

**Witness Statement in support of
Town green Application for Stoke Lodge parkland**

From : John Ll Hollyman
51 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 1EH
Occupation : Retired Lecturer

In support of the application to have Stoke Lodge designated as a Town Green, I should like to make the following points.

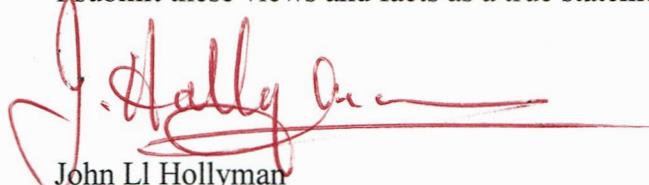
Stoke Lodge has been our local park ever since we came to live at this address 36 years ago. It was part of the reason for choosing to live in this area, because we wanted our young family to have an open space only 100 yards away to which transport was not required. We used it for playing games, flying a kite, watching cricket or football, picking blackberries, having picnics and in my personal case, for twice weekly jogging.

The existence of signs which formally pointed out restrictions on the use of the fields seemed a curious anomaly, since everyone that one came across when using Stoke Lodge was there because it was their unquestioned right, one which they had enjoyed for many years before I arrived here with my family, and which they exercised as naturally as they did when going up to the Downs. No-one ever pointed out the formal legal situation and certainly I used Stoke Lodge as a running area in exactly the same way as I sometimes used the Downs, Coombe Dingle or Blaise Castle.

My wife has used Stoke Lodge House as a centre for evening classes in more recent times, I use the fields as a pleasant and more direct route through to my daughter's house over in Bellbar Road and I continue to spend time there picking blackberries or watching sports.

Obviously we value Stoke Lodge as a recreation area, a space with beautiful trees that has allowed us to escape streets, cars and concrete and which has provided more formal opportunities for sports. The values that are summed up in such green spaces are often ignored by the powers that be.

I submit these views and facts as a true statement in support of the Application



John Ll Hollyman

6th February 2011

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration – Evidence Questionnaire	
	NAME of Witness <u>John Hollyman</u> 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? <i>As Above</i>
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 <i>YES</i>
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"
5	Please confirm that you have marked the location of your house on Map "B" with an X. <i>CONFIRMED.</i>
6	By what name, if any, is The Land edged in red on Map "A" known? <i>STOKE LODGE</i>
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what? <i>No</i>
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"? <i>36 YEARS</i>
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"? <i>1975 – PRESENT</i>
10	Do you consider yourself to be a local inhabitant in respect of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? <i>YES</i>
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? <i>YES</i>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local secondary school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Residents association	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Neighbourhood watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Neighbourhood Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local place of worship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"?	Via path and gaps in wall / hedge along <i>Nisbet</i> over the wall; via House entrance; near <i>parish</i> .
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"?	FOR RECREATION, SPORT (WATLING + PLAYING)
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)	ONCE A MONTH
18	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?	WALKING + EXERCISE; BLACKBERRY PICKING
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	YES
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?	-

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	FOOTBALL, RUGBY + CRICKET TEAMS	
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	AS ABOVE.	
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"		
	Children playing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fetes <input type="checkbox"/>	Bonfire parties
	Rounders <input type="checkbox"/>	Football <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle riding
	Drawing and painting <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	People walking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
27	Do you know the name of the owner of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	BALSTON 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	

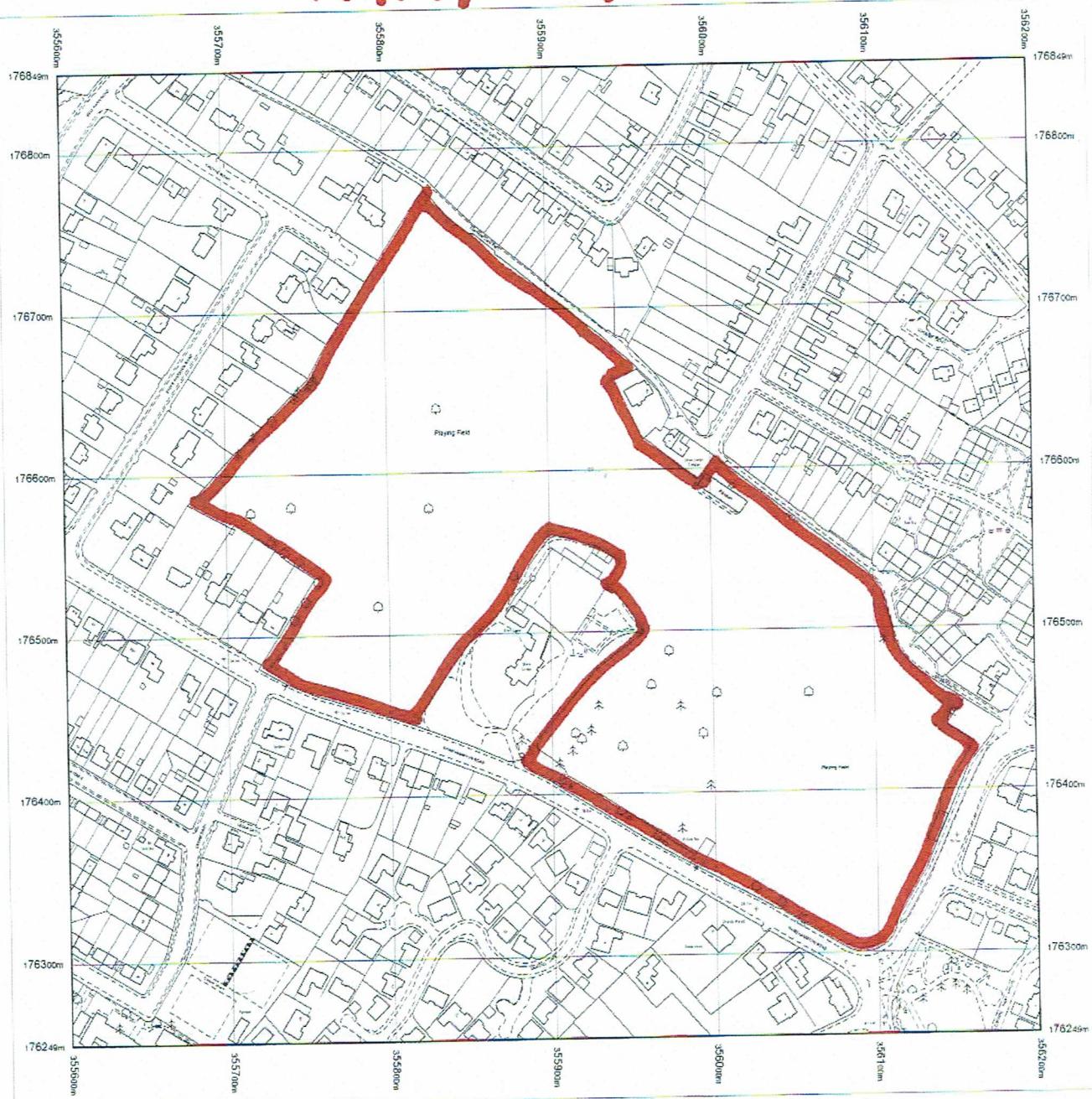
36	If yes, when and for what reason?	-
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	<i>Not until Representants</i>
38	If yes, give examples and dates	
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	<i>YES</i>
40	Do you have any photographs or any other evidence of use of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	<i>No</i>
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)	-
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 <i>36</i> 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>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.</i>	
46	<i>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.</i>	
47	Signed	<i>John H. Hollyman</i>
48	Name	<i>John Hollyman</i>
49	Date	<i>8/2/11</i>

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MAP 'A'

OS Sitemap®



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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

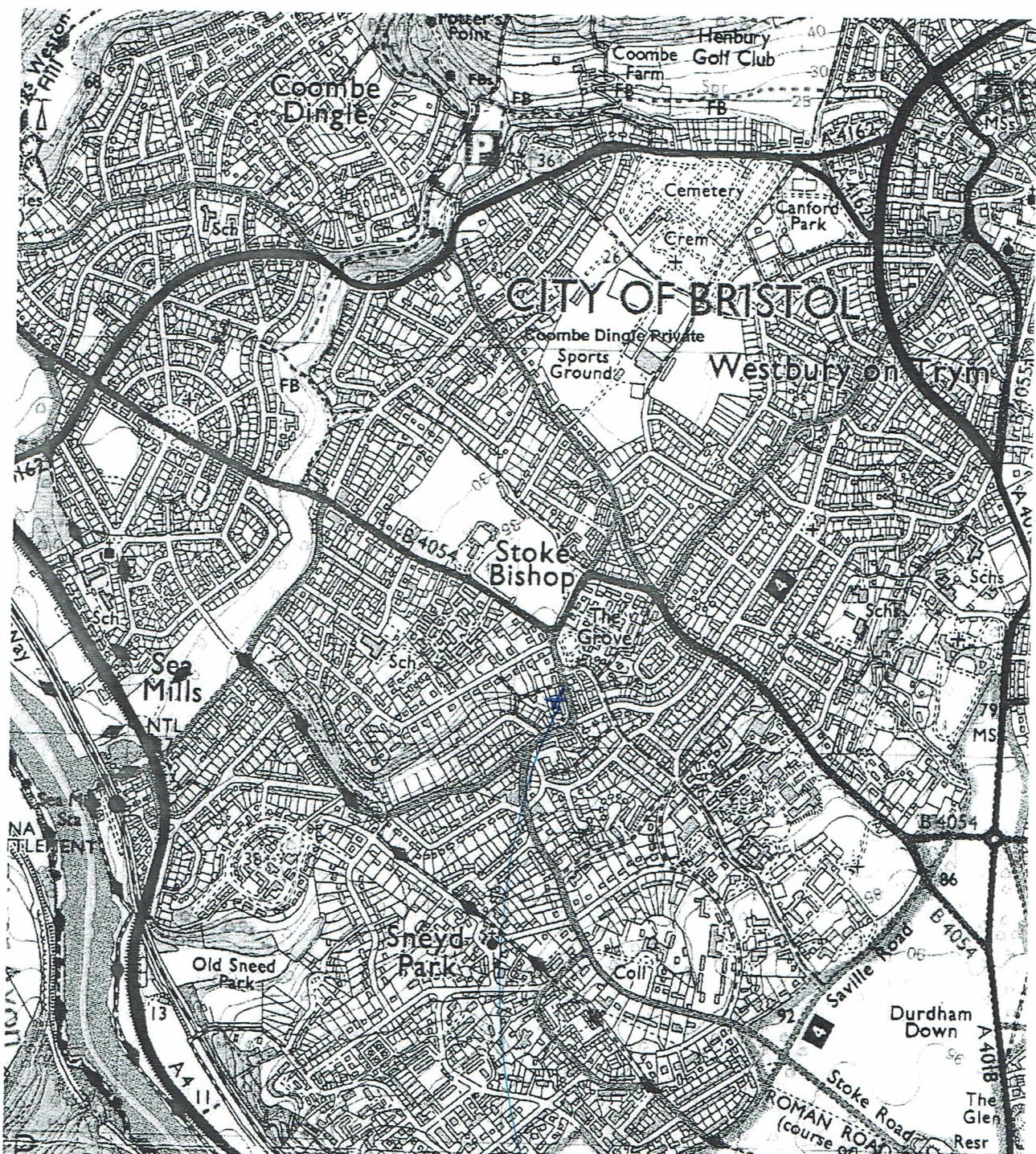
Scale 1:2500

— NOT TO SCALE WHEN COPIED AT A4.
Supplied by: Latitude - Southampton
Serial number: 05349100
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

J. Hollyman

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters