

**The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way for the County of
Lancashire**

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Lancashire County Council

**The Lancashire County Council Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights
of Way (Definitive Map Modification) (No.6) Order 2012**

**Claimed Public Footpath from Conder Green to Nans Buck,
Thurnham, Lancaster City**

PROOF OF EVIDENCE – IAIN COOKE

1. I, Iain Cooke of 1 Ashton Barn, Ashton with Stodday, LA2 0AJ moved to this address in 2001. I found out about this route from talking to a neighbour who mentioned people walk the shore and there is no one currently living at Pennyhill and Waterloo.
2. I walk this route with my wife, children and grandchildren, on average I walk the route twice a week for pleasure and enjoyment. About 80% of the time I walk this route I see other people walking it too. I walk the Nans Buck to Conder Green route and I very rarely use the old railway line.
3. I have not used the route since 2007 when the trouble with the new owners started in the village. We got told that we could not access the Right of Way turning left outside of our house and was not allowed to use the road, this was the way me and my family would access the route onto the shore. I stopped using the route before any prevention occurred as I didn't want any hassle.
4. However when I did use the route I would start at Nans Buck (Point J on the Order plan) I would walk through the gate and walk down the embankment to Point I, I do occasionally cut straight across from Point J down onto the shore. I do remember seeing a trodden path to follow down the shore to Point H, I would then follow the boundary of the sea wall walking past Waterloo and getting to Pennyhill where I would either walk up on top of the sea wall or below, I did find that the top would be much drier and below would be more muddy, which ever route I took I would then always end up at Point D. The path here is much more defined and I would just continue to follow the path on the ground which runs parallel to the sea wall, all the way south down to Point A, at Point A I would exit the route and I think there was a gate that was permanently open, I am not sure if it is locked now.

5. Around the time of 2006-2007, barbed wire was put up along the route preventing access by Stodday Land, they made it clear it was there land and they didn't want people using it and that people would get harassed if they did, so I stopped using it. I myself have never been challenged when using the route before 2006-2007 and I was never challenged by Stodday Land but I had heard of others who had been challenged.
6. I was aware that the Pye family owned the land previous to Stodday Land, but I don't think they owned the land when I first moved to the area as from my understanding they had gone into administration by this point. However when I arrived in the area I was told by Andrew Pye who was a developer of houses that there was free access onto the shore. I then took it upon myself to contact the Ramblers and the person I spoke to was under the impression that the route being used was an established walking route.
7. When I did use this route the occasional tide would prevent access, on the very high tides the water would cover almost all of the route apart from the top of the sea wall between points E-F. I found that the tides affected the route more in the Winter months than the Summer months, but it was easily avoidable, I would just walk the route when the tide was out, the route also never disappeared and can always been seen on the ground when the tide is out.
8. Throughout the time my wife and I and our children and grandchildren have used this route permission was never sought as it was just always accessible, it is an enjoyable route to walk and has great views and I would one day like to walk the route again knowing I won't be challenged or harassed by the new owners.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement prepared in 2016 are true.

IAIN COOKE

Signed

Dated.....

NOTE: MR COOKE HAS MOVED HOUSE AND THE OMA WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT HIM IN 2024