

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

My name is: Alan William Preece

Address: 12 South Dene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 2BW

My occupation is: part-time Clinical Scientist after retiring as professor of Medical Physics

We moved here with two small children in 1972 after living in the middle of countryside in the Chew valley, seeking an urban environment with attributes of countryside and found that living close to Stoke Lodge a joy and privilege. Access is easy via West Dene, Cheyne Road or off Shirehampton Road and is our regular route to the shops and activities there.

From the beginning the Parkland was a place to wander with the children, to play ball games, fly kites, watch groups enjoying all kinds of sports such as cricket, football, long-jumps, and generally to exercise and chill out. It was also a place to play games in the woodland and building ruins and to observe wild-life in the form of squirrels, foxes, bats and a huge variety of birdlife.

At all times I felt it was a safe, observed environment for small children, and this applied when they were older and wandered over there unsupervised with their friends to play, to collect blackberries, mulberries and to seek birds' nests of the many visitors to our garden. It is also a place we have been able to exercise the dogs of neighbours when too ill to do this themselves.

In the middle years I have been able to indulge in exercise myself – just walking, attempting to teach cricket to American visitors, ski practice, photography, and wildlife observation. Now it has come full circle and I have 5 grandchildren, ranging ages from 12 to 4, who love to join me on the Parkland to do all the same things I did with their parents. There used to be a groundsman that we talked to – never once has there been any objection to any activities I or my children have undertaken.

There is nothing more pleasant than to hear the organised and casual sports groups practicing on the weekend and to be able to support the school fetes and other events that regularly happen. Community is harmony and apart from the odd golf-ball or football crashing into my garden, such use is a wonderful thing.

I have a first degree in biology and thoroughly appreciate the quality of this environment in the middle of a suburban sprawl of houses. Surely this is why it was chosen by the BBC as location for a Springwatch programme? It is a natural reservoir of wildlife and a corridor for foxes and badgers. I also treasure its relative security since I am happy to traverse it in the dark and have been happy to let the older children use it in the late evenings. I also hope, when I have more free time, to take advantage of the adult foreign language courses at Stoke Lodge House.

I believe that facts stated in this witness statement are true:

Signature:



Date: 03/02/20

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration – Evidence Questionnaire	
	NAME of Witness Print
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?
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 PARKLAND)
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"? 39 YEARS
9	Between which years did you us the Land edged in red on Map "A"? 1972 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 ✓
	Local junior school ✓	Sports facility ✓	A central feature ✓
	Local secondary school	Swimming pool ✓	Scout hut ✓
	Residents association	Library ✓	other SHOPS
	Neighbourhood watch ✓	Alt green space within easy walking No	other Bus Service
	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"?	YES	
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	END OF WESTDENE OR VIA ERSENE LAND	
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, EXERCISE, ACCESS TO STOKE LODGE, SHOPS & BUS ROUTE	
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)	SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK	
18	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?	PLAY WITH CHILDREN / GRANDCHILDREN, PHOTOGRAPHY, FRUIT PICKING, WALKING	
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	YES	
20	If so, for what?	GAMES, ACCESS TO TREES	
21	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	FUN DAYS, PICNICS, SPORTS TRAINING, BOTANY TOURS / LECTURES	
22	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?	AS ABOVE, ON MOST YEARS AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER	
23	Do/did you participate in any of them?	YES	

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	YES - SCHOOLS and SPORTS CLUBS																											
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	YES - RUGBY CRICKET GAMES & PRACTICE SUMMER ACTIVITIES																											
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></th> <th>Fetes</th> <th>Bonfire parties</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Children playing</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rounders</td> <td>Football ✓</td> <td>Bicycle riding ✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drawing and painting</td> <td>Rugby ✓</td> <td>Carol singing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dog Walking</td> <td>Cricket ✓</td> <td>other GOLF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Team Games (Formal)</td> <td>Bird watching ✓</td> <td>other HORSE RACING</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Team Games (informal)</td> <td>Picnicking ✓</td> <td>other SKIING</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Picking blackberries</td> <td>Kite flying ✓</td> <td>other DONKEY JUMPS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community celebrations</td> <td>People walking ✓</td> <td>other</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Fetes	Bonfire parties	Children playing	✓		Rounders	Football ✓	Bicycle riding ✓	Drawing and painting	Rugby ✓	Carol singing	Dog Walking	Cricket ✓	other GOLF	Team Games (Formal)	Bird watching ✓	other HORSE RACING	Team Games (informal)	Picnicking ✓	other SKIING	Picking blackberries	Kite flying ✓	other DONKEY JUMPS	Community celebrations	People walking ✓	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.	YES - 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.	YES - AS ABOVE + COTHAM SCHOOL																											
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	YES - GARDENER USED TO EXIST																											
30	What did they say? If anything?	YES - SUGGESTED NOT CYCLING ON PITCHES																											
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																											

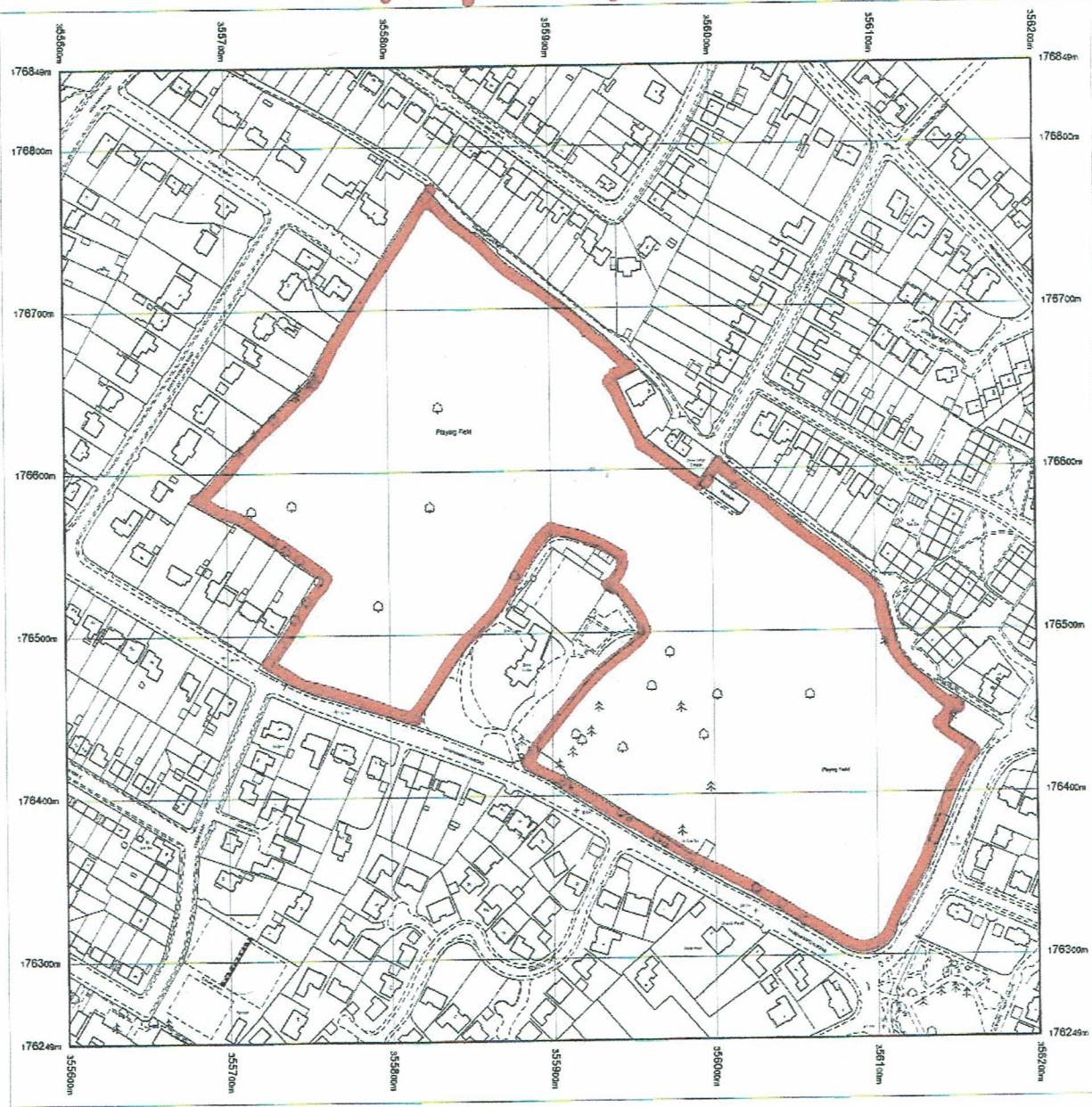
36	If yes, when and for what reason?	
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	NOTICE AT ONE OF ACCESS POINTS
38	If yes, give examples and dates	PROHIBITION DOG FOULING & AIRCRAFT PLYLING
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	YES - NOTICE AT WEST DENE ENTRANCE
40	Do you have any photographs or any other evidence of use of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	NOT TO HAND
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	
48	Name	ALAN WILLIAM PREESE
49	Date	02/02/2011

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OS Sitemap®

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.

0 20 40 60 80 100
Metres
Scale 1:2500

Supplied by: Latitude - Southampton
Serial number: 05349100
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

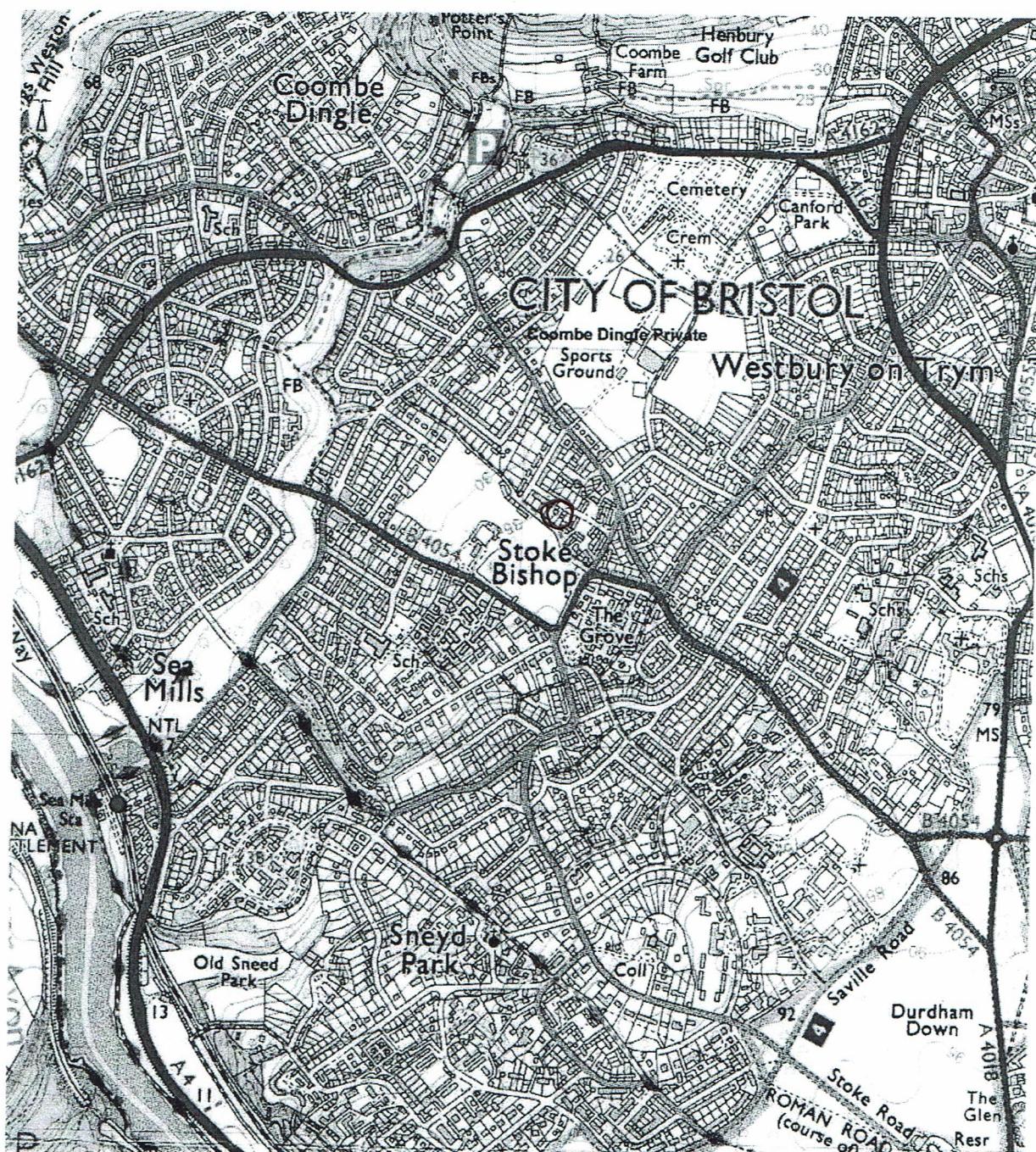
This is the area I am claiming
as TOWN GREEN.

John Green

02/02/2011

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Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters

W. G. Whinney.