

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

GILLIAN MARY CLEVERDON

Dated 5th September 2026

Proof of Evidence

1. I, **GILLIAN MARY CLEVERDON**, of [REDACTED] **QUEENS GATE STOKE BISHOP BRISTOL BS9 1TZ** 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.

USE OF RED ROUTE

2. I used the right of way across from West Dene to Stoke Lodge (the Red route, Route 2: H to C on the Order Plan) regularly from 1961 to 1972 when I lived at no [REDACTED] West Dene. I would use that route to go to the shops in Shirehampton Road and to visit friends at least 3-4 times per week. I would also have used the route prior to 1961, but not regularly.
3. The Red route is a direct route across the field from the entrance to Stoke Lodge at the end of West Dene across the field to the building of Stoke Lodge and then onto Shirehampton Road via the entrance. There is a wall extending all along the edge of the field and Shirehampton Road so this was the only way to exit the field on Shirehampton Road.
4. From September 1965 until 1972 during school term I used it morning, lunchtime and after school with my children walking them to and from Cedar Park Primary School. I would have used this route on most school days, generally 2-3 times per day in each direction. I was never stopped or asked why I was using this path nor have any recollection of sport being played which obstructed our journey. There were no obstructions and I don't recall any notices.
5. I continued to use this route from 1972 to present day to visit friends. I have used it more frequently – at least three times a week – since moving to Queens Gate in 2013 until the route was blocked by the current fencing.
6. The entrance from West Dene was always through the entrance gap in the stone wall (as it is now). I can't remember the entrance being any different to this. I remember that the council built a temporary building to make school meals etc around the end of war which was on Stoke Lodge land.
7. During the time my children were at Cedar Park School, I would have been pushing a pram and walking with two children. There was always open access at point C to/from Shirehampton Road. I never encountered this entrance blocked – it would have been a long way to walk around and I never had to do so. I do not remember that there were any gates at this entrance during the 60s or 70s or until much more recent years.

USE OF OTHER ROUTES

8. I lived with my parents in [REDACTED] Cheyne Road from 1947 until I was married in 1959. I then moved to Exeter for two years but regularly came back to Cheyne Road, my parents' home, and used the routes to visit friends whenever I came back. I moved to [REDACTED] West Dene in around June 1961.

9. From 1947-1959 I would have walked to West Dene (the Yellow route, F-G-I-H on Order Plan), to Stoke Lodge and Shirehampton Road (the Green route, F-G-E-D-C on Order Plan) and the top access towards Stoke Bishop (the Blue route, F-G-B-A on Order Plan) very regularly, at least 2-3 times per week.
10. After I moved out in 1959 I continued returning to my parents' house on Cheyne Road regularly and continued to cross Stoke Lodge from Cheyne Road. I also continued to use these rights of way on a regular basis from 1961 walking with my children visiting my parents at Cheyne Road from my home at [REDACTED] West Dene until 1972, then from [REDACTED] Old Sneed Road until 1978 and after this from Old Sneed Park until my mother died in 1987.
11. I would have also walked these routes visiting friends and neighbours I knew from living in Cheyne Road and West Dene from 1947 until the present period when access was blocked by the erection of the fence by Cotham School.
12. I would have walked these routes probably 3-4 times per week when living in West Dene but less frequently after moving to Old Sneed Road and Old Sneed Park – still at least once a week in those periods.
13. In very early years I remember the Cricket Club pavillion at the corner by Cheyne Road and the cricket club playing regularly on Saturdays and practice mid-week. The pavilion was demolished in the early 1970s. My brother played and I would have walked around them when they were playing. Nobody ever prevented me from using the area.
14. I never sought or received permission from anyone to use any of the routes.

SUMMARY

15. In summary I have used the following Routes over the following periods (except when blocked by Cotham School's fence):
 - Blue route: 1947 to present
 - Red route: 1961 (or earlier) to present
 - Green route: 1947 to present
 - Yellow route: 1947 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: [REDACTED]

GILLIAN MARY CLEVERDON

Dated: 5 Sep 26