

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 Ebenezer 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. It's 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"?	95 COOMBE LANE WESTBURY ON TRYM, BRISTOL BS9 9 ZAR 5 CHEYNE ROAD STOKE 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 LODGE
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	NOT TO 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 see 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

Local infants school	Community centre	Community activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility	A central feature
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swimming pool	Scout hut
	Library	other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alt green space within easy walking	other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area police	other
	Doctors surgery	other

13 To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?

14 How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?

15 How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?

16 Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?

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)

18 What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?

19 Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?

20 If so, for what?

21 Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?

22 If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?

23 Do/did you participate in any of them?

FROM THE OPENING AT THE TOP OF CHEYNE RD, WHERE THERE USED TO BE A STILE. FROM EBENEZER LANE. FROM THE OPENING TO PARRY'S LANE

ON FOOT

TO WALK, IN THE PAST TO RUN. FOR PICNICS. IN THE PAST FOR BOUNDERS & TO PLAY. TO WALK ACROSS TO PARRY'S LANE.

AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK

PLAYING. INFORMAL FOOTBALL. PICKING NUTS & BLACKBERRIES. PICNICKING, RUNNING. WALKING.

YES

WALKING. RUNNING. PICKING BLACK-BERRIES

YES

MEETINGS OF SCOUTS & BROWNIES, PICNICS OVER 25 YEARS

YES

