

**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**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF MR MICHAEL GREEN**

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1. My name is Michael Green and I live at 38 Skipton Avenue, Southport, PR9 8JP with my wife. I was born in 1944 and am a retired college lecturer. 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 of the routes across Banks Enclosed Marsh since the early 1970s when my wife and I moved into the area.
3. I got to know the routes soon after moving to Banks by just going out and walking them. I would not of used the routes if there had been signs saying that they were private but there were no signs indicating that I couldn't walk them and as a regular dog walker I saw other people using them and did the same.
4. I completed three separate user evidence forms in 2012 confirming my use on foot of three of the routes on Banks Enclosed Marsh. I remember attending a public meeting in the village to discuss the fact that the routes had been blocked and private signs erected and as a result I completed the forms at the request local residents who were gathering evidence of use so that they could apply to get the footpaths registered.
5. I have reviewed the content of each of my user evidence forms and this Witness Statement provides further information regarding my use.

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 used it from about 1972 through to 2012 when I completed the user evidence form. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission or was given permission to use the route.
7. From 1972 onwards I used the route on foot, approximately 2 or 3 times a year as part of quite a long circular route from my home near Fiddlers Ferry. I didn't use this route often but when I did would see other people walking the route to.
8. I always believed the route to be a public footpath and recall a stile at the end of the route that you climbed over to access the New Embankment. I did not recall seeing any signs on the route indicating that it was private until around 2012 when signs were erected along a few of the routes.
9. From 1972 onwards I always believed Order route 1 to be a public footpath.
10. With specific reference to Order route 3 which ran from the bridleway at Fiddler's Ferry along the old sea embankment to the footpath along the New Embankment (shown between points J-K-L-M-N-O on the Order Map) I also used this route from 1972 onwards until it was blocked off in around 2010-2012 at the western end. I always believed the route to be a public footpath.
11. I did not use this route often, but I was aware of its existence. When I did use the route, I used it on foot for exercise and pleasure as part of a circular walk. I used it walking my dog and as part of a route that I would jog around. I estimate that I used it possibly 3-4 times a year which is less than I wrote on my original user evidence form and I recall seeing other people walking it.
12. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route. I never sought permission to use it. I only recall private signs being erected in 2012 and I

recall a fence and ditch were constructed across the western end of the route which prevented further use in about 2010, although with the passage of time it is difficult to remember exact dates.

13. With specific reference to Order route 4 which ran from the bridleway at Fiddler's Ferry along the track to the New Embankment (shown between points K-P-Q-R on the Order Map) this was the main route that I used.

14. I used this route on foot from around 1971-1972 to 2012 as part of a circular route from Fiddlers Ferry to walk or jog for pleasure and often to walk one of our dogs. I used this route quite regularly – probably at least 40 times a year.

15. When I used the route, I would often see other people using it at the same time on foot.

16. I recall that there was a stile at the far end of the route which could be used by pedestrians until it was vandalized in around 2012.

17. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route in over 40 years. Private signs appeared on the land in 2012 but before that time I had never had cause to question whether the route was a public footpath or not – I just thought it was and used it.

18. I understand that evidence has also been provided for another two routes across the enclosed marsh but I did not use them. The reason I didn't use them was only because I had several regular routes that I walked or ran. I knew them well and knew how long it took to walk or run them and just used them out of habit more than anything else.

19. In summary, I have known of and used the full lengths of Order routes 1, 3 and 4 from 1971-72 through to 2012 and I have always believed the routes to be public footpaths.

**STATEMENT OF TRUTH**

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

Signed: MT Green Date: 21/3/2025