

Witness Statement in Support of Town Green Application for Stoke Lodge Parkland

Full Name: Ben James McKenna

Current Address: 47 Druid Hill, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1EH

Occupation: Student

My family and I have been using Stoke Lodge playing fields for as long as I can remember. During this time I have never been denied access. I have used the field for a range of activities – including gatherings of friends and family, to enjoy some parties, and to participate in competitions and various sporting events.

I have always walked to the field and mainly gained access to it by jumping over the low wall at the top of Druid Hill.

I most value Stoke Lodge in that it can bring people together from a range of backgrounds. Its setting allows people to do what they please with the freedom that every person is entitled to. People are able to walk dogs on it, just simply walk on it, run on it, play football on it, play rugby on it, the list is almost endless. To take away this facility from the general public would be have an extremely detrimental effect on the area.

My fondest memories of the playing fields are of the 10 years I played football for Shirehampton Colts Football Club, from the age of 6 to the age of 16. Nearly every week I played my home football matches on the field. From the great feeling of success to the bitter taste of failure, the field bore witness to all of these emotions on a weekly basis, providing a platform on which great memories were made. It allowed a bunch of young boys to grow, learn and mature together. The kind of key learning skills needed for any young person to succeed in life originate in team activities and sports such as football. Friends and family can become involved in supporting you and your team - so this field allows for not only personal and quiet reflection but also for teams and communities to come together.

I am the eldest of three brothers in my family, brothers with whom I have extremely good relationships. We were the most ardent users of the field; not only due to the same football club we were involved in but also because every possible opportunity we were able to take we would go and play until the lack of daylight would stop us. Without the field I am in no doubt that the course of my life would have been substantially altered and I am also in no doubt that I would not have become the same person that I am today. I am extremely grateful for all the experiences I have had on Stoke Lodge, for the relationships I have developed with my brothers, and friendships I have made with team mates and others.

I believe that the facts stated in the witness statement are true,

Signature: 

Date: 30/01/2011

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

	NAME of Witness Print	BEN JAMES MCCLENNAN
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	47 DRUID HILL STOKE BISITOP BRISTOL BS9 1EH
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"	I agree
5	Please confirm that you have marked the location of your house on Map "B" with an X.	confirmed
6	By what name, if any, is The Land edged in red on Map "A" known?	STOKE LODGE PLAYING GROUND
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	I AM NOT AWARE
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	18 YEARS
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	SINCE 1992
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?			

THE PUBLIC CROSS IS ALL THE TIME

VARIOUS ACCESS - MAINLY LOW WALL AT TOP OF DRIVE ITILL

WALK

EXERCISE - WALKING / GET TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS

2 TO 3 TIMES A WEEK

PLAYING FOOTBALL / PLAYING WITH FRIENDS / SOCIALISING

YES

SAME AS ME, PLUS WALKING & RUNNING

VARIOUS SPORTS, & SCHOOL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

AS ABOVE - EVEN SINCE I HAVE USED THE FIELD, & BEFORE

YES - MANY

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.		MANY - SEE MY PERSONAL STATEMENT
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"		PICNICS TAKE PLACE IN THE SUMMER
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"		
	Children playing	☒	Fetes
	Rounders	☒	Football
	Drawing and painting	☒	Rugby
	Dog Walking	☒	Cricket
	Team Games (Formal)	☒	Bird watching
	Team Games (informal)	☒	Picnicking
	Picking blackberries	☒	Kite flying
	Community celebrations	☒	People walking
			Bonfire parties
			Bicycle riding
			Carol singing
			other
			other
			other
			other
			other
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.		LAND IS USED BY MANY LOCALS
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		I AM SURE THE COUNCIL IS AWARE OF OUR USE
30	What did they say? If anything?		NOTHING
31	Was permission ever sought by you for activities on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		NO - I EITHER USED IT PERSONALLY, OR VIA CLUB ACTIVITIES
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 - WE JUST USED IT
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

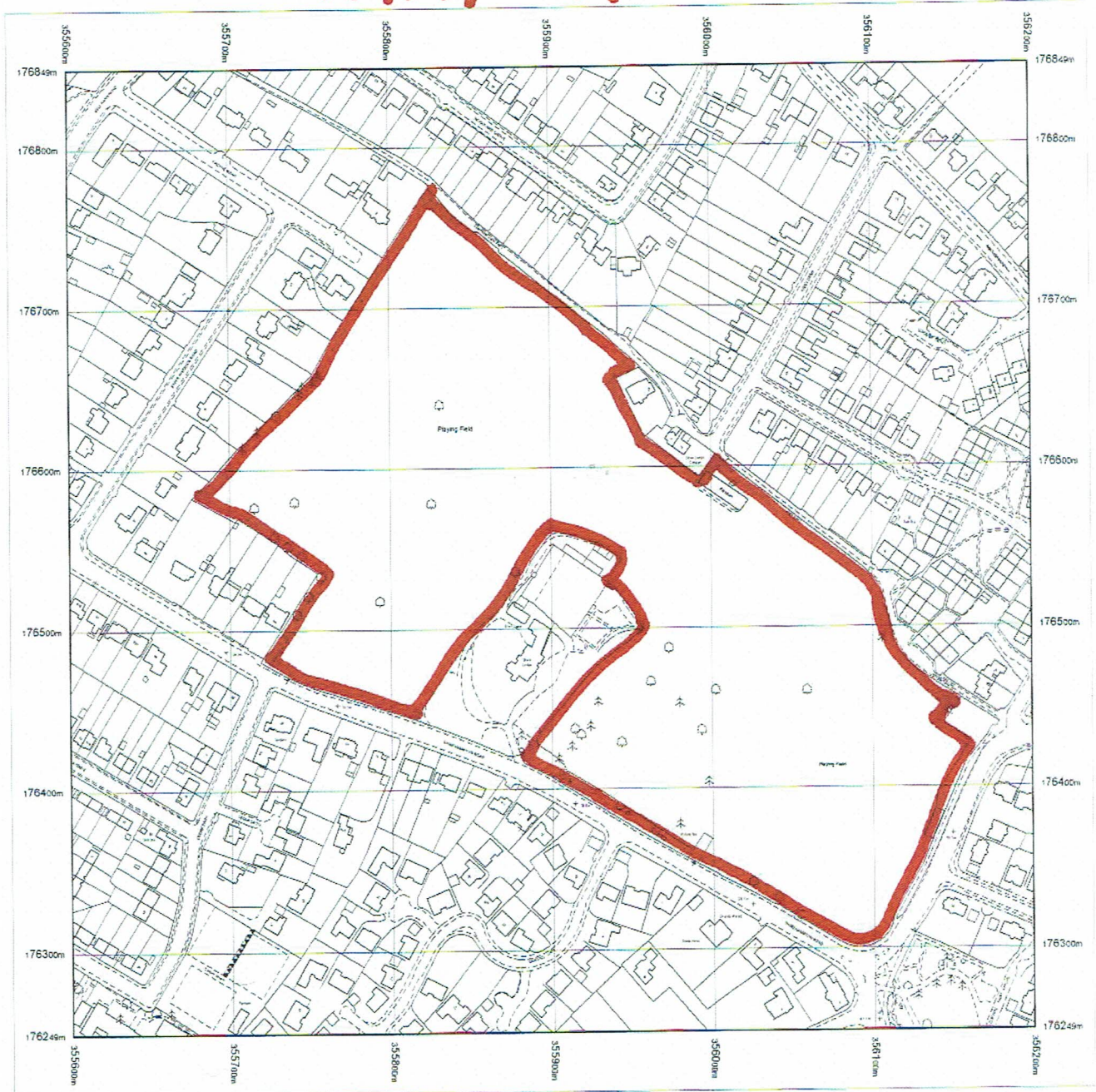
36	If yes, when and for what reason?	
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE
38	If yes, give examples and dates	
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	YES, BUT NOT ENFORCED IN ANY WAY
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 BELIEVE SO, AND WOULD TRY TO LOCATE
41	Are you willing to allow us to copy them for use as part of our application?	YES - BUT SEE ABOVE
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 XX18XX 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	Ben McKenna
49	Date	30/01/2011

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OS Sitemap®

MAP 'A'



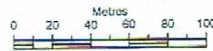
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The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way

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



Scale 1:2500

Supplied by: Latitude - Southampton
Serial number: 08349100
Centre coordinates: 355899.67 176549.37

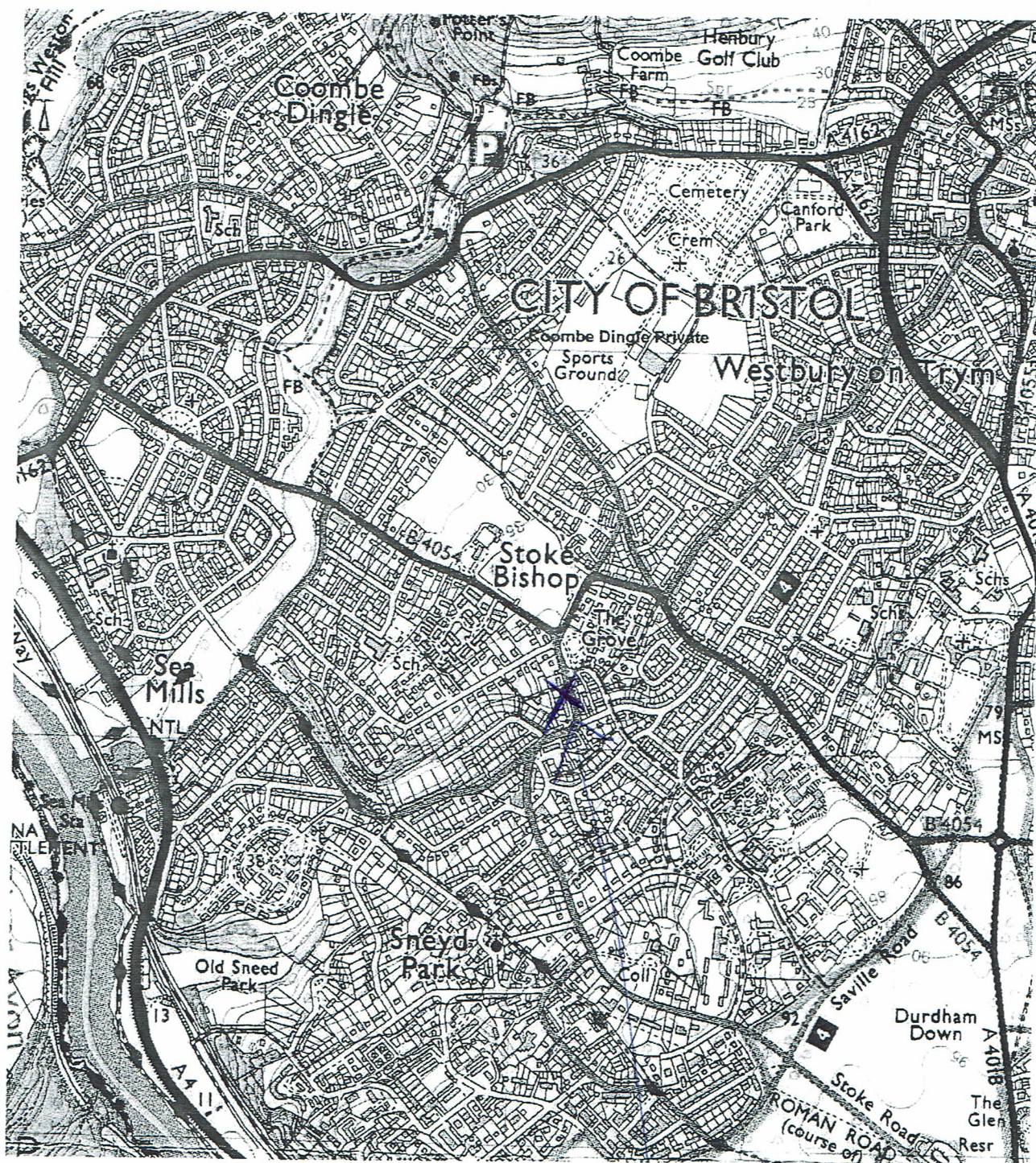
Further information can be found on the OS Sitemap information leaflet or the Ordnance Survey web site:
www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

NOT TO SCALE WHEN COPIED AT A4.

Handwritten signature

30/01/2011

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters

Cuthbert

30/01/2011

marked at the top
of Durdham Hill

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Ben McKenna Photos

