

**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 PAMELA PILLING

1. My name is Pamela Pilling and I live at 24 Fleetwood Crescent, Banks, Near Southport, PR9 8HF. I was born in 1944 and am retired having previously worked as a secretary. 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 footpaths across Banks Enclosed Marsh since 1978 when I moved into the village having previously lived in Southport.
3. When I moved to the village, I got two dogs and started to explore the local area on foot. Initially I was just 'following my nose' to see where I could go. I saw the tracks continuing from the ends of Charnley's Lane and George's Lane and walked along them to see where you could go. I never recall seeing any signs to say the routes were private and I saw other people walking them. At the ends of the routes there were stiles leading out onto the New Embankment and over time these routes became regular walking routes for me.

4. In 2012 I completed two user evidence forms confirming my use on foot of the route from the end of George's Lane and the one through Cross Bank Covert. By that time I had heard that use of the footpaths was being challenged by the a group of men who were shooting on the fields and by the landowner. Having known and used the routes since about 1978 I did not think this was right.
5. I attended a public meeting in St Stephen's Social Club and completed two user evidence forms. I have reviewed the content of both 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 started to use this route shortly after 1978 when I moved to Banks and continued to use it through to 2012. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission nor was I given permission to use the route.
7. I used the route on foot mainly for dog walking and estimate that I use it on average 12 times a year, although during the summer months I used it twice weekly at times. I recall seeing other people using the route on foot, especially other dog walkers.
8. I don't recall seeing any private signs along the route otherwise I wouldn't have used it and always believed it to be a footpath

connecting to the path along the new embankment via the stile at the end of the track.

9. With specific reference to Order route 2 which ran from Charnley's Lane to the New Embankment (points F-G-H-I on the Order Map) I did not complete a user evidence form for this route in 2012 but I can confirm that I also started to use it shortly after 1978 when I moved to Banks and I continued to use it through to 2012.
10. Originally, I would walk along either George's Lane or Charnley's Lane and then continue along Order routes 1 or 2 to get to the New Embankment. I would then walk along the New Embankment returning to the village along whichever of the two routes I had not walked along on my way out to the New Embankment. I would regularly walk this circuit and estimate that I used Order route 2 on average 12 times a year, although during the summer months I used it twice weekly at times. I recall seeing other people using the route on foot, especially other dog walkers.
11. I don't recall seeing any private signs along the route otherwise I wouldn't have started to use it and always believed it to be a footpath connecting to the path along the New Embankment via the stile at the end of the track.
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 soon after 1978 through to 2012 as

part of a circular walk from the village.

13. I first became aware of this route when I was walking along the footpath on the New Embankment and saw the gap in the fence and trodden path leading off into the woods. I thought this was a magical route and would love to walk through it to see the variety of plants and flowers that grew there.
14. I used the route on foot, mainly for dog walking, approximately once a month, again probably more in summer.
15. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission nor was I given permission to use the route. I don't recall seeing any private signs on the route until some were erected in 2012 when the route was blocked off and you could no longer use it.
16. In summary, I have known of and used the full lengths of Order routes 1, 2 and 5 since soon after I moved to the area in 1978. I did not use the other two routes located at the western end of the village but only because they were located at the other end of the village from where I would normally walk.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed:

Pulling

Date:

17/3/25