

25<sup>th</sup> July 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I Richard Wall of Kleine Cottage, Romaldkirk have lived in the village since 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1947. I have always understood that the grass in the middle of the village including the sections outside of peoples' houses is designated village green and I believe that this should remain to be the case.

Over the years I have seen a lot of recreational activity on these areas including children playing, dog walking and even hay making.

I have a right of way next to the section in question, up Sennings Lane. I have seen many people walk over the area in question as it gives quick access to Sennings Lane.

Kind Regards

Richard Wal.

Kleine Cottage  
Romaldkirk

## Romaldkirk Village Green Statement

1. Mr Jon-Paul Cutting

Currently living at; Snooze Croft; Rearquhar, Dornoch, Sutherland, IV25 3NE

Joint owner of;

The Old Butcher's Shop, Romaldkirk, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9EH

2. I lived in Romaldkirk from 1979 until 2001 with my parents at Balbardie and then from 2001 until 2007 with my wife at Greenside on Fell Lane then Caroline Cottage next door to the Kirk Inn, whilst renovating The Old Butcher's Shop which we lived in from 2005 until 2007 and still own.
3. I grew up in the village and spent a great deal of time playing around the village with my friends, including Nigel Addison and Mark Lawson. We were often on our bikes and would regularly ride across the greens including the piece of land in question.

I remember that we made a 'jump' for our bikes on that piece of land using the stones placed there to prevent cars from parking on the grass. One of my friends lived in the house opposite.

Me and my friends used to join in with the Youth Club held most Friday evenings, there were varied activities but one that I remember in relation to this piece of land was playing on it before and after playing hide and seek in the garden in front of Rose Stile Cottage (empty at the time).

I can also remember that part of the green being used by people sitting and standing to watch the cars taking part in the annual Beamish car rally coming along the road in front of the Kirk Inn.

Each year during the village summer fair, people would also stand and sit there, particularly during the children's procession.

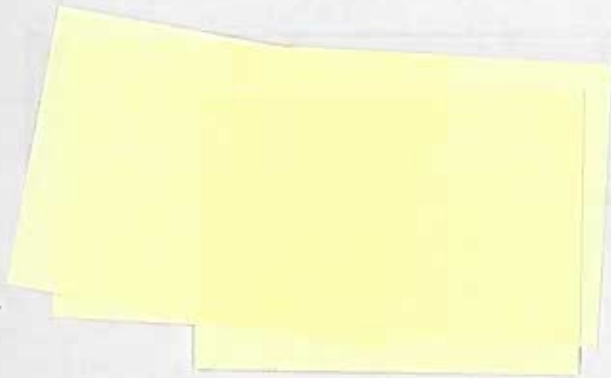
Until around 2003 The Kirk Inn used to organise a bonfire and fireworks display on Bonfire Night on the main green to which people travelled from other villages and towns often resulting in a large crowd, some of whom I can recall would be stood on that piece of land to watch the display.

Whilst living at Caroline Cottage, we parked our car alongside the main village green directly in front of the cottage and in walking to and from the vehicle I regularly (at least weekly, sometimes daily) saw people (walkers, dog walkers,

both local residents and visitors) walking over the land to access Sennings Lane, something that I also did.

My parents live at a property off the bottom end of the main green so again when walking or driving up and down the village to their property (which I still do when we're down to visit four or five times a year) I saw and sometimes still see walkers crossing the piece of land.

4. I can confirm that I have used the land for the purposes described above and that this has been between at 1979 and 2007 and I can confirm that I have also seen the land used for the purposes described above whilst I was living in the village and on subsequent return visits.



## Romaldkirk Village Green Statement

1. Mrs Jane S Cutting

Currently living at; Snooze Croft; Rearquhar, Dornoch, Sutherland, IV25 3NE

Joint owner of;

The Old Butcher's Shop, Romaldkirk, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 9EH

2. I lived in Romaldkirk with Jon-Paul Cutting my then boyfriend now husband, from 2001 until 2007, firstly renting Greenside on Fell Lane then Caroline Cottage next door to the Kirk Inn, whilst renovating The Old Butcher's Shop which we lived in from 2005 until 2007 and still own.

I have known Romaldkirk since childhood as I have relatives living in the area, and have walked through the village on many occasions as part of 'expeditions' undertaken for the Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award scheme.

3. I can recall sitting on a public bench (no longer there) on the piece of land in question to eat a packed lunch during one of those DoE expeditions, which took place between the years of 1983 and 1984 whilst I was a pupil of Longfield Comprehensive School in Darlington. My group had arrived into Romaldkirk from along Senning's Lane (part of the Teesdale Way).

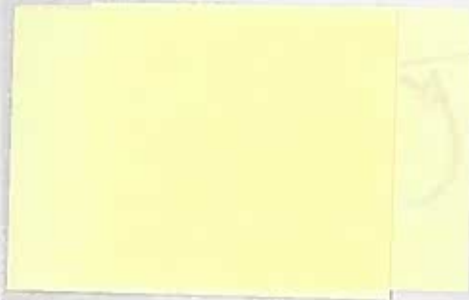
Whilst I was living at Caroline Cottage (around 100m to the North of the land in question) I had occasion to stand there in order to look at the TV aerial for the cottage as we were experiencing problems with the reception.

Also whilst living at Caroline Cottage, we parked our car alongside the main village green directly in front of the cottage and in walking to and from the vehicle I regularly (at least weekly, sometimes daily) saw people (walkers, dog walkers, both local residents and visitors) walking over the land to access Sennings Lane, something that I also did, particularly when walking down the village on a circular route from and back to either Greenside or The Old Butcher's Shop. Indeed, especially on Summer weekends, that stretch of road where we parked was often also used by people either visiting the pub or parking to walk from there, some of whom would go down Sennings Lane and sometimes, particularly if there was a group of walkers or a couple of families meeting up, people would move off the road and onto the land whilst the party assembled so that they were not blocking the road. I can remember watching a baby being strapped into an 'all-terrain' buggy on the land in question, (they were a novelty at the time).

My husband's parents live at a property off the bottom end of the main green so again when walking or driving up and down the village to their property (which we still do when we're down to visit four or five times a year) I saw and sometimes still see walkers crossing the piece of land.

Until around 2003 The Kirk Inn used to organise a bonfire and fireworks display on Bonfire Night on the main green to which people travelled from other villages and towns often resulting in a large crowd, some of whom I can recall would be stood on that piece of land to watch the display.

4. I can confirm that I have used the land for the purposes described above and that this has been between at least 1983 and 2007 and I can confirm that I have seen the land used for the purposes described above, both whilst I was living in the village and on subsequent return visits.



Thursday 26th July 2018

My name is Alison Walton and I have lived at The Shieling Romaldkirk since 1999.

When I first moved here my 2 children were small and as we had no garden space they would play on the village greens including the Application land adjacent to Sennings lane.

My son William would often play with Ivan Carter Becker from the Hall as they were at the same school and this would be a couple of times a week when the weather was good.

I have a dog and again with having no garden I walk him everyday around the village and use Sennings lane and the land about 3-5 times per week.

I see most days Lesley Cutting on the Application land with her dog Wallace and also Paul Jackson from the Kirk Inn heading towards Sennings lane with his dogs off the lead and on the land in front of Rose Style and Rose Style cottage. I see him leave the Kirk with his dogs every day as my front door is virtually opposite his.

I am also aware that Mrs Gill Blakeman from Post House Cottage, opposite me, walks accross this area and down Sennings Lane most days with her dog Bramble.

The Application land can easily be viewed from many of the roads around the Greens and I have witnessed Ramblers ,local dog walkers and village children using the land.

I have always considered this land to be village green and have used it accordingly.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Alison Walton  
The Shieling  
Romaldkirk

July 2018

17<sup>th</sup>

**Witness Statement of Evelyn Lee  
Romaldkirk Village Green Application Land**

My name is Evelyn Lee and I have lived at Bengey Hill, Snaisgill Road, Middleton-in-Teesdale since 1967.

Since 1996 I have travelled 3 days per week to The Hall at Romaldkirk, to work as secretary and personal assistant to Gillian Carter. Therefore I drive past the Application Land for Romaldkirk Village green status at least twice a day 3 days per week.

As well as driving past the Application Land I would walk past the Application Land to the Kirk Inn Post Office on most of the three days until it closed in 2008 and after that I would drive to the Post Box at the bottom of Fell Road to post the day's correspondence.

Until 2008 I would take one of Miss Carter's dogs Nell, who was semi-blind up the village over the Application land and the continuing village greens along the Sennings Lane Highway, across the road and up the Fell Road. This was every afternoon when I was working. I therefore had ample opportunity to see all activities happening in and around the Village Green.

I would see Dorothy Goodall with her dog and Mary Kirkup from the Alms Houses with a large tan coloured dog walking over the Application Land. Also, most days I would see Mr Jackson from the Kirk Inn, and his dogs as he entered and existed Sennings Lane. I have seen walkers stop to check their route with their maps and also children of day trippers and residents playing on the Application Land.

July 2018

**Witness Statement of Gillian Carter  
Romaldkirk Village Green Application Land**

My name is Gillian Carter and I have lived at The Hall, Romaldkirk since 1985. I have a right of way along Sennings Lane which leads to my paddocks and woodland and this lane runs adjacent to the Application Land.

The Hall is approximately 60 Metres from the Application Land and must be passed on entering/leaving The Hall.

The Application Land has been used extensively by myself, family and friends since 1985, and absolutely throughout the qualifying period 1996 – 2016.

As a family we have had dogs and horses throughout my life in Romaldkirk, so exercising them has always been a priority, combining this with working from home.

Lesley Cutting's land is at the top of the village and she would take my Shetland pony and her horse from my paddock up to the fields. The Shetland would always walk on the grass (Application Land) as it was unshod. This would happen at least 3 times per week and I would go with her to bring the horses in if the weather was bad or the dogs needed a walk.

My son Ivan was born in 1989 and has given his own statement about use of the Application Land. I witnessed him playing on the Application Land on Middle Green with his friends from the village most weekends during the summer/autumn months as this was a safe area to be. This would be from 1995 to 2005

Since 1996 I have worked full time from home and therefore have had much opportunity to monitor everyday activities around the village. The following are activities/village residents I have seen on the Application Land and frequency:-

Lesley Cutting (resident) walking her dog on the Application Land and about twice per week standing chatting with me.

Alison Walton (resident) walking her dog at least twice per week.

Harry and Elizabeth Dick with their dog about once per month.

Dinah Needham (lives directly opposite the Application Land) walking over the land towards Sennings Lane about once a week.

Gill Blakeman (resident) walking her dog. She lives on the same side of the road as the Application Land and comes down to Sennings Lane or to my Coach House which is occupied by her mother-in-law. I have seen her about once a month.

Delius and Lara Singer (residents) walking with 2 dogs every weekend.

Joanne and Derek Nixon (residents) walking with one dog every weekend.



Val Henderson(deceased) lived directly opposite the Application Land and would exercise her dog on the Village Green outside her house and on the Application Land. I have also seen Mrs Henderson sitting on the Application Land on a summer's day when she would move her chair from outside her house to follow the sun, whilst reading. Neville Bond (resident), collected two of my dogs every morning for two years (approx 2009-2011) and would walk up the village over the Application Land, and subsequent parcels of village green towards Hunderthwaite or the Fell Road at the top of the village.

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July 2018

18<sup>th</sup>

**Witness Statement of Gillian Carter  
Romaldkirk Village Green Application Land**

In the last few years I have seen him with his son's dog also on the Application Land. Dorothy Goodall (deceased) with one of her many rescue dogs, coming over the Middle Green past the Application Land to go up Sennings Lane to see her horse in my paddock. Her dogs would not be on leads as they were not near a main road and they would run around.

Sarah Wall, who came back to the village in 2010, standing on the Application Land with a push chair and toddler, talking to Lesley Cutting, sometimes with her dog Keto. Various pre school children from the village playing on the Land with parents.

The Teesdale Way runs directly along Sennings Lane past the Application Land and is a main thoroughfare for all Ramblers, casual visitors and dog walkers. The Application Land is a natural stopping point on entering the village and I have on numerous occasions stopped to chat with people who are asking directions for the next part of the Teesdale Way, asking about the pubs for food or indeed just chatting about the beauty of the village with other walkers and residents.

I pass the Application Land on foot at least once a day either to the post box, Reading Rooms, or Rose and Crown Hotel. I drive past it at least twice a day and it is easily seen from my garden and security monitor and therefore have the ability to see the Application Land and activities at all times.

Fair Day and Beamish Rally and Open Gardens Day in Romaldkirk all attract many visitors. On these annual occasions I can absolutely say that they have all used the Application Land to sit or stand on to watch, or in the event of the National Trust Open Gardens, have walked past every house in Romaldkirk abutting the Village Greens to catch a glimpse of all gardens.

I have used the land without secrecy and as of right for 33 years and have always known it as Village Green.

The application area was identified as part of Romaldkirk Village Greens under the Law of Property Act 1925, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1930 by the then Lord of the Manor, Claud Snaishall.

Canon Lee registered the Village Greens in 1969, tracing from the 1930 map the boundaries had been miss drawn, this hadnt been picked up on until recently, but the area had always been regarded as open space freely available for residents to use.

We bought our property in Romaldkirk in 1976, by 1978 our son had made friends with the other boys in the Village, some would come from Hollin Crescent using Sennings Lane, the track to meet up with others on the green at the bottom of the track, and vice versa. At times they all used to race down the track when it was muddy ending up on the green, there used to be a bench by the wall of Rose Style Cottage which drew you to that place as there were not the number of benches as there are now, the Finger Post sign for the Teesdale Way was also placed there, this can be clearly seen on Google street View 2009, but the bench had long gone.

I can remember William Iceton sitting on the bench chatting to people and sometimes just sharpening his scythe.

After the passing of Cannon Lee the management of the village greens was given to the Parish Council, Two lawn mowers were bought available for residents to cut the greens outside their property, the large areas were taken for hay by a local farmer, this arrangement went on a number of years until Rev Roy Boff, as Lord of the Manor took over the responsibilities of the Village Greens. He created a committee to help him manage the greens, myself and my partner were part of this committee and held a fundraiser at our house to get funds for grass cutting contractors etc, this stayed in place until Reverend Derek Dalton handed the Village Greens back to the Parish Council in 1997. All the time of the VG committee the application area was treated as village green. I then joined the Parish Council so I could still be involved in the care of the greens.

I was a member of the Parish Fair committee from the 1980, part of my responsibilities were organizing the fancy Dress Parade and putting up the bunting. I made new bunting to go around the village and the team would meet on the Wednesday night before the fair and dress the village, David Robinson and Andy Cosgrove used to do the stretch along from Sennings lane to the reading Rooms and across the top green, the bunting was draped from the trees in Rose style cottage and house gardens which was accessed from the application area. Due to H&S reasons the fair was focused on the lower green the bunting was hung from the trees and usually finished at Sennings Lane end on the finger post.

The Fancy dress parade met outside the Reading Rooms for judging then walked down Sennings Lane to the Low green, it is quite common to see people stood spectating on the application area as it was a natural viewing point, the greens further up were very narrow, I myself would stand there and write out the results for the Guest to announce, as there were usually cars parked outside Dene Lodge and Rosedale.

We used to have open gardens on the morning of the fair, this then became part of the NGS scheme held in June, Rose Stile Gardens were always part of the open gardens until Professor Bowen Jones health deteriorated approximately 8 years ago, people wandered all over the area and rested on the greens.

I recall seeing Christine Hayton from Heather Cote, Fell Lane on the application area many times, with her horse and pony she would let children have rides this would be 2014 approximately, she has now moved from the village. I myself have been on the land after riding from the track and then moving up the village and I would often be with other riders sometimes Gill Carter, Sarah Wall, or Jim Aird.

When Val Henderson moved to the village permanently, Dene Lodge, her car was parked outside so you were naturally moved towards the application land as the road is narrow when you met anyone to talk to, I have seen the children who live in the Old Post House there, especially when there is snow down.

Aileen Clarke who lived at Beechbeck use to met up with other dog owners and they would do some training together at Sennings Lane side of the green to be away from the main road.

I helped a friend with her horse so walked regularly to the hall then would go for a walk with my dog usually up the track or up towards the Reading Rooms, I would say I met Jill Blakeman daily coming from the Old Post house sometimes with her children or at weekends just the two children would walk their dog.

I regularly met Alison Walton during the day and night she would be coming down the village as part of her loop we often met as I was going to the Reading Rooms just outside Rose Stile for a chat, then Di Needam would come out of her house with her dogs for their walks. I would see Neville, Alison's father, he would make his way over the application area checking Rose Stile's gate, it would fall over, and he kept an eye on Rose stile as Howard Bowen Jones was in poor health as did we all when we were passing by. I was often asked directions regarding the walks from that point as it is a busy walking route used by many of all ages. The Duke of Edinburgh candidates setting off from the village every year and resting in various groups on the greens.

The Village Bonfire night became popular, with many people coming from surrounding areas for the free event, the village was mobbed with people and cars, the bonfire and fireworks were on Low green at the top, west end, was cordoned off for H&S sake, a lot of spectators were in the area it was inevitable people stood in front of Hall cottage, Rose Stile, Dene Lodge and around to the Kirk.

As a long term resident of the Village I have always believed, due to its identical nature to the rest of the Village Green that the application land was such and have therefore used it accordingly, as have others.

Lesley Olivia Jane Cutting

Romaldkirk Parish Council Chair.

16<sup>th</sup> July 2018

My name is Martin Neil Jewitt and I have lived and farmed at Gracies Farm Romaldkirk since 1987, previously living at Bunker Hill, Romaldkirk with my father until the age of 16.

Although I have not used the land in front of Rose Stile and Rose Stile Cottage myself, I drive through Romaldkirk village on a daily basis sometimes up to three times per day to check on

my land at Croft Yokes, Eggleston Lane or the Glebe land behind the Rectory in Romaldkirk which entails passing the parcel of land in question. I would be delivering sheep, feeding cattle etc and other land activities.

Since 1997 and also prior to that I have seen numerous residents including but not limited to, Gillian Carter, Dorothy Goodall, Neville Bond, Harry Dick, all of whom have lived here longer than 20 years walking with their dogs around the village and over the parcel of land always regarded as village green, on a daily basis. I would see at least one of them daily depending on my schedule of work or indeed if I was visiting friends in the village when I would stop to chat with whoever was out at that time.

Other dog walkers I have seen are Joe Cosgrove, Mr Colin Jarvis, Mrs Blakeman, and Alison Walton, all residents, on this land.

Over the years I have seen numerous children playing on this part of the green, sometimes with bikes. These would include Ivan Carter Becker, Neil Gaskin, and William Walton of Hollin Crescent. They would ride bikes up and down Sennings Lane and then sit on the land. I have seen other children, whom I don't know also playing here in recent times.

Other newer residents, Mr and Mrs Singer, Mr and Mrs Nixon also use this land for dog walking and relaxing. I see one or the other most weeks.

This land has always been used for community social activities within the village. Romaldkirk Fair is an annual event which covers Sennings Lane from the Reading Rooms at the top of the village down Sennings Lane to the Lower Green with people following the fancy dress parade to the Lower Green and standing on the Rose Stile grass to watch the judging.

The land sits directly adjacent to Sennings Lane track, a public right of way and indeed until the last few years, the Teesdale Way sign was sited on it. It was moved onto the Lower Green for some unknown reason. This track which leads to and from Barnard Castle is very popular with ramblers, dog walkers and visitors staying at the holiday cottages at the Rose and Crown and therefore the land is a natural stopping point. Rambling groups often congregate here to check their maps as they have to cross the Lower Green to find Primrose Lane (the next part of the Teesdale Way). I have witnessed this most weekends throughout the years.

The land has always been known as village green and used accordingly in my lifetime here.

I was born in Romaldkirk at Low Green Farm and lived there from 1978 to 1996 when I went to university, returning home at weekends and holidays. During this time I would ride my ponies through the village with Lesley Cutting, we would ride up past Rosestyle and Dene Lodge, if cars were parked on the road we would use the greens in front of Rosestyle along to the village reading room, we always considered this land to be part of the village green as it seems identical to all other area of the greens.

I came back to live in Romaldkirk full time in 2010 and am now married with 3 children. Since that date I have walked up the highway adjacent to the application land on a regular basis, letting my children play on the Application land. I have stood on the Application land with other locals such as Lesley Cutting and Alison Walton both of whom had been walking their dogs over the land at the time. It is not uncommon to see locals from the village and visitors walking their dogs on the land.

Living in Romaldkirk I have a clear memory of the various fair days that have been held in the village. This is a regular event held once a year on the village greens, and is an event I have regularly been involved with over the years and now take part with my children. Part of the fair is a fancy dress competition which starts at the reading rooms and sees the participants parade down the road to the lower green. When this parade happens each side of the road and the green areas behind it are full of locals and visitors spectating. The Application land is included in this activity with spectators using the area. I myself have taken part in the competition both as a child, with other children and now with my children and have seen people using the land as above.

In my time living in the village I have always understood the application land to be part of the villages greens and have used it as if it were, this seems to have been the same for most locals and certainly from my observations the land has had regular use by the villagers for recreation and pastimes.

Sarah Wall

## Statement - Ivan Carter Becker

Dear Sirs,

I have lived in Romalldkirk since birth (1989) and apart from leaving for educational purposes, in which times I would regularly return for extended periods, weekends, holidays etc, the village has always been my place of residence. As such I feel confident that I am able to provide a full statement of the activities undertaken on the land in question, that I have both witnessed and taken part in.

The land in question forms part of the wider open green space of Romalldkirk with no defining features to suggest that it is in anyway distinct for the surrounding Village Greens, indeed I would have always assumed it to have been such and my use of the land has thus been on that assumption.

My first memories of using the land start from around the age of 7/8 when friends and I from Hollings Crescent would use the land and its surroundings as a bike track, and general area to play. This would be a regular use, after school and in the holidays. The land in question formed part of a bike track that friends and I would use to race around the village, I have a clear memory of being 'told off' by a property owner adjoining the said land for 'riding bikes on the Village Green'. The land also formed part of a wider area to play in general.

My use of the land then continued in the form of walking our families dogs up until the age of around 24, again the land forming what I assumed to be the wider Village Green and thus using it so. In addition to this use I have also used the land intermittently while running, taking up the pastime between the ages of 16-25.

With regards to the activities I have witnessed on the land, I have regularly seen children from the village using the area to play upon. This includes the friends and other children who used the area at the same time as myself and those who I have seen using the land more recently until the parking of a car and planting on the land have made such more difficult.

In addition to local children, the area is often used by dog walkers making their way around the village or up Sennings lane, local inhabitants such as Lesley Cutting, Alison Walton, Neville Bond have used the area since my first memories and more recently Joanne Nixon and Delius Singer could regularly be seen using the land for such purposes.

With regards to other uses, I have witnessed owners of adjoining properties such as the now deceased Howard Bowen-Jones and the Webb family use the land for recreational purposes such as sitting out to watch the Beamish Rally and the village fair, various other local inhabitants also using the land to watch the fancy dress parade which would start at the village reading room and make its way down to the 'middle green'.

In summary, I have lived or regularly visited in the village of Romaldekirk during the full qualify period for the application for the registration of the land as a Village Green. Having regard to the criteria for such a registration I am of the firm belief that through my own use and the observation of other users the requisite user has been satisfied and as such support the application.

Kind Regards

Ivan Carter-Becker