

In an inquiry relating to:

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Section 53**

**City Council of Bristol Definitive Map and Statement
Modification Order No.7 2024**

Planning inspectorate reference:	ROW/3363939
Applicant:	Mr Alan William Preece
Order Making Authority:	Bristol City Council
Date of Inquiry:	6 October 2026

PROOF OF EVIDENCE

OF

PETER WEEKS

Dated 4 September 2026

Proof of Evidence

1. I, PETER RONALD WEEKS of [REDACTED] Druid Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1LH write this proof of evidence in support of Professor Alan Preece's application that The City Council of Bristol Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order (No. 7) 2024 should be confirmed.
2. My family and I moved into our house in July 1991 so we have lived here for 35 years. Our house is about 500 metres from Stoke Lodge. From the time we moved in when our children were young we frequently used it for recreational walks, both with the children and without.

The Blue Route

3. From the time we came to live here, a popular walk for us was (and is) to enter Stoke Lodge at the nearest point, the entrance at the end of the stone wall by the roundabout on Shirehampton Road at the top of Druid Hill, to walk directly across to the Cheyne Road entrance. The route of the path aligns with this being the direct route between these two entrances/exits. This path is described as the Blue route in Prof Preece's application.
4. We use this route to reach the River Trym. From there we either continue ahead towards Kings Weston Estate or turn right towards the Blaise Estate or else turn left to walk beside the Trym to reach Sea Mills harbour and the River Avon. Often we return from Kings Weston or Blaise by this same route across Stoke Lodge. If our walks take us to Sea Mills we usually return via Sneyd Park Nature Reserve to give us a round trip walk. We started doing these walks using the route across Stoke Lodge since we moved here in July 1991 (roughly twice a month when the children were younger and perhaps a little less frequently in more recent years – say 15 times a year). These walks have become a regular way of getting out and enjoying some exercise and we continue to use the route subject to the gates in Cotham School's fence being unlocked.
5. On our walks across Stoke Lodge we sometimes saw football and cricket being played. Football usually in the lower (northern) part of the parkland and cricket in the top (southern) part of Stoke Lodge on the strip near the pavilion and possibly higher up

towards Parrys Lane (this was a long time ago). I could not say what clubs or schools the players belonged to as I took little interest in these games. If a game was using land that lay on our route across Stoke Lodge then naturally we made a diversion around the playing area to avoid interfering with the game.

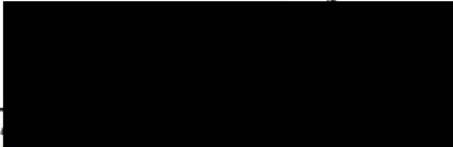
6. I am very certain that at no time were my wife or I ever told by an official or anyone else that we had no right to be on or to walk across Stoke Lodge between the Cheyne Road and the Druid Hill Top entrances. I never sought or received permission from anyone to use the route.
7. I am very certain that no notices were displayed at these entrances saying that there was no right of way across Stoke Lodge between these two points, or that Stoke Lodge was private, or that trespassers would be prosecuted. I never had to climb over a locked gate or over some physical obstacle to enter or leave Stoke Lodge.
8. I would like to correct a detail in my ProW Evidence Form dated April 2018. I said there was a stile at the Shirehampton Road entrance. There is no barrier at that point.

SUMMARY

9. In summary I have used the following Route over the following period:
 - Blue route: 1991 to present

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this proof of evidence are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth

Signed: 

PETER RONALD WEEKS

Dated: 4 Sept. 2026