

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:** - ALEXANDRA SARAH MACARA  
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

My Name is: - ALEXANDRA SARAH MACARA

My Address is: - 10 CHEYNE ROAD  
STOKE BISHOP  
BRISTOL BS9 2DT

My occupation is: - CAREER

I will say as follows: -

1. Please refer to my Questionnaire attached and dated: - 29/03/16
2. Please refer also to my Statement attached and dated: - 30/03/16

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

Signed A. Macara

Dated 31st MARCH 2016

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

Alexandra S Macara.

Resident. Carer. Artist.

My parents moved to Cheyne Road in 1974 when I was less than a year old. They were drawn to the area of Stoke Bishop, and Cheyne Road in particular, due to its quiet, almost rural character with adjacent woodland and the beautiful open space that is the playing fields.

My father, as a public health professional, was very keen that as children my brother and I could grow and develop in a relatively safe and healthy environment. The “field” on our doorstep was an extension of home. Here I learnt to walk, play, ride a bicycle, fly a kite, climb trees, collect conkers, and pick blackberries, damsons, sloes, haws and mushrooms. Along with all the other neighbouring children, this was our play ground. A great open space filled with wonders and things to be explored. Birthday parties inevitably ended up with a wander in the field where we played games and amused ourselves.

The arrival of our first dog when I was seven means that I have walked a dog at Stoke Lodge for some thirty five years. In all this time I have never been told or asked to leave. The fact that our road ends in a very obvious open entryway into the playing fields, I believe, clearly

demonstrates that this has been a point of access for many years, certainly far longer than my own lifetime.

My mother, as a biology teacher, encouraged in me a lifelong interest in the natural world. The presence of the field in part nurtured this interest, it was a sublime place in which to grow and learn. As a teenager and young adult struggling with the pressures of school and exams it was a place to escape to, somewhere to “breathe” if you will. To listen to music, to read, draw and paint, and think of not much at all. It is a place that not only provides a physical outlet, but one also for the mind.

Currently I use the field to exercise with my dog, on foot or with bicycle, as a place to relax and enjoy the wide open vista (which is also excellent for stargazing at night), to collect seasonal fruit and to take photographs.

To reiterate my father’s own witness statement from 2011, to lose one of the last green “lungs” of this area goes completely against government policy and common sense. We, the residents of Stoke Bishop, need to be able to access this green open space. A place that does not require getting into a car to reach, which may seem easy enough to the fit but not so for parents with small children, older folk or anyone with mobility problems.

To restrict or deny us access to Stoke Lodge Parkland in its current entire state would inevitably be detrimental to the local population. It provides great physical and mental health benefits to all of us who use it. Whether it be local sports and activity clubs, youngsters wanting to kick a ball around because they have nowhere else to do so, families going for a stroll after Sunday lunch, children having their first experience of being pulled along on a sledge in the snow, the chance of seeing a now all too rare hedgehog or watching bats at dusk as they

catch emerging cockchafers from the ground. It will not just be the human residents that could lose out; any change to the nature of the grounds will undoubtedly have an effect on local wildlife as well. (It is notable that the first ever BBC Springwatch was filmed in and around Stoke Lodge Parkland).

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

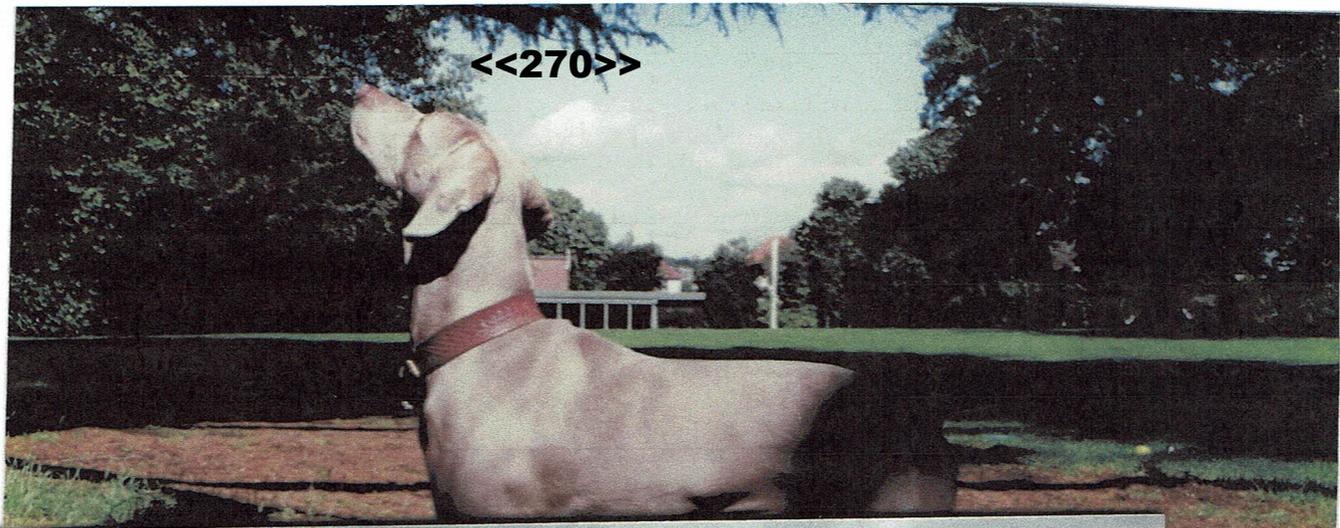
Signed



A. S Macara

30<sup>th</sup> March 2016

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

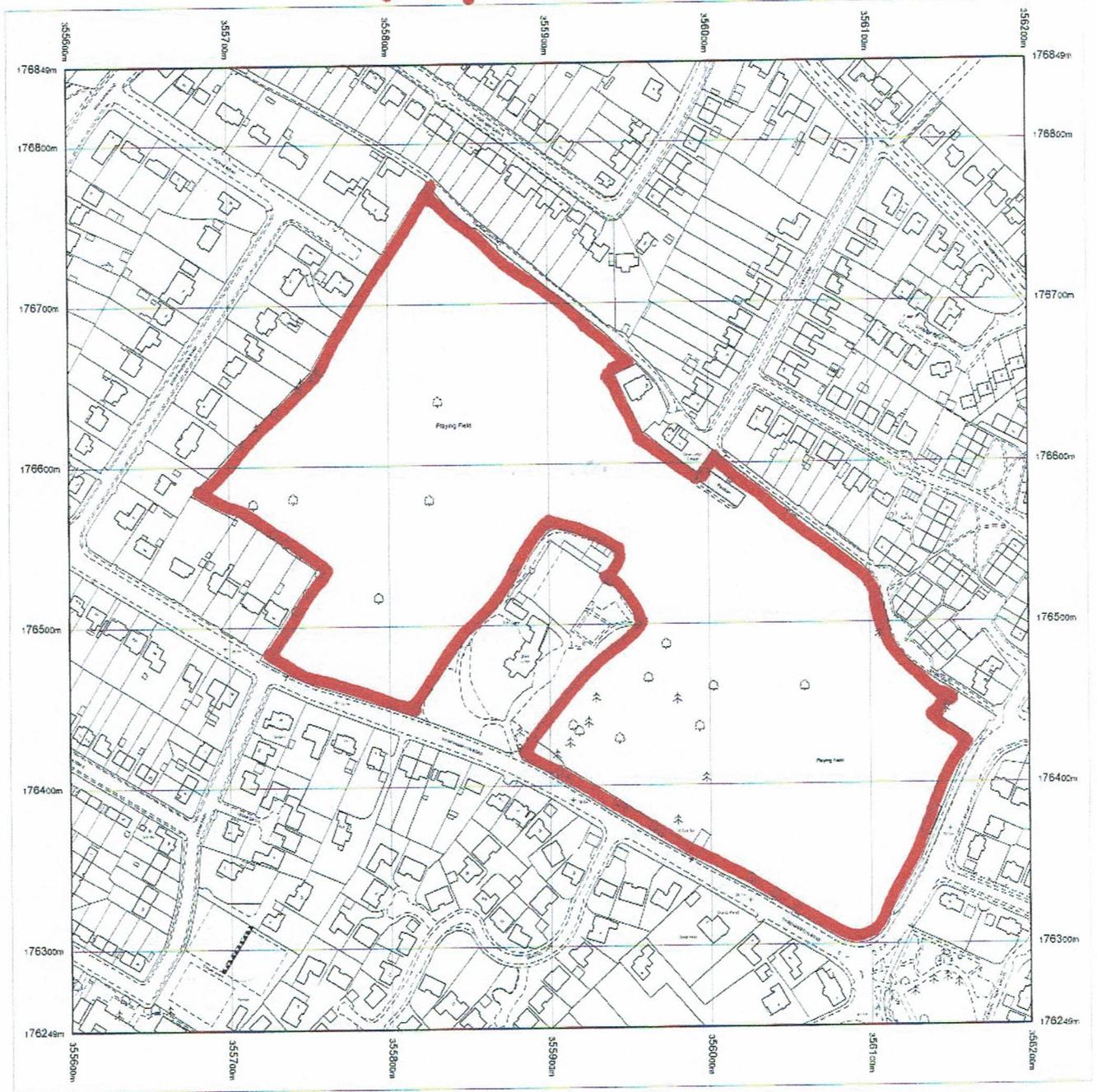
	<p>NAME of Witness Print <b>ALEXANDRA SARAH MACARA</b></p>
1	<p>Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?</p> <p><b>10 CHEYNE ROAD STOKE BISHOP BS9 2DH</b></p>
2	<p>Your address when you knew the land edged in red on Map "A" was being used by the local inhabitants? If different from 1 above?</p>
3	<p>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</p> <p><b>YES</b></p>
4	<p>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"</p> <p><b>YES</b></p>
5	<p>Please confirm that you have marked the location of your house on Map "B" with an X.</p> <p><b>YES</b></p>
6	<p>By what name, if any, is The Land edged in red on Map "A" known?</p> <p><b>"THE FIELD" OR STROKE LODGE</b></p>
7	<p>Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?</p> <p><b>NOT KNOWN</b></p>
8	<p>For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p> <p><b>OVER 40</b></p>
9	<p>Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p> <p><b>1974 To DATE</b></p>
10	<p>Do you consider yourself to be a local inhabitant in respect of the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p> <p><b>YES</b></p>
11	<p>During the time you have used the Land edged in red on Map "A", has the general pattern of use remained basically the same?</p> <p><b>YES</b></p>

12	<p>What recognisable facilities are available to the local inhabitants of your locality?  <i>Please tick all boxes that apply and add any other additional matters not covered</i></p>			
	Local infants school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local secondary school		Swimming pool	
	Residents association		Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	<p>To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>			
	NO			
14	<p>How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>			
	TOP OF CHEYNE ROAD OR CRANEZEEZ LANE			
15	<p>How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>			
	FOOT OR BICYCLE			
16	<p>Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>			
	TO EXERCISE MY DOG, AND MYSELF. TO RELAX AND ENJOY THE ENVIRONMENT			
17	<p>How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?          (apart from use of any public paths on the Land)</p>			
	DAILY			
18	<p>What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?</p>			
	SINCE CHILDHOOD - PLAY, WALKING DOGS, FLY KITES, CYCLE, BIRD WATCH, PAINT + PHOTOGRAPH, COLLECT FRUIT AROUND FURNEL, STAR GAZING! SKEDDING IN SIBBOL			
19	<p>Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>			
	YES			
20	<p>If so, for what?</p>			
	DOG WALKING			
21	<p>Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>			
	PICNICS, JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, DOG OBEDIENCE/TRAILING			
22	<p>If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?</p>			
	JUBILEE WAS MOST OF THE DAY			
23	<p>Do/did you participate in any of them?</p>			
	IN ABOVE			

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	COTHAM SCHOOL, COOMBS DINGLE SPORTS FACILITY, VARIOUS FOOTBALL CLUBS, BRISTOL UNIVERSITY.																																								
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	FRUIT PICKING + FUNGI GATHERING																																								
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Children playing</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Fetes</td> <td></td> <td>Bonfire parties</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rounders</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Football</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Bicycle riding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drawing and painting</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Rugby</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Carol singing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dog Walking</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Cricket</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Team Games (Formal)</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Bird watching</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Team Games (informal)</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Picnicking</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Picking blackberries</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Kite flying</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community celebrations</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>People walking</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> </tr> </table>	Children playing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fetes		Bonfire parties	Rounders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Football	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle riding	Drawing and painting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rugby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol singing	Dog Walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cricket	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other	Team Games (Formal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bird watching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other	Team Games (informal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Picnicking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other	Picking blackberries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kite flying	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other	Community celebrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
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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.	NO																																								
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	ONE WOULD PRESUME SO																																								
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?	—
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?	YES
40	Do you have any photographs or any other evidence of use of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	YES
41	Are you willing to allow us to copy them for use as part of our application?	YES
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	<b>I have carried on the activities referred to in this questionnaire, on the Land edged in red on Map "A", for 42 years without anybody trying to stop me and I believe the activity should be treated by the law as having a lawful origin.</b>	
45	<b>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.</b>	
46	<b>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.</b>	
47	Signed	
48	Name	ALEXANDRA SARAH MACARA
49	Date	29 <sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

MAP 'A'



*Subarea*

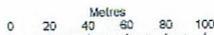
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The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way.

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



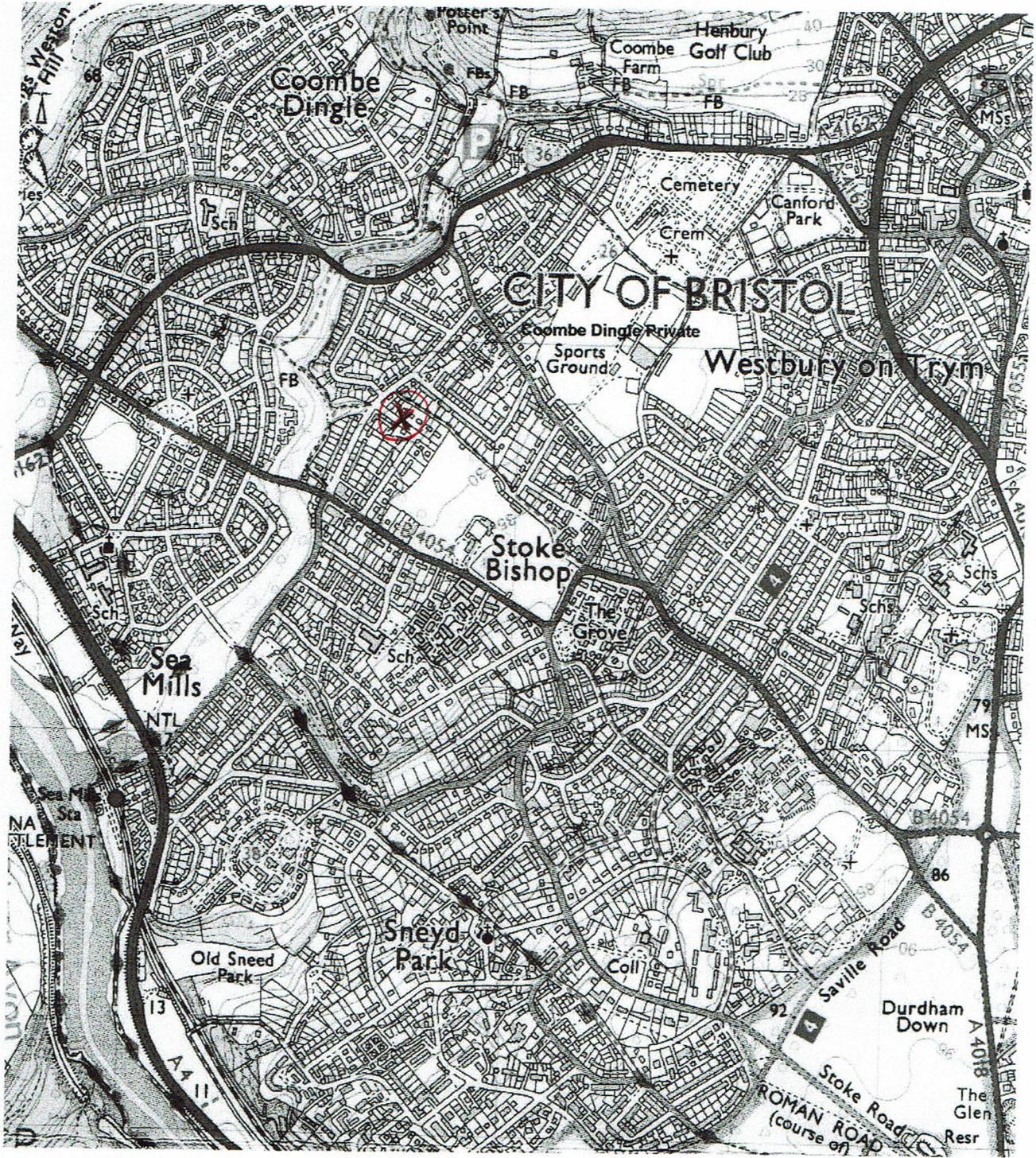
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Further information can be found on the OS Sitemap Information leaflet or the Ordnance Survey web site:  
[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters

SIR ALEXANDER MACARA

PUBLIC HEALTH CONSULTANT

TEL. 0117 9682838  
TEL./FAX 0117 9684602ELGON  
10 CHEYNE ROAD  
STOKE BISHOP  
BRISTOL  
BS9 2DHWITNESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TOWN GREENAPPLICATION FOR STOKE LODGE PARKLAND

31 January 2011

I moved to Cheya Road - a stone's throw from Stoke Lodge - with my family 37 years ago largely because of the quality of the environment including Stoke Lodge, and we have all benefited greatly from the healthy exercise which it offers.

As a public health physician I am particularly concerned by the growing epidemic of obesity and I have deplored the loss of all the other green space in our locality during this time. It is vital to preserve the remaining recreational facilities in these playing fields. We can all testify to the extensive use of the fields by local residents of all ages - notably the elderly and the young - as well as sports enthusiasts throughout the city. It would be directly contrary to the spirit of the age and to government policy if access to these lungs of Stoke Bishop were to be denied to us all. None of us has ever been denied access in almost four decades. I trust that enlightened good sense will prevail in preserving this public asset.

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

Alexander Macara