

Name: Sheila Margaret Preece

Current address: 12 South Dene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. BS9 2BW

Occupation: Retired teacher/ sub-editor of science journal

We moved to this house at Easter 1972 because we were particularly drawn to the beautiful field behind us which was such an oasis only three miles from the city centre. The fact that it was used for school sports and Junior Schools' summer fêtes was an added bonus that was keeping the fields in good shape.

At first, when our children were very young we regularly walked and played there, and later of course they were old enough to go there on their own or with friends. We have always particularly admired the trees and our son used to collect acorns and walnuts and even grow seedlings from them, the evidence of which is a tall oak tree at the bottom of our garden!

The second generation is now Junior school age and we all still go into the field and kick a ball around, fly kites, and walk and run about. On summer evenings we watch the bats swooping around and in late summer we pick blackberries and mulberries..

As the West Dene entrance is so close we have always combined a walk in Stoke Lodge with going across to the shops or occasionally for meetings at Stoke Lodge House. It is a beautiful place for birdwatching and so easy for us to get to on foot. There is no other comparable green space in the area where informal free sporting activity, walking and play can take place.

The community at large have held informal events there in recent years – a Fun Day, a big picnic and a tour by a tree expert who pointed out several trees unique to the south-west of England, some of which were brought back from the Himalayas by a local Victorian plant hunter. Many clubs use the fields for football, rugby and cricket but, particularly in the summer, numerous people practise golf and athletics, go jogging or play informal football and cricket. At various times the Scouts and Brownies use the field on fine evenings.

We have never been denied access to Stoke Lodge Parkland even when there was a resident groundsman.

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

Signature



Date

03/02/2011

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

NAME of Witness Print		SHEILA PREECE	
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	12 SOUTH DENE STOKE BISHOP BRISTOL BS9 2BW	
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?	as 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 PARKLAND	
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	STOKE LODGE	
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	39 YEARS	
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1972 - 2011 ongoing	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community centre
	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility
	Local secondary school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swimming pool
	Residents association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Library
	Neighbourhood watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alt green space within easy walking
	Neighbourhood Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area police
	Local place of worship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doctors surgery
	Community activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
	A central feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
	Scout hut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
	other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
	other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 in 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?		

NO MARKED PATHS. ORIGINALLY THERE WAS A WELL-TRODDEN UNOFFICIAL PATH USED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS TO GO TO WEST DENE SCHOOL VIA ENTRANCE IN WEST DENE ON FOOT

LEISURE PURSUITS, WALKING, PLAY WITH GRANDCHILDREN, & GO TO SHOPS AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. (MORE THAN THAT IN SUMMER)

PLAYING WITH CHILDREN. WALKING ETC AS ABOVE

YES

AS ABOVE

YES

"FUN DAY" AND COMMUNITY PICNIC ? 2008 AND 2010

2010 DENE TREES TOUR ABOUT 2008

