

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF:

ALAN WILLIAM PREECE

I, ALAN WILLIAM PREECE of [REDACTED] South Dene Bristol BS9 2BW do Solemnly and Sincerely declare:

1. This statement is made in support of the application by me (Professor Alan Preece) seeking confirmation of the City Council of Bristol Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order (No. 7) 2024.
2. The Order refers to the **Red route** (Route 2: C-D-E-B-I-H on Order Plan) accessed from my house via Ebenezer lane which I used to reach Shirehampton Road, and occasionally to access the Eastern section (B-A) of the **Blue route** in order to reach Druid Hill Top for access to Stoke Hill and Stoke Bishop garage. I also used the **Yellow route** (Route 4: F-G-I-H on Order Plan) to access the Shirehampton Road shops specifically, very frequently going via the Red route and returning via the Yellow route to make it a round trip.
3. I moved into South Dene in 1972 and quickly learnt of the usefulness of the pathways and entrances on Stoke Lodge for access to Shirehampton Road shops of which there was a good selection – including food shops, a bank, garden centre and veterinary practice. I used one or other of the routes, with or without the company of my wife and/or children, regularly on a Saturday for routine shopping (unless it was bad weather when we would use the car) and occasionally mid-week for top-up shopping.
4. In the late 70s, double yellow lines were made along Shirehampton Road (because of A4 closure from rock-fall), meaning parking difficulty, and eventually shops started to close down which reduced my frequency of use over the following early 80s. The bank and greengrocer shop closed but the convenience stores appeared and the veterinary practice and hairdresser remained, so major Saturday shopping tended to transfer to Stoke Lane, leaving Shirehampton Road shops to be midweek extras and Sunday paper purchase.

5. Use of the Yellow route and Red route has been more frequent since 2004 because it is a convenient way to fetch the Sunday newspaper on a weekly basis and forgotten supermarket items occasionally midweek, from the two convenience stores, Co-op and latterly, Tesco, and because I needed a regular gentle exercise because of chronic cardiac problems. I used the Red and Yellow routes once or twice per week from 2004 until 2019 when Cotham School locked the gates on their newly installed fencing (except for unpredictable opening times).
6. There are occasions, for preference, when I still use the Red and Yellow routes, such as for example during this school summer break when I found the gates in the fence open. Otherwise I have to use Stoke Lane shops which do not have such convenient hours as Shirehampton Road convenience stores.
7. I also used the Red route monthly in the summer in the 1970s to visit a colleague who lived on Shirehampton Road near the Cedar Park junction, and later in the 1990s on a sporadic basis (batches of visits when dealing with specific tasks) to talk through technical problems with another work colleague who lived in Queens Gate. From 2017 I was a governor at Cedar Park School, and then also used the Red route as a very convenient walk to meetings at the school, which were roughly 5 or 6 times a year with additional visits to the school to undertake observation of science teaching.
8. Because it was such a busy through route, as chair of the Neighbourhood Partnership, in 2015 I managed to achieve a pedestrian crossing close to the exit of the Red route for safe access to Cedar Park school. This was something that was prompted by having some of the meetings of the Partnership at the school and involved regular visits to meet the Cedar Park school caretaker at the school (using the Red route) to arrange requirements.
9. I noted the Avon County sign at the West Dene entrance on the Red route which I believe was erected in 1986 which I read carefully – it urges the pedestrian to “Not cause a nuisance” and specifically not to fly model aircraft, cause dog fouling, nor ride horses. That latter comment I suspect may have had something to do with my daughter riding a horse regularly there in 1984. The groundsman, who helped me catch the horse one evening, had no objection to allowing me to walk the horse to give it a chance to graze the edges “provided you don’t get his great hooves on my cricket pitch”, and he never prevented my 14-year-old daughter riding the horse on the edges.

I am sure no such notice was up in 1984 otherwise I would not have allowed her to do so.

10. The later Bristol City sign at the start of the tarmac route through Stoke Lodge House car park faced the field, and for me prohibited wandering over the lawns and derelict outbuildings, but there remained a clear way from the field to the gate on a tarmac trackway and it was obviously greatly used by the public.
11. As the ground is cultivated and mown regularly, tracks are obviously less likely to show on aerial photographs. I am familiar with a busy right of way which traverses my son's farmland to a railway pedestrian crossing and which only shows on one map in 2013 – in all other years the path is not visible. I include below a photograph taken on 28 January 2019 clearly showing the Blue route during the time of the fence erection in 2019 when neither playing nor mowing took place. I also observed in February 2019 a tractor and harrower traversing the visible trackways repeatedly in an apparent effort to erase them and commented on this to the Council's PROW officers at the time.



12. I never once had to seek permission to traverse Stoke Lodge, nor have I had my way obstructed by school use. It was not a frequent occurrence to encounter school use as my main use of the routes was at weekends or evenings.

SUMMARY

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

- Red Route: 1972 to present
- Yellow Route: 1972 to present

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true by virtue of the Statutory Declaration Act 1835

Signed

Alan William Preece ...

Print Name.....ALAN WILLIAM PREECE

Sworn at...AMD Solicitors...

This 28th day of August 2026

Before.....

(Signing solicitor)

Sarah Kate Trigg
Solicitor

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