

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

Mrs Celia Worrall, 47 Coombe Bridge Avenue, Bristol BS9 2LT

Retired

I moved from the north of England to Coombe Bridge Avenue, Stoke Bishop in March 1975 with my family and I am very pleased to say that we were quickly introduced by local residents to the nearby availability of Stoke Lodge Parklands – the access to which was in Cheyne Road via, the gap in the hedging.

My son and his newly made friends enjoyed many happy years playing football there either on summer evenings, week-ends, school holidays and in particular on Boxing Day – the latter, especially when they had progressed to either College or University. My daughter and her friends also enjoyed many games of impromptu tennis and rounders, jogging and also picnics etc. whilst she was growing up. Added to this my husband and I enjoyed many happy hours walking Labrador dogs around the perimeter of the field, picking blackberries and often meeting other local residents for social chats. I can only stress that life would have been very much the poorer without these pleasures.

Yes, there is the proximity of the Dingle, but I do not think that this is a safe place either for children or for the elderly. I can still remember to this day, the trauma of being “flashed” at by a male there and the panic I experienced in trying to escape. I would never go on my own to this area again.

I can also recall in the past taking part in a very successful protest about the threatened closure of Stoke Lodge to the general public, although I am not exactly sure how long ago this took place. A particular danger was the proposed closure of access from Cheyne Road. Fortunately we won the day and I believe that this was due to the fact that there had been access used for many years and that it was now considered a right of way.

Stoke Lodge Parkland is an outstandingly beautiful and safe area for local residents, especially the young and the elderly. Please, please, please may we keep this facility for the use of future families. We need to keep green open spaces available for all to enjoy. Surely, it is possible to keep it as a multi-used facility both for school and club sports and for general public recreation.

Added to this, I have attended several adult educational courses over the years at the house, e.g. Upholstery, German, Sewing and Cookery which I enjoyed very much. I hope that this facility also remains open to the public.

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

Signature: 

Date: 2.2.2011



Picnic on Stoke Lodge
2010

(NOTE GRANDCHILDREN IN FRONT ROW WITH BALL) (c Worrell File)

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

	NAME of Witness Print	MRS CELIA WERRALL
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	STOKE BISHOP B99 2LT
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
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	Now known as Stoke Lodge Parkland
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	36 years
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1975 to date
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
	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"?			
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 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?			

Yes

Gap in Chayne Road most times
occasionally through main gate

Walk

Recreational walks, games with
grandchildren, etc.For many many years it was on a
daily basis - now less oftenMy children played cricket, football,
tennis, rowers, picnics with their friendsMy children use the land when they come
to stayRunning, walking and playing games
with my grandchildrenMy family attended the picnic arranged
last summer

As above

Yes

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	Cotham Grammar, Clifton High School Bristol University Annual sports day for Stoke Bishop Primrose School.			
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"				
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	Children playing	✓	Fetes	Bonfire parties
		Rounders	✓	Football	Bicycle riding
		Drawing and painting	✓	Rugby	Carol singing
		Dog Walking	✓	Cricket	other
		Team Games (Formal)	✓	Bird watching	other
		Team Games (informal)	✓	Picnicking	other
		Picking blackberries	✓	Kite flying	other
		Community celebrations	✓	People walking	other
27	Do you know the name of the owner of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	No			
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"?	Don't know			
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			

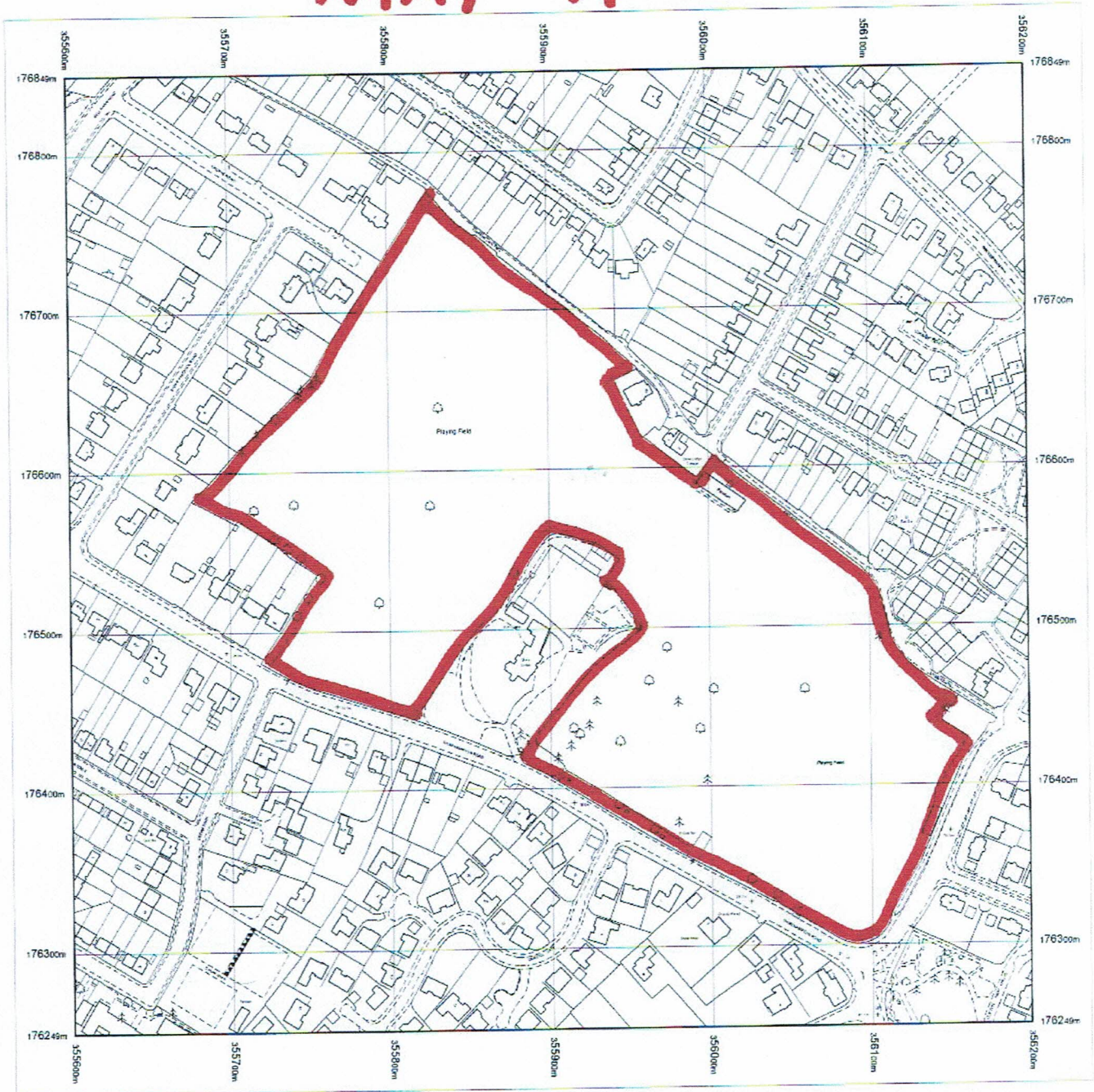
36	If yes, when and for what reason?	—
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	No
38	If yes, give examples and dates	—
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	Yes - No dog walking
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. My granddaughters are on the bank road
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)	See statement
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 36 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	C. Worrell
48	Name	MRS CELIA WORRELL
49	Date	3.2.2011

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OS Sitemap®

MAP 'A'



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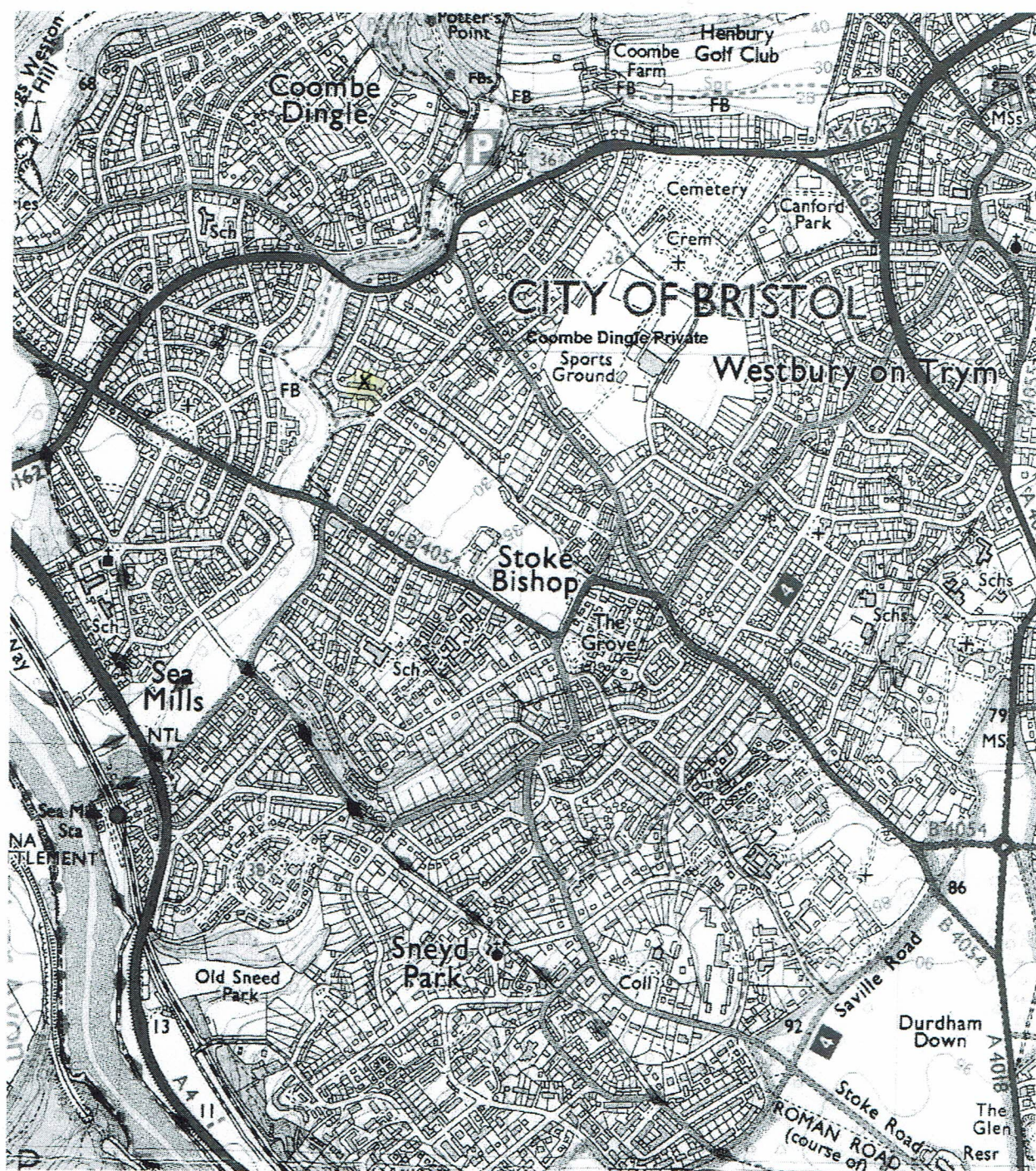
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C. Worrall

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters