

Interview with Sheina Scott

The interview took place on the 30th of July 2017 at 11:10 by telephone.

This lane was used by horse and cart when my mother was alive, in the 1920s it was used by the general public, everyone used this path. I don't understand why people were stopped. Old Mr Bradley welcomed us all; it was only since the younger generation took over that it got like this.

I used it on foot nearly every day and riding. We used it as a short cut from where we used to live on Sandene Avenue on Balmoral. We would take the dogs for walks up there and when we were young we would play up there, we would go all over the place. We saw other people all the time, it was very well used. On foot and horse, not so much on bicycle, cycling is a more recent thing with the bicycles that can go off road. It was regularly used by the riding schools. I took hacks out that way in the 1980s and 1990s when I worked at a riding school. Groups were taken out most days. The group size would depend on the level of the riders but up to six or eight riders at a time. It was close to the woods. It was a useful route for those who wanted to go for a walk but couldn't manage the stiles.

I don't go that way now, I don't like abuse and the farmers attitude. I don't want to walk somewhere where people are nasty and I can't ride anymore. The granddad would open the gates for you when he was there. The grandson doesn't say much, just the wife mostly. She wants to know why you are coming through and where you are going. It is only recently that she has started to say it is not a public right of way. We never had permission to use it, you just walked up it and past the farm. If Old Mr Bradley was there he would talk to you and he never said anything about us using it so you knew it was alright to use it.

This started after Kirklees took over the maps. Huddersfield had loads of maps showing this as a green lane but a lot of maps got destroyed when Kirklees Council took over.

Not so many people use paths now, people walk less often. It has been used to my knowledge for almost 100 years. I've used it from when I was a kid and am sixty nine now and my Mum and Dad used to walk there. I used it with my Mum and Dad and Carol McCrorie used it and she is older than me.

I heard this came about because of idiots on motorbikes. There was a gate put in in the early 2000s. It was a gate that you could open and shut on a horse. I think Old Mr Bradley was there then. A caravan was put across after the gate but I am not sure exactly when. Boulders were also put in at the bottom. I understood that these were to stop travellers and people from Manchester who would burn out stolen cars there. But you could still get around them on horse, bicycle and foot. The travellers were a pain but you could call Johnson Quarries and they would come and put a boulder in for you. We could understand the boulders to stop burnt out cars and protect

your property but we just want to be able to ride on off road tracks as its safer than on the roads.

I don't recall the signs now but if I had seen them I would have just though oh, she's off again.

Claire L Tregembo
Definitive Map Officer

I confirm that this is a true summary of the interview that took place on the 30th of June 2017

Signed Sheina Scott

Date