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**Public Right of Way User Evidence Statement**

This statement should be completed and returned to the person making the application so that it can be submitted with or form part of an application seeking a change to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way.

This statement is intended to provide preliminary evidence about the application. When the City and County of Swansea commences detailed research, an officer may contact you to seek further information or ask you to be interviewed about your evidence.

This statement is designed to help establish whether or not the route being claimed in the application is a public right of way. It also provides evidence of how it is used (for example on foot, on horseback, by vehicles etc).

You should answer the questions as fully as possible and not keep back any information, whether for or against the public claim. This is important if this information is to be of real value in establishing the status of the application route. The information given may be examined at a public inquiry.

**This statement should be completed by one person only and should relate to only one route.** If you need more space please continue on a separate sheet which will need to be attached to this statement.

**If completing the statement by hand, please ensure it is written legibly and in black ink.**

**Confidentiality – Please Read Carefully**

**The information you give in this statement cannot be treated as confidential.**

* It may be necessary for the City and County of Swansea to disclose information received from you to others, which may include other local authorities, the Planning Inspectorate and other government departments, public bodies, other organisations, landowners and members of the public. If the application proceeds to a public inquiry your evidence will be made available to the inquiry.
* If the City and County of Swansea proceeds with the application but it is contested (for example by a landowner), there may be a public inquiry. This will be held locally and if you are unable to attend your evidence will be given in writing, but user evidence is of much greater value if you attend in person and are prepared to answer questions about it. Inquiries are kept as informal as possible and the City and County of Swansea will help you with the procedure.

**DECLARATION**

Swansea Council is the data controller for the personal information you provide on this form. Your information will be used to provide you with the service that you have requested and will not be used for any other purpose. We will not share your data with any third parties without your explicit consent unless we are required or permitted to do so by law.

Data protection law describes the legal basis for our processing your data as necessary for the pursuit of our legitimate interests. **For further information about how Swansea Council uses your personal data, including your rights as a data subject, please see our corporate**[**privacy notice**](https://www.swansea.gov.uk/privacynotice)**on our website.**

**Please print your name here ……………………………………………………………….**

**Telephone Number …………………………………………………………………………..**

**Email Address …………………………………………………………………………………**

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| --- |
| **Statement of Truth** |
| **I BELIEVE THAT THE FACTS AND MATTERS CONTAINED IN THIS STATEMENT ARE TRUE AND I HAVE READ THE DECLARATION ABOVE**  **Your Signature:**  **Date:**  **You should keep a copy of the completed statement**  Warning: If you dishonestly enter information or make a statement that you know is, or might be, untrue or misleading, and intend by doing so to make a gain for yourself or another person, or to cause loss or the risk of loss to another person, you may commit the offence of fraud under section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006, the maximum penalty for which is 10 years’ imprisonment or an unlimited fine, or both. |

**Information on this page of the Statement will be redacted and not made publically available**

**PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY USER EVIDENCE STATEMENT**

**ABOUT YOU**

Name ………………………………..……………………………………………….………………..…

Address …….………………………………………………………………………………….……..……

……………….………………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………….…………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………..…………Postcode ……………………………………

Year of Birth …………………………………….……….…………………………………..……………

Have you lived at any other addresses during the time you have used the path or way?

If so, please provide details and years. Full addresses are not required.

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**ABOUT THE APPLICATION ROUTE**

How do you think the application route should be recorded?

* As a footpath (public rights on foot only)
* As a bridleway (public rights on foot and on horseback or bicycle)
* As a restricted byway (public rights on foot, on horseback or any non-motorised vehicle)
* As a byway open to all traffic (public rights for all classes of use, including motor vehicles)

Describe the application route (include start and finish points and provide OS grid references if you can)

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**MAP OF THE APPLICATION ROUTE**

Please attach an extract from a map of your own choice to identify the route you are providing evidence about, and annotate it with anything you provide details about in this statement. Please sign and date your map.

**YOUR USE OF THE APPLICATION ROUTE**

1. In which years did you use the application route?

From ………………………….….. To ……………………….……

1. Were there any extended periods during which you did not use the route at all? If so, please state when and why?

…………………………………………………………………………………………………….………..

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1. How did you use the application route and how often? Please tick any that apply.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Every few months | Once a  year | Other  (please describe) |
| On foot |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| On horseback |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| By pedal cycle |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| By car |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other [please specify]  ………………….. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Has the application route always followed the same course?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Yes | * Don’t know | * No |

If no – how and when was the route altered?

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Approximately how wide is the application route? Please give your estimate of the width across which you used the route including the width used when passing others or walking with others. Take care to consider the overall width of the route. If this varies, please describe how, or please state ‘Don’t know’.

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1. What type of surface does the application route have? (for example grass, gravel, earth)

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1. Have there ever been any of the following on the application route?
2. Stiles. State locations and show on your map.

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How long were they in place?

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1. Gates. State locations, indicate whether locked – and when - and show on your map.

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1. Other barriers. State what they were and location, how long they were in place and show on your map.

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1. Did any of the above prevent you from using the application route?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes, please give details

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

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1. Have you ever seen any signs or notices suggesting whether or not the application route is a public right of way? (for example “Private”, “Keep Out”, No Right of Way “Trespassers will be Prosecuted”)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Yes | * Don’t know | * No |

If yes – state when and give details, including when they were present and mark their location on your map

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………

*……………………………………………………………………………………………………………*

*…………………*…………………………………………………......................................................

1. Have you seen other people using the application route whilst you have been using it?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes, please provide any additional information about this

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………

*……………………………………………………………………………………………………………*

*…………………*…………………………………………………......................................................

**Land Ownership**

1. Were you working for any owner or occupier of land crossed by the application route at the time when you used it, or were you then a tenant / licensee of any such owner?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes, provide details and dates

…………………………………………………………………...........................................................

*……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..*

*…………………*………………………………………………….......................................................

1. Did the owner or occupier ever give you permission (or did you seek permission) to use the application route?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes,

1. From whom? …..…………………………………………………………………………….
2. When? …..……………………………………………………………………………………
3. Has anyone ever told you the application route was not public (including by an owner, tenant of the land or by anyone in their employment)?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes, by whom and when?

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Have you ever been stopped or turned back when using the application route?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes, please give details including when this happened

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1. Has anyone else ever told you that they were prevented from using the application route?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes, please give details including when this happened

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1. Have you ever had a private right to use the application route? (for example, an easement, private right of access, licence, etc)

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| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes, please give full details, including who gave the permission, why and when

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**Other Information**

1. Do you have, or do you have knowledge of, any documentary evidence which is relevant to the application route or which indicates public use? (for example photographs, guidebooks, letters, sale documents, old maps, etc)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

If yes – please provide details

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*………………………………………………………………………………………………………………*

1. Please give any further information which you consider would be helpful in reaching a decision as to whether the application route should be recorded as a public right of way? Continue on a separate sheet if necessary. If you wish to provide a separate sketch map, please do so and attach to this statement.

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1. During the investigation the City and County of Swansea may want to interview some or all of the claimants in order to gather additional information. Would you be willing to talk to an officer from the City and County of Swansea about your knowledge of the application route?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

1. Would you be willing to attend a hearing, or public inquiry to give evidence if necessary?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * No | * Yes |

**Please return this form to:**

Countryside Access Team, Civic Centre, Swansea, SA1 3SN