

4 February 2011

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

**Mrs Polly-Anna Cockerham
7 South Dene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 2BW
Chartered Tax Adviser**

I am writing this statement to show the amount of time my family has enjoyed the use of Stoke Lodge Parkland.

I moved into South Dene in October 1998. My family enjoys the green aspect of the area and the open spaces available to us. My husband went for a long walk most weekends and soon found the walk through the Stoke Lodge Parkland from the West Dene entrance down to Cheyne Road a part of our regular walk to Blaise. This enabled us to be to Blaise by crossing only two minor roads and enjoy as much green as possible.

I originally helped at the 43rd Cub Scout group which meets at a hut on Kewstoke Road. As part of the annual summer program we brought the cubs up to the field to play games and do badge work. It was a fantastic safe area for the many activities we took part in.

When I went self-employed and commenced working from home my neighbor and I started going for an early morning jog around the field before she took her girls to school.

I now have two daughters myself and regularly take them to the field, originally in their buggies and later with their scooters. They specifically like a copse of trees in the bottom corner which we fondly call the hidey hole. Here they can enjoy exploring amongst the lower branches and climbing in and out of the copse.

I helped arrange a neighborhood get together in September 2005. South Dene against West Dene friendly cricket match. Many neighbors joined in the fun and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in the sun with a picnic tea and games for the children and adults alike.

I also took my daughter to a fundraiser that was held on the field in 2003 when my daughter enjoyed the bouncy castle.

My family and I have enjoyed jumping in puddles under the changing room awning, watching balloons land in the field, flying kites, throwing balls and Frisbees and many other activities over the years of living here. We watched 'Wild in your Garden'

being filmed with the BBC Bill Oddie and Kate Humble. We watched 'Casualty' filming a summer fair on a particularly cold early spring day.

I have never been denied access to the field by anyone. When taking neighbors dogs for a walk I have always cleaned up behind them.

I use the route from West Dene down to Cheyne Road as a regular route to the shops on Shirehampton Road and my dentist on Bell Barn Road. This is a very safe route with my two girls.

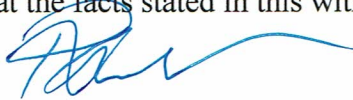
I have enjoyed table top sales at Stoke Lodge as well as taking French classes and voting. Cutting across from West Dene to Stoke Lodge is immensely quicker than walking all around the road from Parry's Lane to Shirehampton Road.

For many years my family and I would go across the field to get to Stoke Bishop C of E School on Cedar Park as again this shortened the journey by a long way.

The trees and space is an amazingly pleasant area to spend time. All the people I meet when I am there are friendly and stop to say hello or chat. It is a very sociable area. It is safe for my children to play on. The fact that they can get close to nature here is delightful.

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

Signature:



Date:

4 February 2011

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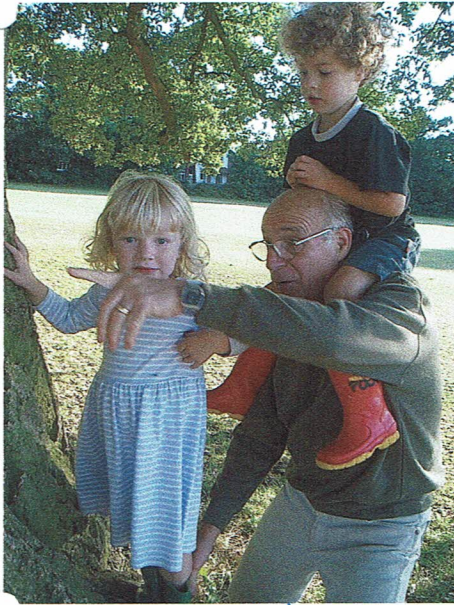
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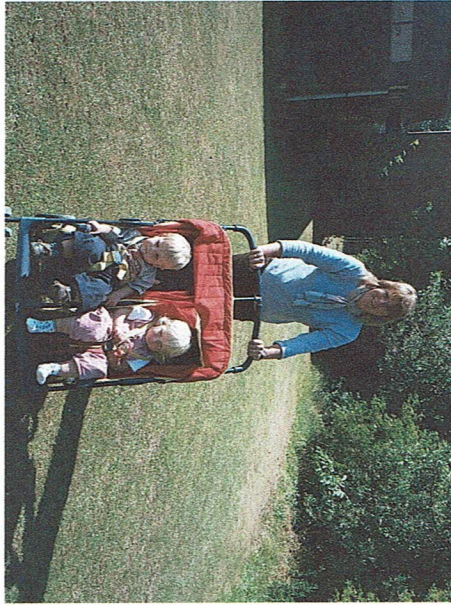
15/9/2005



11/9/2005



22/8/05



2004



2003



10/4/2009



7/4/2009



1/1/2009



16/11/2008



15/5/2007



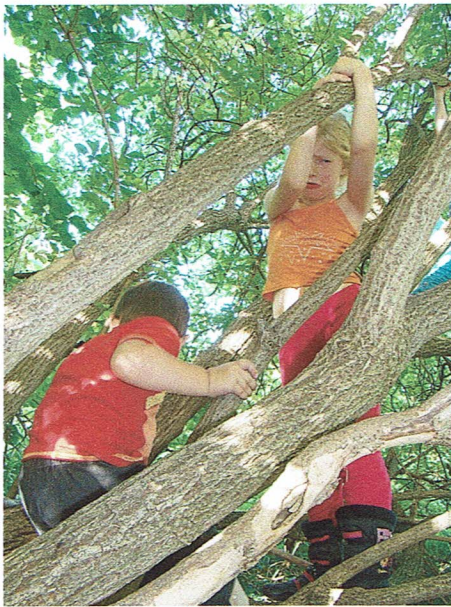
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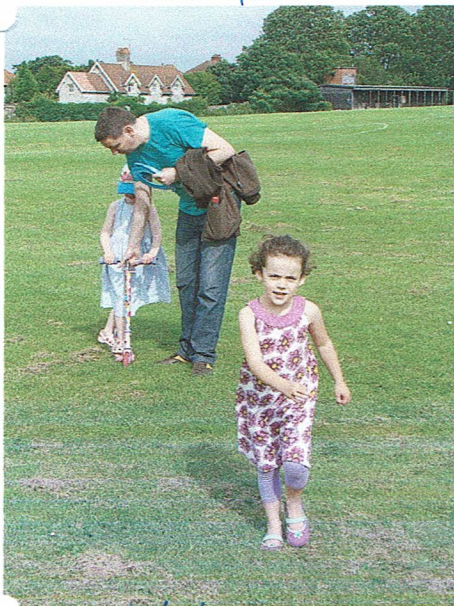
28/11/2010



12/9/2010



6/8/2010



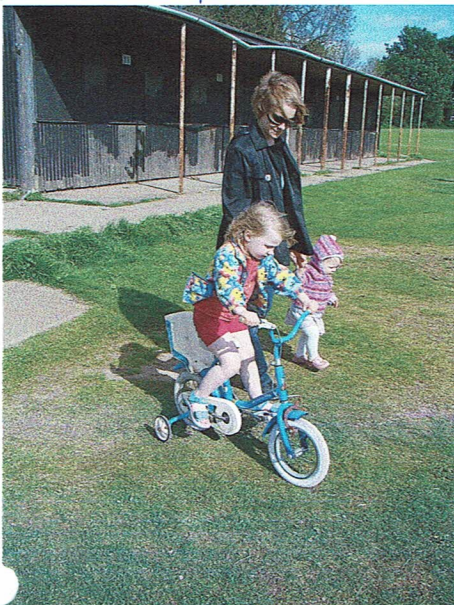
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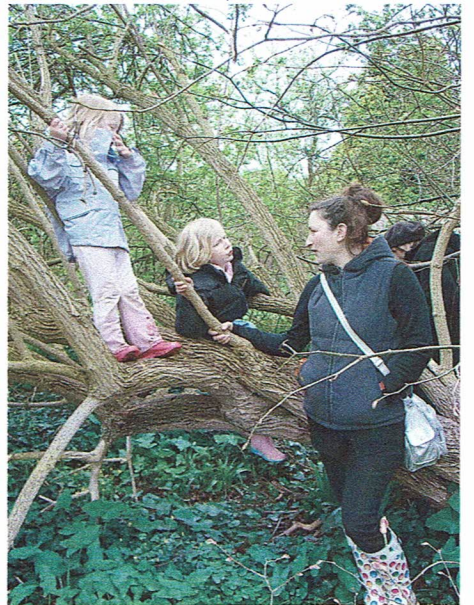
9/5/2010



3/5/2009



3/5/2009



10/4/2009

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration – Evidence Questionnaire	
NAME of Witness Print	
1	7 SOUTH DENE STOKE BISHOP BRISTOL BS9 2BW 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 ✓
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. ✓
6	By what name, if any, is The Land edged in red on Map "A" known? Stoke Lodge Parkland / Playing fields
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"? 12 1/2 years
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"? Oct 1998 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"?			
18	(apart from use of any public paths on the Land)			
19	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?			
20	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			
21	If so, for what?			
22	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			
23	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?			
24	Do/did you participate in any of them?			

End of West Dene entrance.

Walk

Recreational use, fresh air + exercise

Once a week in Spring Summer + Autumn

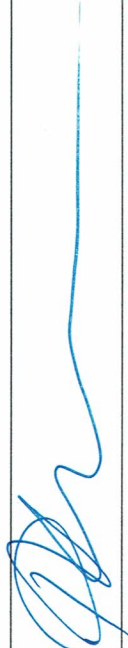
Walking mainly

Yes

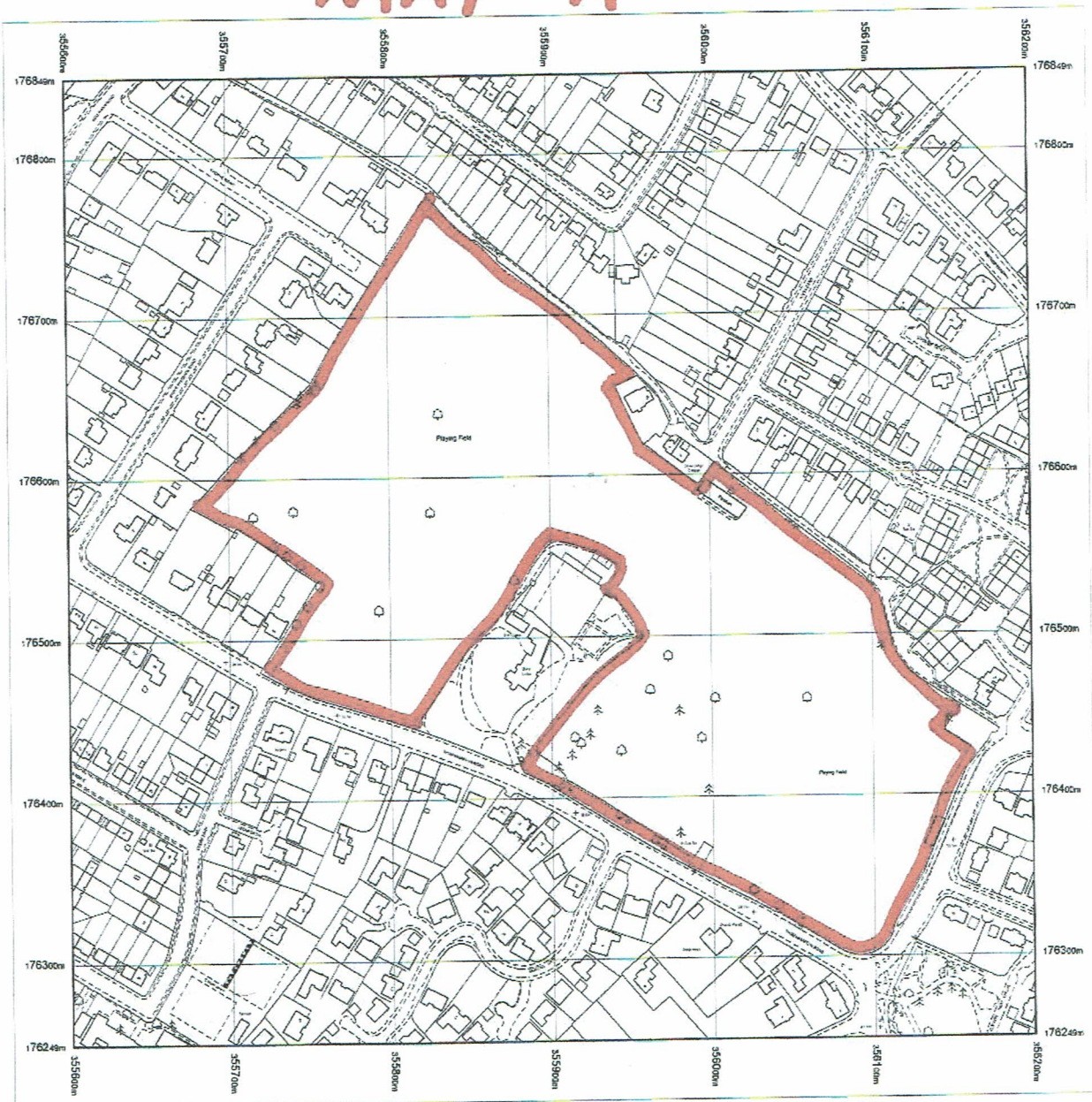
for recreational play and walks

Football, rugby, cricket, scouts use, guides use

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.		
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
	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.		Cotnam School & others
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?	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?	
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?	
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 12 1/2 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	MRS POLLY-ANNA COCKERHAM
49	Date	4 February 2011

MAP 'A'



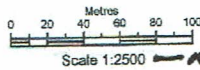
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The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.



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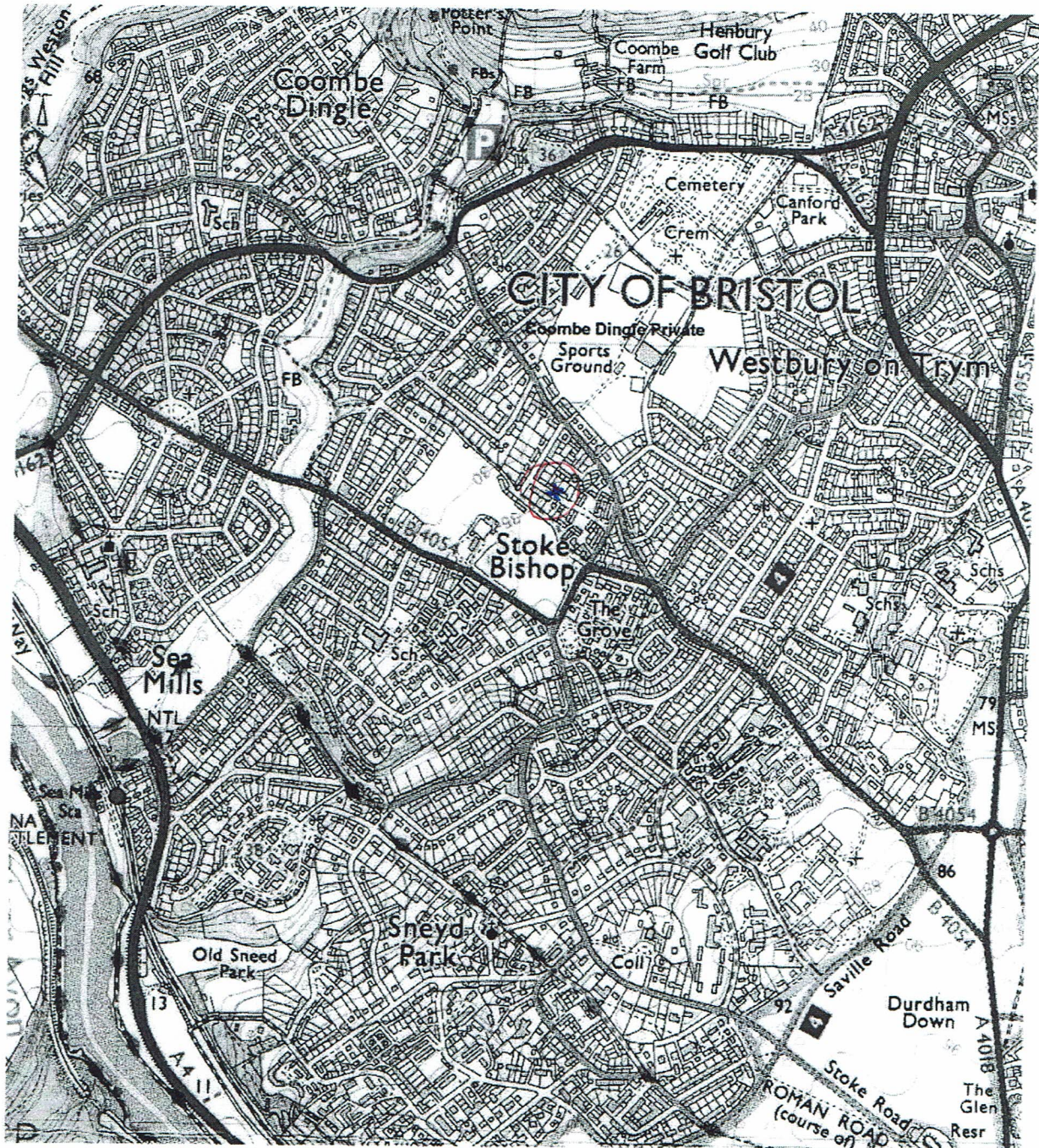
Further information can be found on the OS Sitemap Information leaflet or the Ordnance Survey web site:
www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

NOT TO SCALE WHEN COPIED AT A4.



4/2/2011

Map "B" of locality surrounding Stoke Lodge Parkland



0 100 200 300 400 500



Meters

[Handwritten signature]

4/2/2011