

Name of User	Dates of Use	Details of Use
Mr M Crompton (completed statement in 2015)	1960 - 2000	<p>Mr Crompton has lived in the Southampton area all his life, and recalls first using Browns Lane in about 1960 at the age of ten (his father had already been using the route to go fishing for at least ten years prior to that). His use of the route varied but was generally around several times per year between May and August (during stingray season). He remembers seeing other people using the route, mainly for fishing but also for picnicking – he claimed that everyone using the route believed they had a right to do so. Sowley Beach was small and would only comfortably accommodate around 20 fishermen but Mr Crompton recalls there being around 50 people crowding onto the beach when the Canberra returned from the Falklands conflict in 1982. He also recalled that scouts camped down on the beach every summer until the route was blocked.</p> <p>Fishermen used to park on Sowley Lane, but some occasionally parked on Browns Lane itself, leading to obstructions, at which point the landowner left notes on people’s windscreens asking them not to block the route. Mr Crompton asserts that the landowner was aware of use by the public, and that his own use wasn’t challenged until around 2000. He recalls an old gate at the Sowley Lane end, which was always open when he visited, and possibly a stile at the point the route ran past Sowley Gate House. He has no recollection of any signage challenging public use prior to the route being obstructed, the only challenges he recalls related to the blockage of the lane by parked cars.</p>
Mr S Deathe (completed statement in 2015)	1979 - 2015	<p>Mr Deathe first used Browns Lane as a means of accessing Sowley Beach for the purposes of fishing and digging bait, and he still uses it today. Over the years he has seen lots of people using the route, with many of them coming from further afield. Between 1985 and 1989 he was a member of Lymington Sea Angling Club and recalls that during the mid-1980s one angling club used to hold competitions on Sowley Beach, which would be attended by 15-20 people. He also recalls the scouts and guides camping down on the beach every summer.</p> <p>Mr Deathe’s use of the route would be predominantly between the end of April through the summer to the end of August or mid-September, at a rate of about 3-4 times per month (though sometimes it would exceed this and he would visit up to three nights running). Occasionally he would park at the bottom of the lane next to the house but if it was too congested he would drive back to Sowley Lane and walk down Browns Lane. There was a 5-bar vehicle gate at the Sowley Lane end which was never locked. Mr Deathe recalls there being a stile alongside the gate which was removed at some point during the 1990s and was not subsequently replaced, and a gap remained. He doesn’t remember any gates at the bottom end of the route until the end of the 1990s. At this time he recalls a stile appearing which enabled access into the neighbouring field.</p> <p>He doesn’t recall any signage at the northern end of the route when his use began, but later he did see a sign that read 'Private Road' - No Access'. There were never any notices at the southern end. The route was unobstructed prior to the gate at the southern end being erected. Mr Deathe never sought permission to use the route and was never challenged. A lady did complain about litter to him 5-6 years ago but he advised all he had left were footprints and his use was not challenged at this time. At other times he has stepped aside to allow vehicles to pass him on Browns Lane, and his use was never queried or challenged on these occasions.</p>
Mr A Drodge (completed form in 2008)	1970 - 1975	<p>Mr Drodge did not give a frequency for his use but he mentioned that he used to go camping at Pitts Deep with the Boldre Scouts in the summer months. He saw other people using the route on foot. Mr Drodge couldn’t recall whether there were any notices on the route, but he does remember passing through gates and over a stile. He mentioned that the path had been obstructed but gave no further details.</p>
Mr R Garrett (completed form in 2006 and statement in 2015)	1980 - 2001	<p>Mr Garrett came to live in Beaulieu in 1966, whereafter he worked for the Sowley Estate for seven years as a gamekeeper. He has lived at Tanners Lane for about 35 years. He started using Browns Lane in around 1970, mainly in a work capacity, monitoring game levels and policing poaching in the area. He states that fishermen would be on Sowley Beach most nights.</p> <p>Mr Garrett’s own use of Browns Lane has been infrequent, and he gave a frequency of about once a month since living at Tanners Lane, though he states that many people in East End used the route – he knew of one man whose grandfather used to take a horse and cart down to Sowley Beach to collect seaweed for his garden.</p> <p>There was a bar and rail at the Sowley Gate House end of the route which could be removed. He can’t recall if there was a gate at the Sowley Lane end, but if there was, it was always open when he went down there. When he first started using the route there was a pre-cast metal ‘Footpath’ sign at the northern end of the route, pointing south down the lane. The sign remained there for many years, though Mr Garrett cannot recall when it was removed. He does not recall there being any other signage. His use was never challenged, though he did hear that someone else’s had been at some point during the last 20 years.</p> <p>Mr Garrett believes that the owners of Sowley Gate House would have been aware of the use of Browns Lane by the public and it would have been obvious given the number of fishermen on the beach, who often parked on Sowley Lane and walked down Browns Lane to get to the beach (he often saw several cars parked up on Sowley Lane when he drove past).</p>
Mr M Higgins (completed form in 2006 and statement in 2015)	1952 - 2006	<p>Now living in New Milton, Mr Higgins was born in East End in 1947 and lived there until 1971, when he moved to Pennington. He was introduced to the route when he was around four years old – he lived with his grandparents during the early part of his life, and his grandfather used to walk the route regularly, mainly to go fishing on Sowley Beach. Around that time Mr Higgins used the route about once a week, mainly for fishing. He often saw other people using the route. During the 1960s he often camped on the beach at weekends with friends. He claims that no permission was sought from the owner of Sowley Gate House, who was aware of this and didn’t question it. He recalls that an Alsatian dog used to follow him down the line of the fence every time he visited.</p> <p>By the 1970s Mr Higgins had young children and he would take them walking along the beach around once a month. He used the route less frequently as time went on, but still visited the area and walked along Browns Lane around once a month until it was first blocked off.</p> <p>When Mr Higgins first started using the route he believed it to belong to the Beaulieu Estate, but at some point in the 1960s they sold it off to a private landowner. A field gate was situated at the northern end of the route, which was often open and never locked, and alongside this was a wicket gate. The wicket gate disappeared at some point and was never replaced – the resulting gap still remains to this day. Mr Higgins also recalls there being a fingerpost at this end of the route pointing down Browns Lane [Mr Higgins’ first reported sighting of this sign is listed in his form as being in 1952]. At the southern end of the route he recalls two metal bars going across the path with a stile enabling access over the top. On the beach there was another wicket gate separating Sowley Beach from Pitts Deep, and here there was a metal footpath sign post pointing back up Browns Lane – the remnants of the post are still on the beach today.</p> <p>Mr Higgins states that his use was never challenged, nor did he hear that anyone else’s use was ever challenged. The only signage he saw challenging public use appeared when access to the shore was obstructed by the erection of the gate and fence.</p>

Mr W Higgins (completed form in 2007)	1949 - 2004	Mr Higgins used the route to go fishing or as part of a circular walk that included Tanners Lane, and reported seeing local people and strangers, on foot and on a bicycle. He remembered a stile but no gates, and states that there was a 'footpath' sign which was there when he was five years old [this would have been 1941]. He states that the route has been obstructed by a locked gate and that this is still was still in place at the time he completed his form. He reported a challenge from someone at Sowley Gate who told him to 'get out', but does not state when this challenge was issued.
Mr G Kitcher (completed form in 2006 and statement in 2015)	1950 - 2002	Save for a few years when he lived at Pilley, Mr Kitcher has lived in East End all his life since his birth in 1939. He was introduced to Browns Lane by his family, who took him down there when he was about ten years old, and he would use the route to go winkling and bird-nesting. Many families in East End, including people he knew who lived at Rowes Lane, used to walk down the public footpath that runs south from the village and comes out opposite Browns Lane, and continue down towards Sowley Beach for the purposes of fishing, shooting and picnicking. The route was well-used and he often used to see other people walking the claimed route. Initially Mr Kitcher used the route about twice per week because he used to walk the dog down to the beach as part of a circular route that sometimes involved walking back past Pitts Deep. His use reduced when he was older, but he was still walking down there about once a week when he was in his 60s, and was still using it up until it was blocked off. He didn't know who the landowners were, but he often used to see people in the garden of Sowley Gate House, and he often talked to them. There was always someone else on the beach when he visited the area, and Mr Kitcher believes that the landowners must have been aware that the route was being used by the public. His use was never challenged. Mr Kitcher recalls that there used to be a (he thinks carved wooden) 'Footpath' fingerpost at both ends of the claimed route [Mr Kitcher stated on his form that he first saw these in the 1950s]. Later on, in the 80s or 90s, there were two iron rails next to Sowley Gate House that could be pulled across – these were later padlocked but he doesn't know if this was by the landowner or the Forestry Commission or someone else. There was however a gap to the side of the rails within the width of the route which enabled access on foot. There may have been signage down at the side of the road indicating that no vehicles were allowed, but if so it was only for a short while and he can't recall there being any other signage.
Mrs R Kitcher (completed statement in 2015)	1950 - 2002	Mrs Kitcher has lived in the area all her life, and when she was young her family used to live at Pilley. She first used the claimed route in their company. There wasn't much to do when she was a child and so a trip to Sowley Beach was something to look forward to, particularly in the summer months, as it was a safe place to play. In the days before the family had a car they couldn't travel further afield, and sometimes on weekends when her father was at home he would take the family down Brown's Lane to the beach on a pony and trap. She also rode her bike down there, often in the company of her four brothers and cousin. Around this time she estimates that her use was about once a week. Her use of the route reduced as she married Mr Kitcher and they bought a car, but they would still visit the area about once a fortnight, often walking down the claimed route. They had friends in the area, who at the time were also married without children, and they often used to walk down Browns Lane together. When the Kitcher's children were born they took them down there too. Mrs Kitcher doesn't remember there being any gates on the route, or there being any signage of any description. Their use was never challenged by the landowner, who knew the route was being used and didn't object to it.
Mr W Kitcher (completed form and statement in 2015)	1955 - 2002	Mr Kitcher (no relation to the above) was born in 1936, and was brought up in East Boldre. His wife was born at Rowes Lane in East End, and it was her family who introduced Mr Kitcher to the route when they were courting in the 1950s (her father used to take her fishing down at Sowley Beach). Mr Kitcher's use of the route would fluctuate, often depending on the weather, but on average he would walk down Browns Lane about once a month. He and his wife moved in together in East Boldre in 1958, at which point his use decreased, but it increased again in 1965 when they moved to a house on Rowes Lane. His use from this time onward was infrequent, approximately several times per year. His family used to do a circular walk involving Pitts Deep and Browns Lane, and when his son was old enough from about 1970 he took him down to Sowley Beach to fish several times a year (his son continued use Browns Lane to do this by himself when he was old enough). During the spring and summer there were often 20 to 30 fishermen on Sowley Beach, and Mr Kitcher used to see parked cars on Sowley Lane outside the entrance to Browns Lane. Mr Kitcher assumed the route was public when he started using it. The gate at the northern end was always open, and he remembers there being a gap to one side. He doesn't recall whether the route was signposted, he just took it for granted that he could use it since he could get through. At the southern end there was a wicket gate and two removable rails that could be slid across, but there was also a gap to one side which enable access. He never saw any signage challenging his use and he was never challenged in person.
Mr I Mapes (completed form in 2006)	1966 - 2006	Mr Mapes used the route to get to Sowley Beach to go fishing. He remembers passing through gates which he stated were locked (though no dates were given and it is not clear which gates he was referring to). He also recalls being challenged by someone staying at Sowley Gate, but again, no dates were given for this challenge.
Mr R Namock (completed form in 2008 and statement in 2015)	1952 - 2007	When he was young, Mr Namock used to earn extra pocket money by going beating for shooting parties at Pylewell Estate. Browns Lane served as a dividing line between the two estates. Mr Namock stated that there was a public footpath sign pointing down the lane and there was controversy in around 1956 when someone objected to the shoot taking place near a public right of way. The guns used to line up along the path, but after this objection they lined up inside the fields of the Pylewell Estate. The Sowley Estate did the same on their side. Mr Namock used to visit the area about two or three times a week delivering goods as part of his job. His own use on foot was limited to two to three times per year (though on his form Mr Namock gave a frequency of ten times per year). He does not recall there being any signs challenging public use or gates or stiles at either end. The route was regularly used by fishermen as an access down to Sowley Beach, where they would fish for Stingray and tope. There was at one point an objection by the landowner to cars being parked on the route, and after this an agreement was reached that cars should be parked on Sowley Lane. In the winter months, people used to walk down the beach to go shooting. Mr Namock used to see other people walking and riding their bikes down to the shore, including people from Lymington Fishing Club. The landowners didn't seem concerned. The route remained in regular use until the late 90s.
Mr A Parker (completed form in 2006)	1976 - 1981	Mr Parker stated that he used the route on weekly basis between 1976 and 1981, though he stated that he last used the path in 2006. He used Browns Lane to get to the beach to dig bait, and stated that he passed through gates and over a stile. When began using the route in 1976, Mr Parker stated that there was a 'footpath' sign on the route, but that this subsequently disappeared. At the time he completed the form in 2006, Mr Parker stated that the route was obstructed by a wire mesh fence and locked gate, but that this was the only obstruction he had encountered on the route. He recalled seeing a sign on the gate at Sowley Lane, but did not state what it said.

Mr A Phillips (completed form in 2008)	1940 - 2008	Mr Phillips' form, completed with the assistance of Mr Spencer, indicated that he had used Browns Lane all his life to fish off Sowley Beach, and often as part of a longer route from East End. He recalled passing through gates and stated that the path had been fenced off since 2002, and also confirmed that he had been told by the owner that the route was not public (though he doesn't say when this was). He did not give a specific frequency of use, stating that he made 'regular use' of the route.
Mr C Phillips (completed form in 2007)	1960 - 2007	Mr Phillips used the route 10 times per year for fishing, walking and beat shooting for the Pylewell Estate. He remembers passing through gates, and that the route was obstructed at night sometimes. Prior to this obstruction he stated that between the 1960s and 1980s there was a small side gate which enabled pedestrian access. Mr Phillips did not complete questions about notices, whether he had been challenged or if his use was permissive.
Mr D Prince (completed form in 2007)	1960s - 2000	Although he gave a start date for his use simply as '1960s', Mr Prince recalls a 'footpath' sign at each end of the route dating from 1960, and so his use is considered to have commenced at this time. He stated that he used the route seven times per year to get to the beach, giving his last date of use as 4th May 2000. He recalls a stile on the route which was latterly replaced by a fence and a locked gate. His use was never challenged and was not as a result of any permission. He remembers Boy Scouts and Girl Guides camping on the beach on regular occasions.
Mr D Smith (completed form in 2007 and statement in 2015)	1949 - 2005	Mr Smith has lived in Norley Wood all his life since his birth in 1936, and was first introduced to Browns Lane, aged about six years old, by his father, who used to take a horse and cart down there to collect seaweed for his garden. Mr Smith used to go fishing and bait digging at Sowley Beach in the winter but he would go down there more often in the summer when he did a lot of walking and swimming. On average he used Browns Lane around twice a month at this time. His use decreased in later years but he still walked down Browns Lane about a dozen times a year. Occasionally he would see other people using the route, either fishermen or people doing a circular walk that involved Tanners Lane. Mr Smith recalls a 'Footpath' sign at each end of Browns Lane (the remains of the post on the beach are still there). The northern end of the route was directly opposite another footpath and so it seemed logical to carry on down the claimed route. He doesn't remember there being any gates or stiles at either end of the route. He does not recall any signage prior to that erected by the current owner and his use was never challenged.
Mr Jeff Spencer (deceased) (completed form in 2006, made statutory declaration in 2012)	1959 - 1966 1966 - 1969 1972 - 1976	In addition to completing a user evidence form, Mr Spencer made a statutory declaration regarding his use of Browns Lane prior to the application being taken up for investigation. On his form he gave a frequency of use of six to ten times per year between 1959 and 1979. As part of his job as a Country Beat Police Officer, Mr Spencer was stationed at East End and between 1959 and 1966. Browns Lane formed part of the boundary of his beat. He used to use the lane regularly both on and off duty, on foot whilst walking his dog and by bicycle. Mr Spencer asserts that when he first began using Browns Lane in 1959, there were 'footpath' signs at each end of the route.
Mr John Tanner (completed form in 2006 and statement in 2015)	1968 - 1975	Mr Tanner moved to the Lymington area in the 1950s, and in his capacity as a policeman was variously stationed at Lyndhurst, Boldre, East End and Pennington. At one time Browns Lane was part of his beat and he used to go down it on his pushbike every few months. He was also the scout leader for Boldre Scouts and took them down to Sowley Beach camping on two or three occasions (with the permission of the Pylewell Estate). Fishermen and picnickers would regularly use Browns Lane and it was widely regarded as a public route. Mr Tanner used the route in a personal capacity once every few months between 1970 and 1975 [Mr Tanner gave a frequency of use of seven or eight times per year on his form]. His used dropped off when he moved to Pilley but he continued to use it infrequently up until access was blocked off by the current landowner. Mr Tanner had always assumed that the Pylewell Estate was the landowner, simply because he had obtained permission from them for his camping trips. His use was never challenged and he saw no signs indicating that the route wasn't public. He remembers the route being open at the Sowley Lane end, he doesn't recall a gate (he certainly never had to open one to gain access) at either end.
Mr M Thomas (deceased) (completed form in 2007)	No dates given	Mr Thomas' use of the route was limited to three times per year, primarily to dig bait. He gave no start or end dates for his use, but stated that he last used the path in the mid-1980s. He remembers having to pass through gates, and states that his use was not permissive or ever challenged. He also stated that a gate had recently been erected and locked, and that the route is occasionally obstructed. He did not answer questions on his form relating to notices.
Mrs M Thompson (deceased) (completed form in 2008)	1945 - 1976	Mrs Thompson left the majority of questions unanswered on her form, confirming only the years that she used the path and that her use had never been challenged or with permission. The map accompanying her form confirmed that Browns Lane had formed part of a longer route involving Beaulieu Footpath 4.
Mr R Vincett (completed form in 2008, clarified some points by telephone in 2015)	1952 - 1971	Mr Vincett's use of the route fluctuated throughout the year, but on average he used Browns Lane twice a week to get to the shore for sea fishing, digging bait, shooting and swimming until he moved away from the area in 1971. He recalled no notices or any obstructions on the route during the years of his use, and recalled frequently riding his bike down Browns Lane, leaving it at a metal barrier (Point B) and walking the rest of the way down to the beach. He used to walk down Sandpit Lane, along the foreshore and back up Browns Lane as part of an annual excursion with the local ornithological society. He remembered seeing local people and strangers on foot, bicycle and horseback. His use was not with permission and was never challenged. He stated that the route was always open and was used by everybody who wanted to use that part of the foreshore. He also referred to the girl guides camping down on the beach.