



Powys County Council
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Definitive Map Modification
Order application, downgrading of public bridleway 6, community of
Llanbrynmair

Interviews with the applicant, affected landowners, occupiers and tenants and user witnesses.

Name of interviewer: Siân Barnes

Name of person/people being interviewed: Mr A Ashton and Mr R Owen

Date of interview: 5th October 2017

Location of interview: Cwm-y-Ffynnon farm

Involvement (User witness, landowner, other): Owners of Cwm Ffynnon farm

Mr Ashton and his uncle, Mr Owen, are the owners of Cwm-y-Ffynnon farm. Neither of them recalls horse riders ever using the route of bridleway 6.

They explained that Cwm-y-Ffynnon, Caeaugleision, Cwm Pen Llydan and Esgair Gelynen farms were all part of the Wynnstay Estate. As previous tenants left or abandoned the farms, the family were asked to take on the tenancies by the Estate. They did so and farmed the land. In the early 1980s, the family bought Cwm-y-Ffynnon, Caeaugleision, Esgair Gelynen and Cwm Pen Llydan from the Wynnstay Estate.

Mr Owen was born at Caeaugleision. He recalls that:

- There was a stile on the path, in the same fence line as the new gate, near to the farm house at Cwm-y-Ffynnon. It had rails, steps and a plank.
- The track on the hillside along which the route of the bridleway is shown and the wall beside it are very old, having been there since the time when the land was owned by the Wynnstay Estate.
- He thinks it likely that the track was used to carry peat down from the hillside on sledges to Esgair Gelynen.
- He also recalls that the track was used by the farm prior to the 1950s, to gather sheep using ponies; they travelled along the track then left it and went onto the hill to gather sheep. This would have been a few times per year and Mr Owen does not recall anyone else (other than Cwm-y-Ffynnon farm) using it for sheep gathering.

- He thinks that Cwm Pen Llydan has always been a farm. He does remember there being an oat drying mill, which had a fire for drying oats, by the road at Pandy. This is now derelict but the stone shell of the building is still there. Opposite that was the main mill (Rhiwsaeson Mill.)
- Mr Owen does not recall anyone using the route of bridleway 6 on foot, other than the farm. He does not recall anyone from Cwm Pen Llydan using the route to travel to Cwm-y-Ffynnon.
- He does recall other paths in the area that were used by people, including an old track that was used on foot to travel to Pandy (now footpath 11.)

Mr Ashton recalls that:

- Esgair Gelynen was abandoned in the early 1950s and then his grandfather was asked to take on the tenancy. The house remained empty and they farmed the land.
- The track between Caeaugleision and Esgair Gelynen was used to take the tractor to Esgair Gelynen when they were farming it.
- Mr Ashton's family were asked to take on the tenancy of Cwm-y-Ffynnon by the Wynnstay Estate agents. Tenancy was taken at Cwm-y-Ffynnon due to the fact that the property at Caeaugleision was in a poor state and very damp.
- The track from the county road to Caeaugleision was never Council maintained. He remembers that when he was a child, in the late 1950s, the school bus would only come as far as the top of the Council road; that was at the junction of the tracks to Caeaugleision and Cwm-y-Ffynnon so he had to walk there to catch the bus. The Council never took on the maintenance of the tracks to Caeaugleision and Cwm-y-Ffynnon.
- Before the family bought Caeaugleision from the Wynnstay Estate, the track from the county road to Caeaugleision was maintained by the tenants, and is continued to this day.
- In the 1960s, the family took on the tenancy for Cwm Pen Llydan. At that stage, the only access to the farm was on foot; he does not know how horses would have been taken up there. The current track to the property, from the river, was put in by Mr Ashton's family in the mid-1980s.

I/we confirm that the information above is a true record of the information that I wish to provide in relation to this Definitive Map Modification Order application.

Name (print): RICHARD ANFURIN

Signature: 

Date: 30/08/2018.