

Kirklees Council
(Huddersfield Public Bridleway 231 – Sandy Lane to Nether Moor Road, South
Crosland)
Public Path Modification Order 2018

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

PINS Ref: ROW/3202859

INQUIRY DATE: 29 January 2019

Proof of Evidence: Jane Whittell

West Royd Farm, March Lane, Shepley, Huddersfield HD8 8AY

1. I was born on [REDACTED] 1968. have lived at West Royd Farm since 2007.
Before then I lived in Netherton, and before that South Crosland. I have lived in the local area since I was five.
2. I started riding the route that is the subject of this inquiry when I was five. I used it on a horse several times a week, almost daily some weeks, and occasionally on a bicycle when I was a child. I also walked it several times a month when I lived in South Crosland (1999 to 2004) when taking the dog for a walk.
3. When I was using the route, whilst as a child and adult I regularly saw other people, mostly riders, as nearly everyone who had a horse went along there. I also saw walkers, some of them with dogs, and cyclists.
4. There used to be a pole across the route when the cows were being taken between the shed and the field to stop them escaping. If the cows were crossing then you had to wait till they had passed, or until there was a gap. If the pole was across the route then you had to dismount to open it. The pole

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was not there all the time. Sometimes if old Mr Bradley was around he moved the pole for me to pass.

5. There was also a gate across the route, again when the cows were coming in. The gate and pole formed a route for the cows so they didn't wander up the lane. The gate was never locked.

6. In approximately 2009 boulders were put across the entrance to track at the Thewlis Lane end. I presume the boulders were put there by Johnson Quarries to stop gypsies getting in which was a problem at the time. Johnsons did this for all the local landowners, and not just on tracks, but also any gateways that opened onto the road. The boulders stopped vehicles, but there was a large gap left to get past them on foot or on a horse or bike. In May 2015 the boulders were moved further up the track and closer together making it impassable. Around the same time home made signs were put up saying No Public Right of Way.

7. I lived at the Airfield from the age of 4 to 21 and always had a pony/horse. When I left home and moved to Armitage Bridge I continued to keep my horse there as my family still lived there. I kept my horse at the Airfield until 2007 when I moved to Shepley. During this time I used this route for hacking out almost daily. Once I stopped keeping my horse at the Airfield I only rode the route every six to eight weeks or so when I came across to ride with my

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sister Sue Chadwick, sister in law Andrea Whitham, and my niece Anna Chadwick. The only period I haven't regularly used this route was whilst living abroad, from 1993 to 1996. During this time I would ride it when I was home visiting family, once or twice a year.

8. I have never been challenged whilst riding the route, and have never asked for permission to use it, as I believed it was a public right of way, and have never been given any reason to believe otherwise, as and the farmer and family always seemed happy when we rode through and would say hello and pass the time of day.

I believe that the facts and matters contained in this proof of evidence are true.

Signed:..... Dated:.....