

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

HILARY CORFIELD

Dated th4 September 2026

Proof of Evidence

1. I, **HILARY CORFIELD**, of [REDACTED] The Avenue, Sneyd Park Bristol BS9 1PA 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 parents, my sister and I moved to Stoke Grove, a road very near to West Dene, in January 1965. The family home in Stoke Grove was sold in January 2026 after my Mother died in August 2025 and I walked on Stoke Lodge fields with her until the autumn of 2024. I have continued to walk there. I have been married for over forty years and each of my marital homes has been in the BS9 area of Bristol. As I was a student in the nearby BS6 area of Bristol, I can confirm that throughout all of the last sixty one years, I have regularly crossed the fields at Stoke Lodge.
3. I have used the routes to walk dogs throughout that time; when we moved to Stoke Grove my parents gave me a puppy and he was walked by me at Stoke Lodge for all of his fourteen years. Shortly after I got married we rescued a dog and have continuously had at least one dog to the present day. I have walked all of these dogs at Stoke Lodge on a regular basis.

My use of the RED ROUTE (C-D-E-B-I-H on the Order Plan) during those sixty one years (January 1965 to present)

4. My Mum and I used the Red route to cross the field from the pavilion because it was the flattest and most direct route and was well-trodden; we would also meet other people as everyone used this route.
5. Our home in Stoke Grove was on the corner of Redhouse Lane, a road which adjoins Coombe Lane just along from where West Dene also meets Coombe Lane. This proximity to Shirehampton Road meant that along with those living around me, I was a patient of Doctor Eastman's practice in Shirehampton Road from 1965 until at least 1985, when it merged with another practice some distance away. Until I drove as an adult, my route to see my doctor was by foot across Stoke Lodge on the Red Route.
6. From 1974 until 1977 I had a paper round, regular weekend work and odd days during the school holidays working at The Kiosk, a newsagent's shop on Shirehampton Road. I used the Red Route to get to work and on a Saturday to get home from work.

7. From 1970 until 1974, if I was off school and my Mother was attending classes at the Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre, we would walk to and from her classes on the Red Route (my Mother did not drive).
8. My sister left the family home in 1974. Mum and I used the Red Route to meet her on Shirehampton Road at the entrance to Stoke Lodge House when she visited, which was half way from Sea Mills Station. When my sister returned to the station at the end of her visit, we walked with her to Shirehampton Road, before Mum and I returned home on the same Red Route that we had just walked with my sister. Even though I could have driven to and from the station, Mum told me she wanted to walk, as my sister had told her that she (my sister) enjoyed the walk after a long journey.
9. Since 1965 until the first 'Cotham School fence' was erected in 2019, Mum and I walked on the Red Route to go to and from the shops on Shirehampton Road. This rank contained an extended range of shops from those on Stoke Lane, in particular a chemist, a pet and hardware shop and a haberdashers. Mum and I were keen crafters and we had a variety of pets. The cake shop was also a good bakery, the other shops useful and Mum would like to browse in the ladies' dress shop.
10. I have used the Red Route for sixty one years, I have never been asked to leave or to stop using it. Over so many years, I have witnessed hundreds if not thousands of people freely using it. The number of times I've walked on it in say a year, has naturally varied but my use would certainly average at least once a week over the whole period. Until the erection of the 'Cotham School Fences', no-one has ever stopped me using the Red Route. Whilst I would of course walk round children playing or partaking in a sports activity rather than barging through them, I have always been able to cross from West Dene to Shirehampton Road, unimpeded. Although the Red Route was never physically marked out, due to the grass being flattened and the soil compacted by use over many years, I have always found it easy to use, be that on my bike as a youngster, pushing a pushchair with my children and now grandchildren, or helping Mum with her shopping trolley / walker as she got older.

My use of other routes:-

In relation to the West Dene / Cheyne Road YELLOW ROUTE (F-G-I-H on the Order Plan)

11. If we were taking our dog out and going to the shops we had to keep him away from Shirehampton Road as much as possible so we would enter at West Dene, walk directly

down to Cheyne Road and via Stoke Paddock Road to the shops, later returning via the Green and Red route as described below.

12. As a child, I used this route often from 1965 to 1977 to get to the shops on Shirehampton Road if Mum and I were combining going to the shops on Shirehampton Road and walking our dog. I also used it when walking to and from my grandparents' house on Sylvan Way in Sea Mills from 1965 to 1977 and also regularly from 1974 to 1977 when on a Sunday, finishing my paper round in Cheyne Road and going back home via West Dene. When I had my Sunday paper round from 1974 to 1977, I delivered in a loop starting on Bell Barn Road, near to the Kiosk, with Cheyne Road being my last road and then I would always use the Yellow Route to get home.
13. Over the last nine years whilst looking after Mum, I would often park on the corner of Stoke Paddock Road and Cheyne Road, walk to Mum's to give me some exercise, then walk with Mum to the West Dene entrance and then straight down across the field to Cheyne Road. This was a good walk in colder weather or if Mum was having problems with her back, as it was downhill but still gave her the joy of being out in the wide-open space (before the 'Cotham School fence' went up) and I would then drive her home.
14. My husband and I have walked this route and the adjoining area, many times over the last forty years with our dogs, children and grandchildren, especially if we have been going to my parents' house, so that dogs and children can let off a bit of steam first. Mum and Dad would often then walk back with us, to where I had left the car in Stoke Paddock Road
15. I was never challenged nor saw any signs etc and I used the Yellow Route regularly and openly. I never received express permission from anyone to use the Yellow Route. From 1965 to 1978 I used this route every week and probably three times a week in school holidays. I then used it less frequently – maybe once a month – until about 20 years ago when we would use it to walk the dogs in the evening on a roughly weekly basis.

In relation to the Cheyne Road to Shirehampton Road GREEN ROUTE (F-G-E-D-C on the Order Plan)

16. The Green Route is the direct route from Cheyne Road to Stoke Lodge House.
17. Following on from my explanation as to my use of the Yellow Route, when combining the dog walk and shopping, Mum and I would often walk directly across the field on the

Green Route so that we could sit on the bench in Stoke Lodge House's sunny garden whilst our dog had an extra run about. Nearby there was (and still is thanks to renovation perhaps in the late 1990s), a tiny building in the wall of what is now the Stoke Lodge House overflow car park; we used to call it the ice house. I would often leave Mum on the bench and have a quick chat with my friends as this was a popular children's meeting place because there was no door to stop entry. We would then walk to the West Dene entrance on the Red Route and carry on home.

18. Since 1965 as a family, we have always used this route when walking our dogs, be it me and my parents with my childhood dog, or my husband and I with our dogs and children and now grandchildren as part of a dog walk, or when playing football to get from the bottom of the field where it's a bit flatter, to Stoke Lodge House where now we often park in the car park.
19. I was never challenged nor saw any signs etc and I used the Green Route regularly and openly. I never received express permission from anyone to use the Green Route. From 1965 until about 1977 I used this route monthly but more often in school holidays; from then until 1986 I used it about once a month as part of a circular route with my Dad and from 1986 I have used it at least once a week.

In relation to the Parrys Lane to Cheyne Road BLUE ROUTE (F-G-B-A on the Order Plan)

20. The Blue Route runs in almost a straight line from the top of the field, round the back of the wooded area behind the house, to the Cheyne Road access point – it forms a direct line between those entrances. As described below, some of my use is end to end and sometimes I would exit via the Red Route at West Dene.
21. The bus route to 'town' went from the top of Druid Hill (and still does). From 1965 to 1978 I used this route a lot, leaving it at West Dene on the way home. From when I was a little child, we would catch the bus by walking up Redhouse Lane, along Coombe Lane, then via Cross Elms Lane onto Parrys Lane and then to the bus stop, but coming back we always went through Stoke Lodge. I would feel very travel sick on the bus usually because of cigarette smoke and general stuffiness. I'd stagger off the bus, cross Shirehampton Road and be on the field. Mum used to encourage me to take deep breaths of fresh air and by the time we got to West Dene I would be feeling alright again. I continued this route when I was old enough to go to town on my own, because it was wonderful to be off the bus and in the middle of a wide-open space. I moved to Sneyd Park in 1994 and the Blue Route was my route to my parents' house between

- 1994 and 2016 when I walked with my children and dogs to visit them. When doing this I turned off the Blue Route at the point it met the Red Route and then followed the Red Route to West Dene. I also walked this route from my house in Sneyd Park to Mum's house with my dogs as I increasingly cared for her over nine years from 2016, when my Dad died, until 2025 and was short of time to do both caring and dog walking.
22. My husband and I have been walking our dogs on this route for the last forty years. If we drive there in the evening shortly before it gets dark, we often park on Stoke Paddock Road near the Cheyne Road entrance and walk almost its entire length before turning round near the road to walk back enjoying the sunset. We must have carried out this walk hundreds of times.
23. I was never challenged nor saw any signs etc and I used the Blue Route regularly and openly. I never received express permission from anyone to use the Blue Route. I have used the Blue Route every year from 1965 to the present time except when Cotham School's fence has blocked it – from 1965 to 1983 this would be once or twice a month to go down to Dingles; from then to about 1994 I would use it roughly once a month. For the last 32 years, we have used the route several times a week (except when obstructed by Cotham School's fence).
24. Finally, I have been asked about my memories of the entrance at Point C. There have been gates here for about 20 years but I never remember them being locked (even in the evenings) until about seven years ago. Prior to that there were none.
25. When I did my paper round referred to above, I had to be at the Kiosk for 7.00am. I have been asked if there were gates at the Shirehampton Road entrance during this period. There were no gates there at all during that period, whether locked or unlocked. If there had been, and if they had been kept locked at all, someone would have had to have unlocked them remarkably early in the morning every single day for me to fly through them often fearful that I was going to be late, and seasonally on dark mornings! My round was Monday to Friday, but I also did the Sunday one as it paid more because of the supplements. My Saturday job on the till there started, I believe, at 8am. This means I used the entrance every day of the week with the paper round and my Saturday job. My Kiosk work was from 1974 to 1978. If there had been locked gates (and there weren't gates at all), I would have had to climb over them with my bike. I would remember them to this day had there been any! I never encountered a locked gate on my way home from work on a Saturday.

SUMMARY

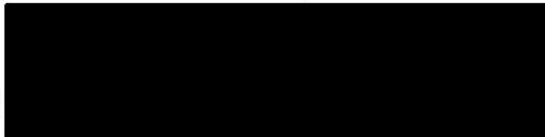
26. In summary I have used the following Routes over the following periods:

- Blue route: 1965 to present
- Red route: 1965 to present
- Green route: 1965 to present
- Yellow route: 1965 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:



HILARY CORFIELD

Dated:

4th September 2026