

Witness Statement in support of  
Town Green Application for Stoke Lodge Parkland

Mr Thomas Henry Cockcroft Alpass

5 Cheyne Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 2DH

Retired architect

I was born in 1947 and brought up in Coombe Lane, living there until leaving home after university. From an early age I was aware of Stoke Lodge, my first school being in a house in West Dene. I attended university from 1965, returning home in vacations, and living in Coombe Lane until 1972.

As a boy I remember walking along a rough path between the Eastern part of Bell Barn Road which joins Coombe Lane and the Western part which joins Shirehampton Road, before the highway and houses in the middle part were built. In winter my brother and I sometimes sledged down the sloping ground now partly occupied by the middle section of Bell Barn Road.

A school friend lived in Coombe Bridge Avenue and another in Cheyne Road. We used to walk and play in the Dingle and in the grounds of Stoke Lodge which we approached from Ebeneezer Lane through gaps in the shrubs and trees bordering the Lane and through the stile at the top of Cheyne Road. This would have been from 1957 until 1972. I was never denied access. When cricket or soccer matches were proceeding we kept off the pitches. My family kept dogs, which we took for walks including onto Stoke Lodge.

In 1980 my wife and I returned to Bristol with our daughter, living in Henbury until 1999, when we moved to Cheyne Road. Since then my wife and I have frequently walked in and across Stoke Lodge. We have picked blackberries from the surrounding hedges. When my daughter and son visit us, we often walk in Stoke Lodge as a family. My daughter and son-in-law sometimes run in Stoke Lodge.

I am aware of many people who enjoy the calm open space of Stoke Lodge for walking, running, exercising dogs and casual socialising. Its size has always enabled it to accommodate informal leisure activities including the above, flying kites and picnicking as well as sports training and practice, formal sports matches and school sports days.

I have never been asked to leave Stoke Lodge or barred from entering it.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true,

Signature: ..... *Thc Alpass* .....

Date: ..... 01 - 02 - 2011 .....

## Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration – Evidence Questionnaire

NAME of Witness Print	Thomas Henry Cockcroft Alpass
1 Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	Q5 COMBE LANE WESTBURY ON TRYM, BRISTOL BS9 9 ZAR 5 CHEENE ROAD STONE BISHOP, BRISTOL BS9 2DH
2 Your address when you knew the land edged in red on Map "A" was being used by the local inhabitants? If different from 1 above?	
3 Did you sign the map "A" attached to confirm your understanding of the extent of The Land being claimed? As "Town Green" edged in Red? And relates to the evidence	YES
4 Confirm your agreement that the Locality or Neighbourhood is the Political Ward of Stoke Bishop plus parts of Westbury on Trym, Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle. Map "B"	YES
5 Please confirm that you have marked the location of your house on Map "B" with an X.	YES
6 By what name, if any, is The Land edged in red on Map "A" known?	STOKE LOPGE
7 Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	NOT MY KNOWLEDGE
8 For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	54
9 Between which years did you us the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1957 to 1972 and 1999 to 2011
10 Do you consider yourself to be a local inhabitant in respect of the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	YES
11 During the time you have used the Land edged in red on Map "A", has the general pattern of use remained basically the same?	YES

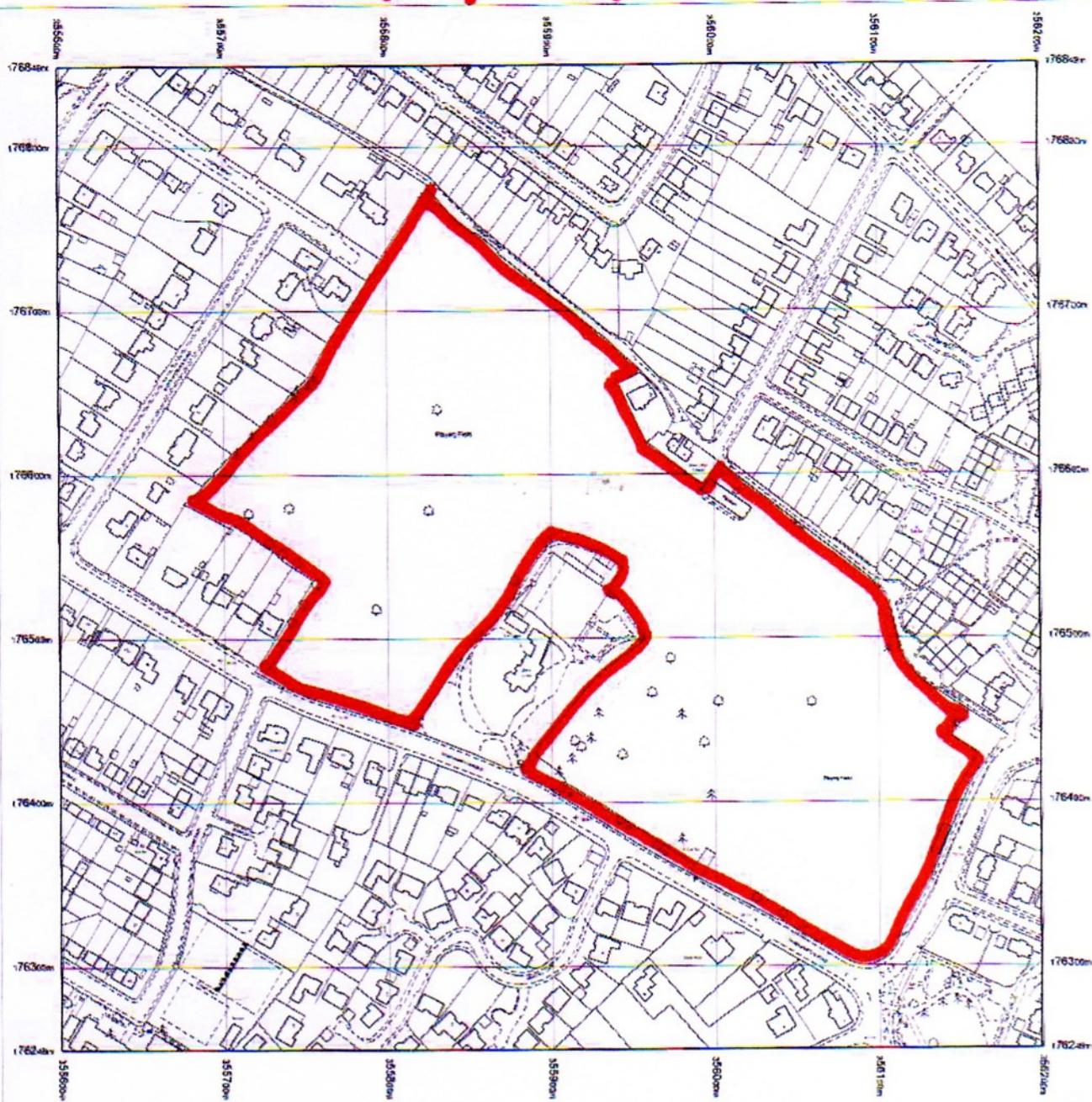
12 What recognisable facilities are available to the local inhabitants of your locality?  
Please tick all boxes that apply and add any other additional matters not covered

		Community activities
Local infants school	✓	Community centre
Local junior school	✓	Sports facility
Local secondary school		Swimming pool
Residents association		Library
Neighbourhood watch	✓	Alt green space within easy walking
Neighbourhood Partnership	✓	Area police
Local place of worship		Doctors surgery
13 To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		other
14 How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		other
15 How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		other
16 Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		ON FOOT
17 How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"? (apart from use of any public paths on the Land)		TO WALK: IN THE PAST TO RUN. FOR PICNICS. IN THE PAST FOR ROUNDBERS & TO PLAY. TO WALK ACROSS TO PARRY LANE.
18 What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?		AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK
19 Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		PLAYING. INFORMAL FOOTBALL. PICKING NUTS & BLACKBERRIES. PICNICKING. RUNNING. WALKING.
20 If so, for what?		YES
21 Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		WALKING. RUNNING. PICKING BLACK- BERRIES
22 If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?		YES
23 Do/did you participate in any of them?		MEETINGS OR SCOUTS & CROWNS, PICNICS OVER 25 YEARS
		YES

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	YES. COTHAM, CLIFTON HIGH & CEDAR PARK SCHOOLS. LOCAL SCOUTS & GROWNSIES. SPORTS CENTRES.
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	PICKING BLACKBERRIES & NUTS
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	
	Children playing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fêtes
	Rounders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Football
	Drawing and painting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby
	Dog Walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cricket
	Team Games (Formal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bird watching
	Team Games (informal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Picnicking
	Picking blackberries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kite flying
	Community celebrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People walking
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other
27	Do you know the name of the owner of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	Bristol City Council
28	Do you know the name of the occupier of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No to my knowledge
30	What did they say? If anything?	
31	Was permission ever sought by you for activities on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No
32	If so, from whom and when?	
33	Did anyone ever give you permission to go onto the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No
34	If yes, when and for what reason?	
35	Have you ever been prevented from using the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No

36	If yes, when and for what reason?	
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	NOT TO ANY KNOWLEDGE
38	If yes, give examples and dates	
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	NO
40	Do you have any photographs or any other evidence of use of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	
41	Are you willing to allow us to copy them for use as part of our application?	
42	If you have additional information please attach a separate statement? (witness statement etc)	
43	If you have knowledge of others who may be in a position to complete an evidence form, would you please write their names and addresses upon the reverse of this form.	
44	I have carried on the activities referred to in this questionnaire, on the Land edged in red on Map "A", for 54 years without anybody trying to stop me and I believe the activity should be treated by the law as having a lawful origin.	
45	I understand that the evidence form I have completed in relation to this application may become public knowledge and I authorise the applicant to disclose this form to anyone reasonably requiring access to this application.	
46	I also understand that this evidence may be presented at a non-statutory inquiry and I authorise the applicant to use this form for that purpose.	
47	Signed	<i>Thc Ayers</i>
48	Name	THOMAS HENRY COCKERORT ACROSS
49	Date	01 - 02 - 2011

## MAP 'A'



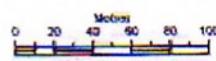
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The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



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