

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

Susan Jane Mayer

Brockfields
68a, Coombe Lane
Bristol
BS9 2AY

Housewife/Grandmother

Statement.

I have lived at the above address for more than twenty years having relocated from Kent in August 1990. In the early years I would often take my son to neighbouring city parks that provided children's play equipment, I was fortunate to have access to a car because these play areas lie beyond the walking limits of small children living in Stoke Bishop.

Later, when our dog arrived, we would often take long strolls through Coombe Dingle and up to Blaise along the woodland path that follows the River Hazel/Trym, as well as daily walks across the Downs on the way to school. Nonetheless, I have never walked my dog on Stoke Lodge Parkland.

Over the years, I have attended various meetings on local issues as well as foreign language classes at Stoke Lodge House; I walked to many of these meetings across the field from West Dene or via a friend's garden at the Cheyne Road end of the Parkland.

Some classes, notably Art and Yoga, regularly spill out onto the grounds, particularly during summer months, to take full advantage of the spectacular landscape and peaceful character of the grounds.

The Parkland has been utilised for both formal and informal sport for almost one hundred years; the Butlin Sisters (owner's pre 1947) would allow local children to play there unfettered and took particular delight in regular cricket matches between local teams but this was before my time in Bristol.

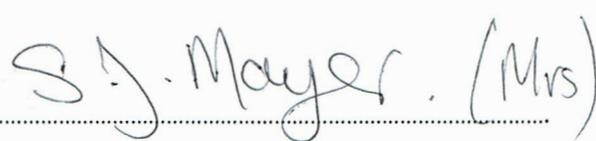
In recent years I have used the parkland for picnics, kite-flying and ball games, usually with my young Grand Daughter; during this time I have also witnessed, people walking their dogs, jogging/strolling around the perimeter or simply sitting 'on the logs' to catch the sun.

There is a continuous flow of visitors to the parkland on a daily basis, from early morning, to dusk and beyond and a much-favoured place for local youngsters to have an informal kick about after school.

These diverse traditions, painstakingly documented in a weeklong survey conducted by residents together with a protest picnic-in-the-park (attracting local press and one hundred and fifty locals, August 2010), epitomise opposition to the threatened loss of this treasured parkland; notably, both highly publicized events progressed without comment from BCC or the Grounds men.

I can certainly identify with the community regard for this tranquil open space particularly for those with very young families, the elderly and infirm who rely on this Parkland for moderate exercise and the opportunity to socialise. Equally as the realities of senior life become more apparent to me, the option of local parkland within comfortable walking distance is an increasing priority, particularly now that alternative woodland walks have become unsafe for lone walkers, particularly female (police advice) and all previously Open Green Space in Stoke Bishop is built on.

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

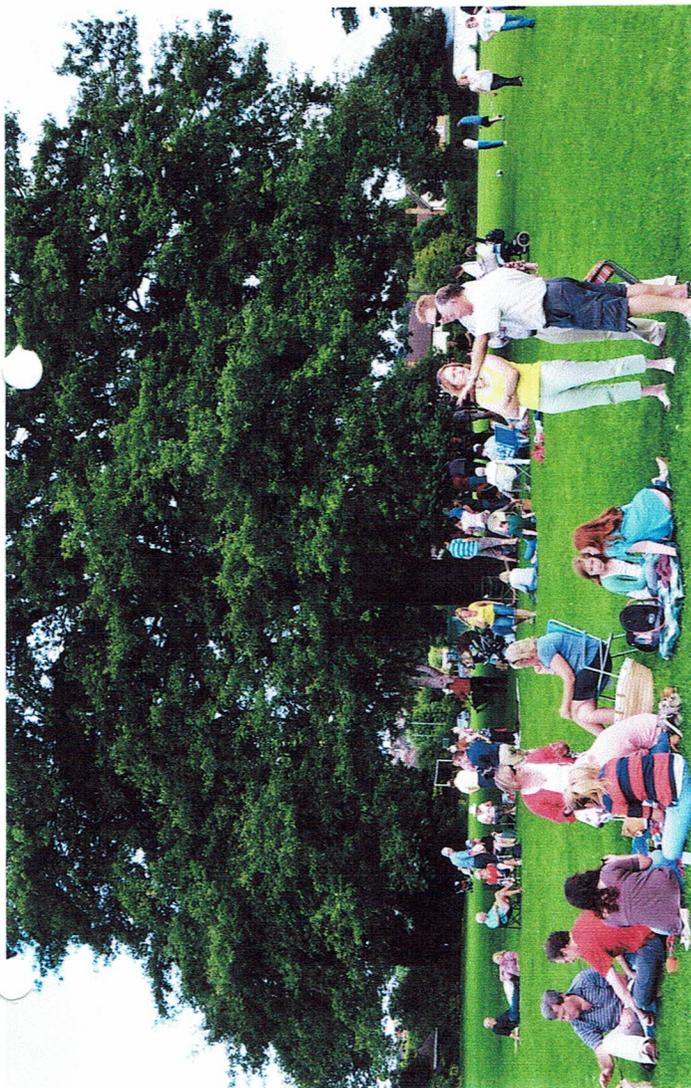
Signature 

Date26th January 2011.....

Stoke Lodge Parkland <<173>>



Picnic in the Parkland
2010



150 Picnic in the Parkland
August 2010



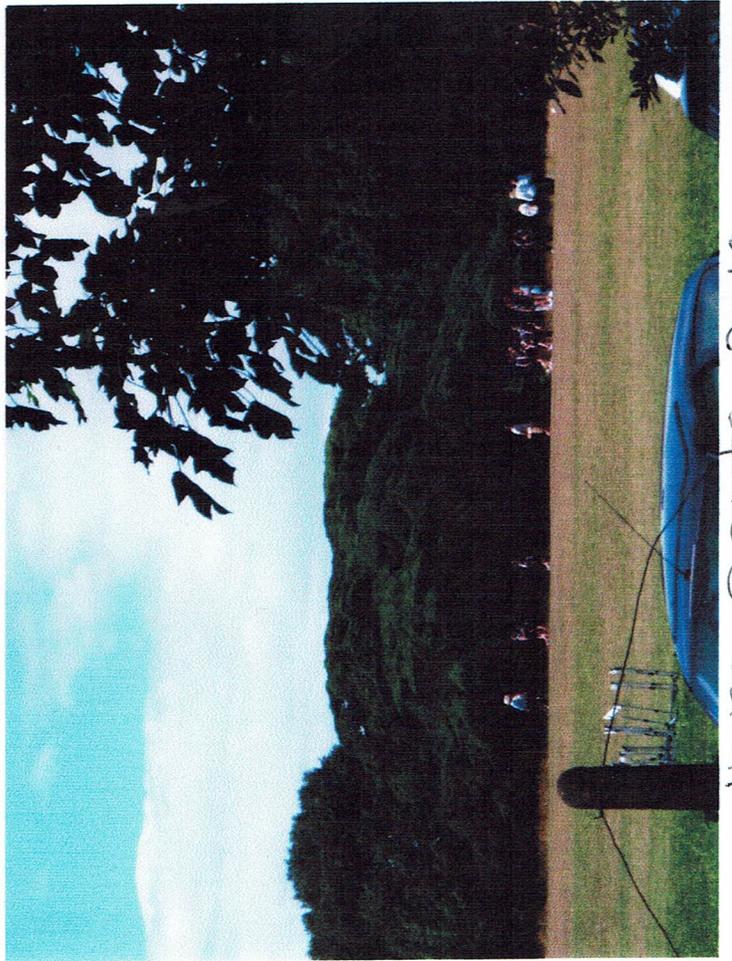
Save Stoke Lodge Protesters 2010



Clifton High School Sports Day
July 2010 Car Park
Stoke Lodge.



Athletics 2010



House Sports 2010

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration - Evidence Questionnaire	
NAME of Witness Print	Susan Jane Mayer
1 Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	Brackfields 68a Coombe Lane Bristol BS9 2AT
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?	N/A
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 (confirm)
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?	N/A
8 For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	20 yrs
9 Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	approx 1998 - Classes, House approx 2005 - to date, Grounds Area
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?	Increased use at weekends since 2005?

12	<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>				<p>Local infants school <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Local junior school <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Local secondary school <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Residents association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Neighbourhood watch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Neighbourhood Partnership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Local place of worship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Community centre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sports facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Private)</p> <p>Swimming pool <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Library <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Alt green space within easy walking <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Area police <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Doctors surgery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Community activities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>A central feature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stake lodge</p> <p>Scout hut <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>other <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>other <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>other <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>other <input type="checkbox"/></p>
13	<p>To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>				<p>NO, but rumours abound.</p>		
14	<p>How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>				<p>Cheyne Rd, main gates (classes) also off West Dene</p>		
15	<p>How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>				<p>walk</p>		
16	<p>Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>				<p>exercise, play</p>		
17	<p>How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"? (apart from use of any public paths on the Land)</p>				<p>mostly summer months</p>		
18	<p>What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?</p>				<p>Picnic, flying kites, Play</p>		
19	<p>Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>				<p>N/A</p>		
20	<p>If so, for what?</p>				<p>—</p>		
21	<p>Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?</p>				<p>Fetes run by local Church, ^{fest} boot sales local Children's Parties/teen parties</p>		
22	<p>If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?</p>				<p>Fetes/car boot sales - discontinued Parties etc unspecified</p>		
23	<p>Do/did you participate in any of them?</p>				<p>no</p>		

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.					football, cricket Adult hearing classes local Primary Schools
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"					summer sports; dayst football/cricket track events
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	Bonfire parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		Rounders <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Football <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle riding		
		Drawing and painting <input checked="" 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	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 checked="" 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.					BCC
28	Do you know the name of the occupier of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.					Cotham Grammar School / Bristol University
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?					not known
30	What did they say? If anything?					N/A
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?					N/A
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?					N/A
35	Have you ever been prevented from using the Land edged in red on Map "A"?					No

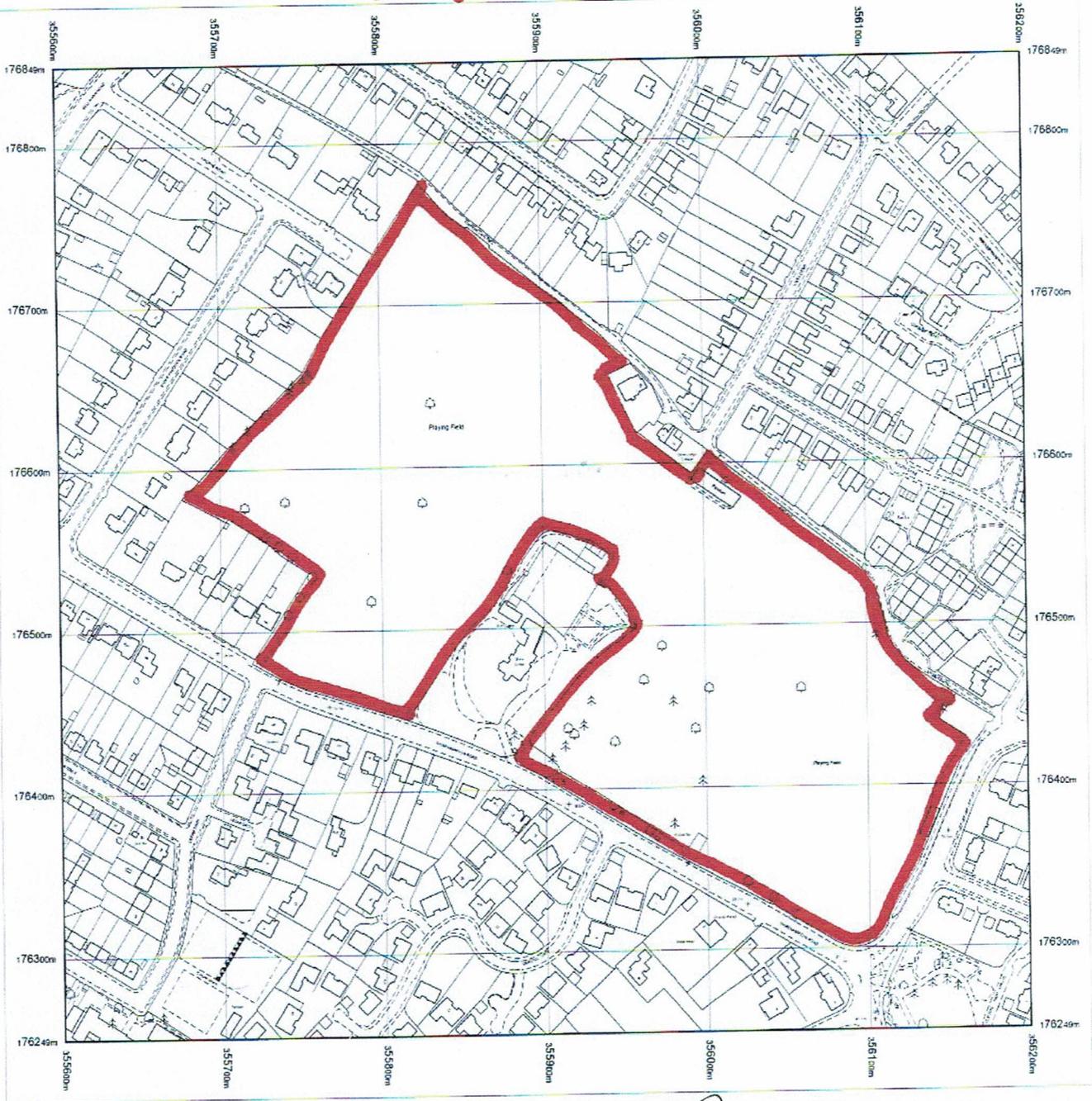
36	If yes, when and for what reason?	N/A
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	Not that I am aware of.
38	If yes, give examples and dates	N/A
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting 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?	yes
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 5+ 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	Susan Sane Mayer.
49	Date	26 th January 2011

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OS Sitemap®

MAP 'A'



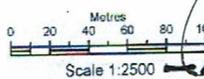
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The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



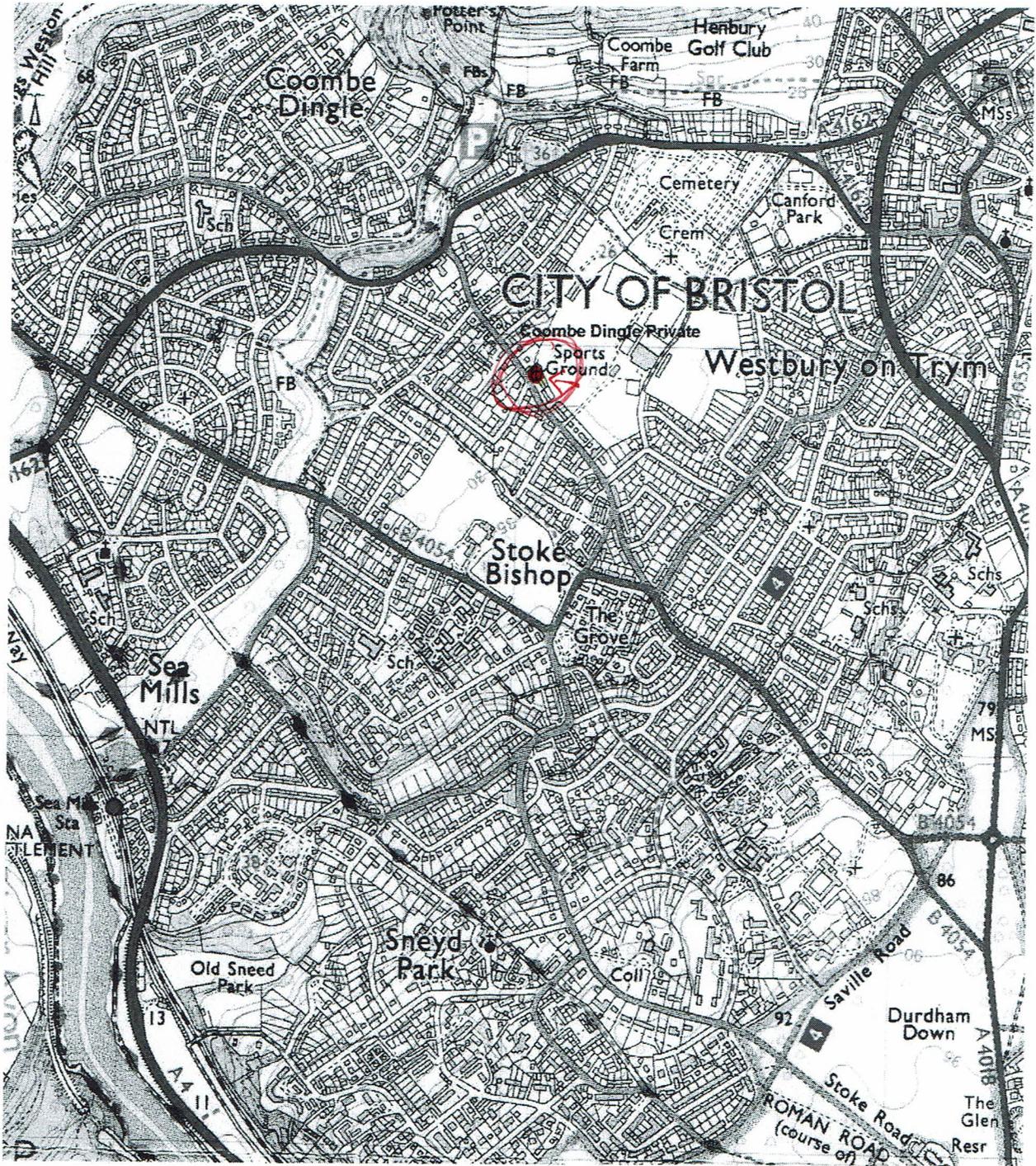
J. Mayes

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www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters