

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

**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

*Sheila Preece*

Date

03/02/2011

<b>Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration – Evidence Questionnaire</b>	
NAME of Witness	Print
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.	X
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 us 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

	<p>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</p>	
12	<p>Local infants school ✓</p> <p>Local junior school ✓</p> <p>Local secondary school ✓</p> <p>Residents association ✓</p> <p>Neighbourhood watch ✓</p> <p>Neighbourhood Partnership ✓</p> <p>Local place of worship ✓</p>	<p>Community centre ✓</p> <p>Sports facility ✓</p> <p>Swimming pool ✓</p> <p>Library ✓</p> <p>Alt green space within easy walking ✓</p> <p>Area police ✓</p> <p>Doctors surgery ✓</p>
13	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No MARKED PATHS. ORIGINALLY THERE WAS A WELL-TROdden UNOFFICIAL PATH <del>WALKED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS TO GO TO WEST DENE SCHOOL</del> VIA ENTRANCE IN WEST DENE
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	ON FOOT
15	How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	LEISURE PURSUITS, WALKING, PLAY WITH CHILDREN, & GO TO SHOPS
16	Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	AT EAST ENCE WALK . (MORE THAN THAT IN SUMMER).
17	How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	PLAYING WITH CHILDREN . WALKING ETC AS ABOVE
18	(apart from use of any public paths on the Land)	
19	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?	YES
20	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	AS ABOVE
21	If so, for what?	ACCESS
22	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	"FUN DAY" AND COMMUNITY PICNIC ?/2008
23	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?	2010 DEN LEAVES TOOK ABOUT 2008.
	Do/did you participate in any of them?	YES

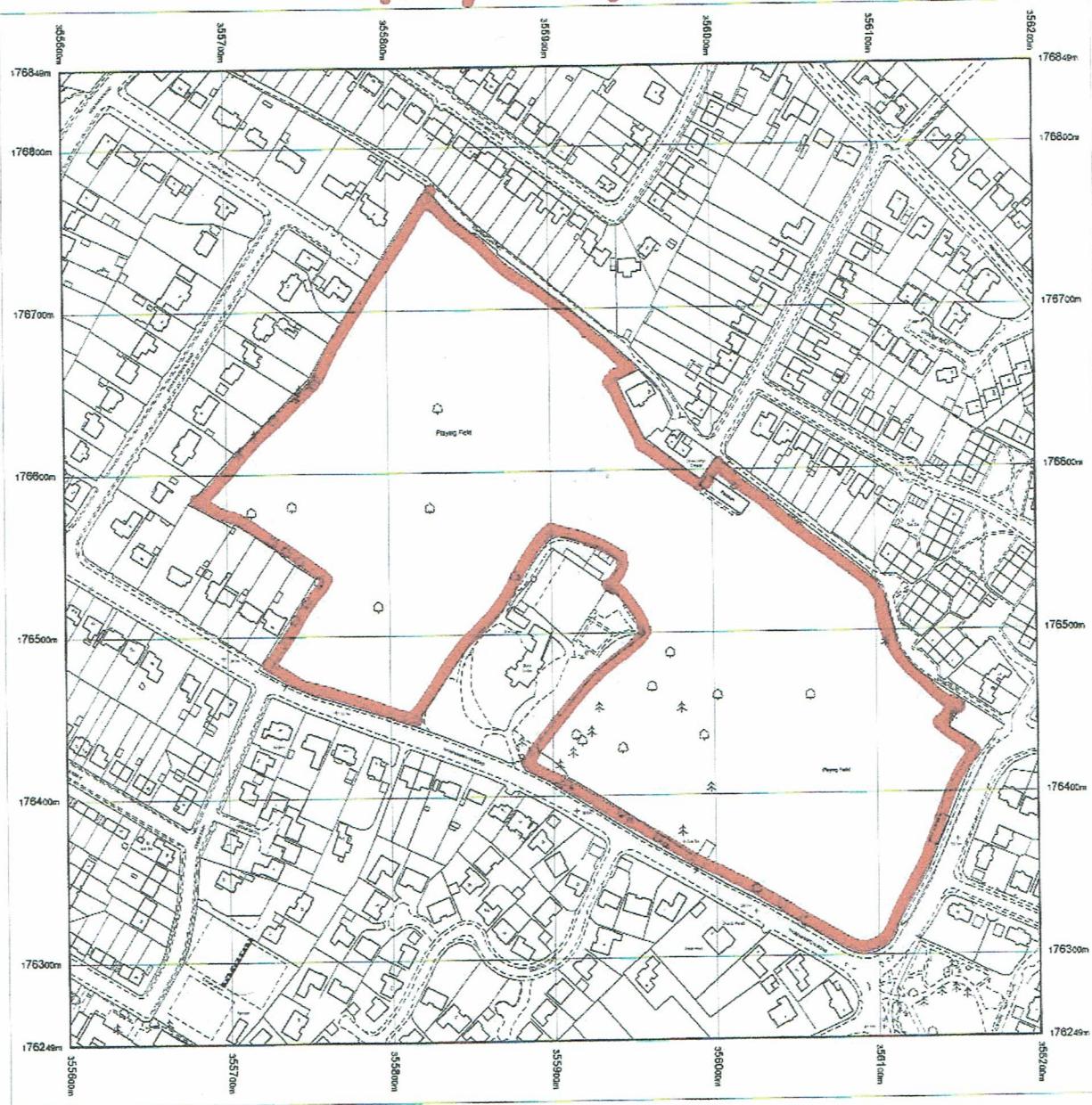
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DENDROLOGIST'S  
ROLE  
IN  
LAND  
MANAGEMENT  
AND  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
PROJECTS  
ABOUT 2008.

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	YES - VARIOUS SPORTS CLUBS FOR FOOTBALL CRICKET ETC. UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL																																													
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	YES - CRICKET ETC (MORE OFTEN IN SUMMER).																																													
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"																																														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Children playing</th> <th>Fetes</th> <th>Bonfire parties</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rounders</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drawing and painting</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dog Walking</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Team Games (Formal)</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Team Games (informal)</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Picking blackberries</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community celebrations</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Bicycle riding ✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Carol singing</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>other GOLF</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>other ATHLETICS</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>other FOOTBALL</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>other PETTO GRAFTY</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>other</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Children playing	Fetes	Bonfire parties	Rounders	✓		Drawing and painting	✓		Dog Walking	✓		Team Games (Formal)	✓		Team Games (informal)	✓		Picking blackberries	✓		Community celebrations	✓				Bicycle riding ✓			Carol singing			other GOLF			other ATHLETICS			other FOOTBALL			other PETTO GRAFTY			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.	AS ABOVE																																													
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	NO																																													
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?	NO TICE ABOUT DOG FouLing
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?	NOTHING TANGIBLE EXCEPT THERE WERE NOTICES SENT ROUND ABOUT THE PICNIC CELEBRATION
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)	YES
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 39 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	Shelia Prece
48	Name	SHELIA PRECE
49	Date	02/02/11

**MAP 'A'**



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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.

Metres  
0 20 40 60 80 100  
Scale 1:2500

Supplied by: Latitude - Southampton  
Serial number: 09349100  
Centre coordinates: 355889.67 176549.37

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)

*Sherila Prece  
02/02/11*

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Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland

