

**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 MRS LINDA STOBBS

1. My name is Linda Stobbs and I live at 10 Lancaster Drive, Banks. I was born in 1953 , I have lived in Banks since 1977 and 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
3. In 2012 my husband (Raymond) completed three user evidence forms confirming use on foot of three routes on Banks Enclosed Marsh.
4. The forms were completed by Raymond but provided evidence of use from us both as we would often walk the routes together.
5. I have reviewed the content of each of the user evidence forms and this Witness Statement provides further information regarding my own personal use of the routes.

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 this route from 1978 to 2012 as part of a circular walk from home.
7. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission or was given permission to use the route.
8. I used the route on foot, often with my husband, approximately 30 times a year.
9. When we used the route, we would see others walking along it and would sometimes see people riding horses.
10. I always believed the route to be a public footpath.
11. With specific reference to Order route 2 which ran from Charnley's Lane to the New Embankment (shown between points F-G-H-I on the Order Map) I used this route as part of a circular route from home between 1978 and 2012.
12. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission or was given permission to use the route.
13. I used the route on foot, on average 20-30 times a year and we would often see other people walking and cycling along it.
14. I always believed the route to be a public footpath.

15. 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 used this route from 1978 until the landowner dug ditches across it making it difficult to use. I can't remember exactly when this was done but I think it was only just before Raymond completed the user evidence forms in 2012.

16. I used the route on foot about 20 times a year. I only used the route on foot and would often see other people walking it.

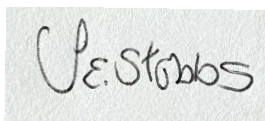
17. I was never stopped or turned back when using the route, and never sought permission or was given permission to use the route. I always believed the route to be a public footpath. We were very sad to lose the right to walk these paths, it was good for our wellbeing, enjoying the quiet and the wildlife.

18. In summary, I have known about and used the full lengths of Order routes 1, 2 and 5 since 1978 and believed the routes to be public footpaths.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.E. Stobbs".

Date: 1st March 2025

