

IN THE MATTER OF
AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND AT
STOKE LODGE PARKLAND AS
A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN
UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE COMMONS ACT 2006

BETWEEN:

MR D MAYER – APPLICANT

AND

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL & ORS – OBJECTORS

Statement of: - COLIN O'CONNOR
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

My Name is: - COLIN O'CONNOR

My Address is: - 19 Queens Gate
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 1TZ

My occupation is: - Retired

I will say as follows: -

1. Please refer to my Questionnaire attached and dated: - 23 March 2016
2. Please refer also to my Statement attached and dated: - 28 March 2016

I believe that the facts stated in these statements are true.

Signed CM O'Connor

Dated 29 March 2016

**Witness statement in support of
Town Green Application for Stoke Lodge Parkland**

Name: Colin O'Connor

Address: 19 Queens Gate
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS9 1TZ

Occupation: Retired

I moved to Stoke Bishop in 1998 and for several years I occasionally walked to the parkland to stroll with family and friends. In 2003 I began using the parkland on a regular basis at the weekends, walking with my partner and her dog. Since 2007 I have used the parkland almost daily, again primarily for dog walking.

During this time I have accessed the parkland through the main entrance to Stoke Lodge on Shirehampton Road, or via the small opening near to the mini-roundabout at the junction with Parrys Lane. However, following recent improvements to the main entrance I now mostly enter through the pedestrian gate leading to the new children's play area.

I estimate I have walked around the field more than two thousand times to date and have never been approached by anyone questioning my right of access or use of the parkland. Indeed I have met many other dog owners who appear to represent the largest group of regular users.

Somewhat surprisingly I have seen very little evidence of organised sports activities on weekdays apart from occasional summer evening cricket match. In contrast I am aware that the playing fields are used at the weekends at certain times of the year for junior football and rugby games.

In summary, the Stoke Lodge Parkland is the only remaining green area where the people of Stoke Bishop can relax in an open space without having to drive to Durdham Downs, where car parking has become difficult since the introduction of nearby residents parking schemes.

Stoke Lodge Parkland covers a large area which, I believe, could not possibly be utilised efficiently for exclusive use by a private entity, particularly one that is located some distance away. Barring the general public from using the parkland would, in my opinion, be a major infringement of the rights of Stoke Bishop residents and surrounding communities, and to the people of Bristol as a whole.



C M O'Connor

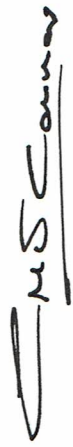
28 March 2016

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

	NAME of Witness Print	COLIN O'CONNOR
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	19 Queens Gate Stoke Bishop Bristol BS9 1TZ
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?	u
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?	No
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	18 years
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	since 2003
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, but increasingly more

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
	Local junior school	✓	Sports facility	A central feature
	Local secondary school		Swimming pool	Scout hut
	Residents association		Library	other
	Neighbourhood watch	✓	Alt green space within easy walking	other
	Neighbourhood Partnership		Area police	other
	Local place of worship	✓	Doctors surgery	other
13	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			No
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			Parry's Lane + Main gate
15	How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			Walk
16	Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			Recreation + dog walking
17	How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			Daily
18	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			Dog walking
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			Yes
20	If so, for what?			Dog walking
21	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			Community picnic (2014)
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

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	No
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	Occasional junior football / rugby
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	
	Children playing	✓
	Rounders	✓
	Drawing and painting	✓
	Dog Walking	✓
	Team Games (Formal)	✓
	Team Games (informal)	✓
	Picking blackberries	✓
	Community celebrations	✓
	Fetes	✓
	Football	✓
	Rugby	✓
	Cricket	✓
	Bird watching	✓
	Picnicking	✓
	Kite flying	✓
	People walking	✓
27	Do you know the name of the owner of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	Yes, BCC
28	Do you know the name of the occupier of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	Don't know
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	Don't know
30	What did they say? If anything?	N/A
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?	N/A
33	Did anyone ever give you permission to go onto the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	Do I need permission?
34	If yes, when and for what reason?	N/A
35	Have you ever been prevented from using the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No

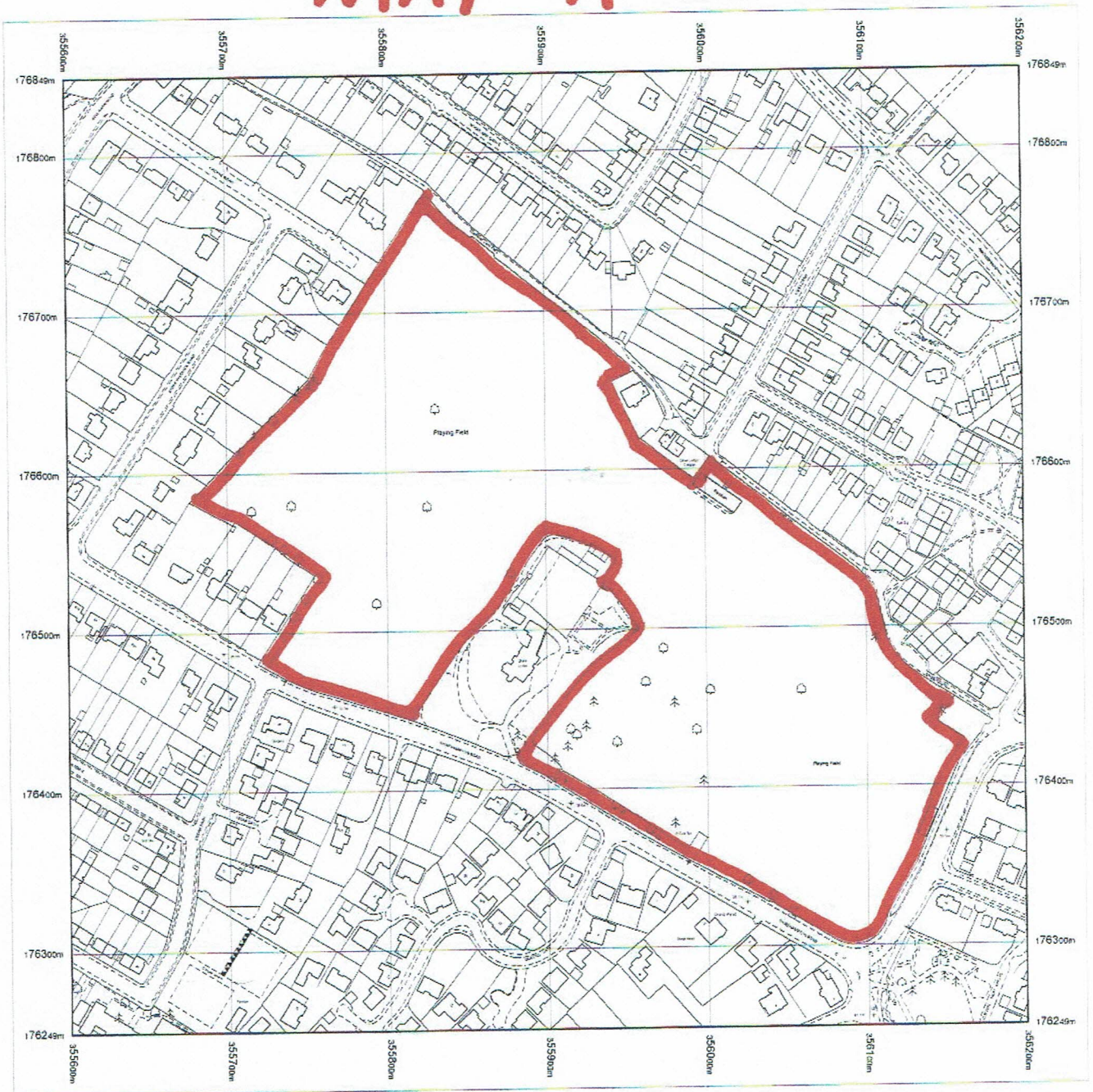
36	If yes, when and for what reason?	N/A
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	No
38	If yes, give examples and dates	N/A
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged 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?	No
41	Are you willing to allow us to copy them for use as part of our application?	N/A
42	If you have additional information please attach a separate statement? (witness statement etc)	N/A
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.	N/A
44	I have carried on the activities referred to in this questionnaire, on the Land edged in red on Map "A", for XX13 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	
48	Name	C M O'CONNOR
49	Date	23 March 2016

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OS Sitemap®

MAP 'A'



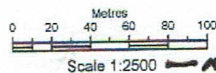
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The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



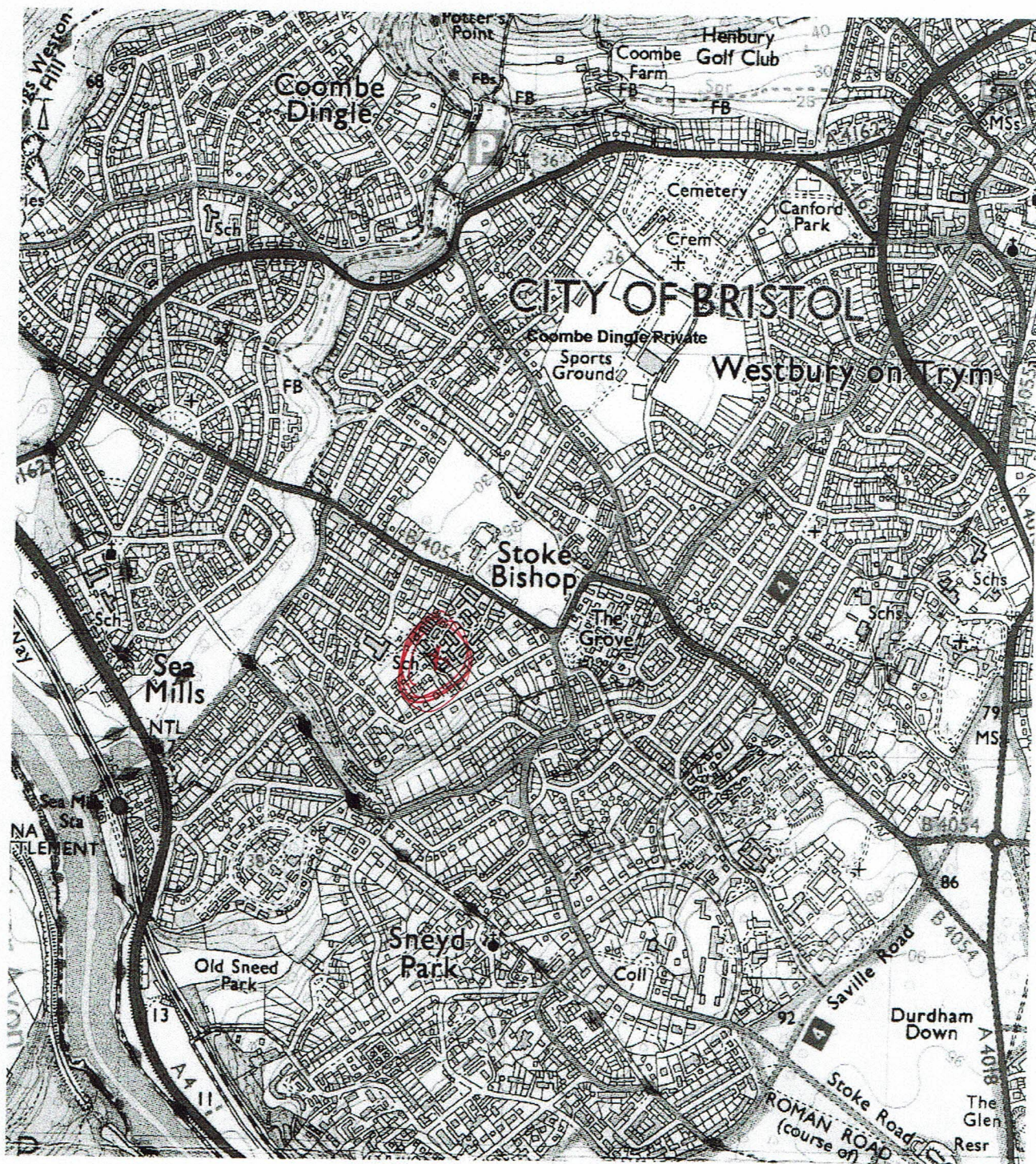
Supplied by: Latitude - Southampton
Serial number: 06349100
Centre coordinates: 355899.67 176549.37

Further information can be found on the OS Sitemap Information leaflet or the Ordnance Survey web site: www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

NOT TO SCALE WHEN COPIED AT A4.

Handwritten signature: J. S. Zannoo

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters