

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
(DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY)  
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER NO.13 1997

UPGRADING TO BRIDLEWAY OF PUBLIC FOOTPATHS 47,48 (PART)  
AND 49 (PART) AND ADDITION OF A SECTION OF BRIDLEWAY  
PARALLEL TO FOOTPATHS 48 (PART) and 49 (PART) NORTH MEOLS  
WEST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF EDWARD CROWHURST

I EDWARD CROWHURST, of Meols Hall Cottage, Churchtown Southport  
WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-

I was employed by the Scarisbrick Estate between 1954 and 1979 when the  
Estate was sold. I was an Estate foreman.

I know the area along and near the old embankment very well.

I recall seeing horses on several occasions on the track at the bottom of the  
embankment passing near Cross Bank Cottage. There were never any  
notices erected to deter horses and I was never told by the Estate to turn  
horse riders back or to stop them using the tracks alongside the embankment  
and the connecting tracks such as down Brow Lane, which is called Bank  
Pace.

I recall that a Mr Booth was land agent for the Scarisbrick Estate for several  
years and was at the Scarisbrick Estate Office. Then Edmund Kirby's  
became Land Agents, the Managing Agent being a Mr McAllister. I would  
consider it extremely likely that Mr McAllister knew horseriders were using the  
tracks. Mr Booth had certainly known, as he was at Cross Bank Cottage on a



*weekly*  
~~daily~~ basis when it was being renovated and horseriders had passed along the tracks.

I recall being asked to put a gate on Brow Lane about 200 metres from Ralph's Wife's Lane. I do not recall the gate being padlocked and would think that it was not, as the track was well used by the farmers who would have certainly complained if the gate had been locked. I put the gate up with a colleague, Mr Arthur Howard and he recalls being told that the gate was to stop tipping in the ditches and vehicles accessing the embankment as the sand was being taken. I recall that the sides of the gate were left as "gaps". I was never asked to maintain the gate and the gate fell into disrepair and was never been replaced.

I do not recall any other gates across the tracks alongside the old embankment. There was a gate at one end of Charnley's Lane.

All the years that I worked for the Scarisbrick Estate I recall that lots of members of the public used to visit the marsh. They would walk along the tracks. I recall mothers pushing prams and walking with youngsters. Everyone treated the land with respect and the farmers and landowners never stopped anyone.

As I have known this area for a long time I have heard reference to an old road that used to be at the bottom of the embankment on the seaward side. I would have thought that the landward side would have been better, but apparently the road was on the seaward side.

I hope that my recollections are of assistance to the Inquiry.

Signed .....  
Edward Crowhurst

Dated .....November 2001

