

**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 – JIM PYE

1. I, Jim Pye of Meldhams, Ashton with Stodday, Lancaster, LA2 0AJ, lived at Waterloo Cottage which is now known as Waterloo House from birth. I have used the route shown on the Order Map as long as I can remember as the foreshore was in the ownership of my Grandfather's company W&J Pye Limited. William and John Pye co-founded the company in the 1800's and the company then went onto 3 of William's sons, Tom, Jim and Bob Pye, it later went onto Bob's 2 sons John and Edgar Pye. In 2006 the company went into administration and soon after Stodday Land took over the ownership.
2. I have lived at the Meldhams since 1993 with my wife Betty and before then I always resided close by, I have previously lived at Tarnwater Farm which was also in the ownership of the W&J Pye company and in the South Lancaster area apart from a short spell when I completed an apprenticeship in Coventry. My use of the route has varied over the years, when I was younger I always played on the shore with my friends or family members as Waterloo Cottage was in the ownership of W&J Pye. Families would take it in turns to stay at the cottage during the holiday season, but all family members would visit each other. I always remember seeing people on the shore and my grandfather never challenged anyone and often greeted people passing by.
3. As a child I was more likely to use the foreshore as a playing area as we would play in the sea and play games along the shore. Now I use the route everyday if not twice a day to walk my dog. As my property is near Nans Buck I use the Nans Buck entrance onto the shore at Point J and as the route is quite long I am not always able to walk the full length to Conder Green (Point A). However there is a clear trodden line on the shore so its obvious were people have been walking for many years. When I walk down from Point J I follow the trodden path on the ground as shown on the Order Map to Waterloo, when I get to Waterloo I continue the path round the wall to Point G, this is were I either walk up on top of the sea wall when the tide is in or were I continue along the bottom, it does also depend on what way the dog has taken, but I

am most likely to walk on the top. When I am up on top of the sea wall you can clearly see Pennyhill, the owners of Pennyhill have never had a problem with me walking on top of the sea wall and they actually have a gate that directly opens onto the shore for their access, however I have heard that their access has been prevented when Stodday took over.

4. Throughout the whole time I have been using the route either as child when I was playing, when I was holidaying at Waterloo Cottage and now when I walk the dog I have always seen others using the route, it's a known route in the area and the public have always had access onto the shore and it has never been questioned. As far as I am aware W&J Pye and the other owners of the company never had a problem with people walking on the shore and as far as I'm concerned accepted it to be a Public Right of Way, nor am I aware of anyone ever being challenged. For a short spell of time I lived at Waterloo Cottage with Bob Pye during his ownership of the W&J Pye Company and from Waterloo you can easily see other people on the shore and using the route, Bob never challenged anyone for being on the route or on the land and he never mentioned anything to me about people using the shore.
5. As the route is along the foreshore it is quite often affected by tides, once a fortnight there are high tides and these vary in strength and height and can quite often cover most of the route. Some parts of the route A-C as shown on the Order Map rarely get covered by the tide. Once the tide goes back out people are able to walk the route again, the path is still always visible on the ground and people avoid walking the route during the high tides. I have never had a problem using the route in regards to the tides and I walk my dog around the clock of the tides to avoid being affected by one.
6. After Stodday Land took over ownership after W&J Pye went into administration, they attempted to prevent access onto the shore by erecting barbed wire along access points. I remember people cutting the barbed wire to re-gain access onto the shore and I never found myself prevented from using the route. I heard of people talking about the wire that Stodday Land had put up but never heard of anyone not using the route or being prevented. This path has been used for many years long before Stodday Land took over, and it has been a huge part of my upbringing not just for me but for all my family members.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

JIM PYE

MR PYE WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO SIGN THE STATEMENT IN 2024