the route was private before then.
12. In my memory my uncle Jack used to walk this route to the New Embankment (the 'Bank') with his dogs from where he lived at Bank View Farm. He would do this almost every Sunday between 1965 and 1985 because this was his one day off from his milk round.
13. In summary, I regularly used the *full* length of Order Route 1 on foot from 1965-1985 and 2003-2012.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed: D. Haines Date: 10.3.25