

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF:

JOHN HOLLYMAN

I, John Hollyman of [REDACTED] Druid Hill, Bristol BS9 1EH do Solemnly and Sincerely declare:

1. I make this statement in support of the application seeking confirmation of the City Council of Bristol Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order (No. 7) 2024.
2. For 51 years I have used Route 1 (the Blue route) across Stoke Lodge from point A via points B and G to point F starting from my house at the top of Druid Hill, 50 yards away from the gap at point A.
3. From 1975 onwards, as newcomers to Bristol with two children my wife and I would go through the gap in the wall and as a family would use the path down to the bottom of the Lodge and go through Cheyne Road across Bell Barn Rd and into the woods and fields of the Blaise or Kings Weston estates. This would happen in the spring and summer months in the years when the children were still at junior school (until 1981) around 3 or 4 times a year and then maybe once a year until 1990.
4. In the '80s and '90s I varied my fitness activities including crossing the Lodge on the Blue route in order to run a greater distance off-road towards Kings Weston and Blaise. This would happen once a week generally but for a two year period from 1986 to 1988 when my work changed I would jog two or three times a fortnight across the Lodge using this route.
5. During the summer (cricket) season on a Saturday if a game was being played I would skirt it on the arboretum side of the route and rejoin the route. Rugby was played above the pavilion near to Ebenezer Lane and did not interfere with the route. Football played in later years was played at the lower end of the field and meant the Blue route could be followed without any deviation. Games never prevented my use of the Blue route.

6. Since becoming grandparents from 2000, my wife and I, together or sometimes separately, and depending on the season and weather, have visited my daughter and family in Bell Barn Rd using the Blue route on average about once a month (and she and her family use the same route in the other direction together and individually to come to and from our house). Since 2020 I have been exercising by taking the off-road route to Shirehampton Rd shops going via the Blue route, Cheyne Rd and Stoke Paddock Rd weekly to buy a Sunday paper. Before the Cotham fence appeared this was a straight walk across, but over a few years this has become a walk round the outside of the obstruction.
7. On a few occasions I can remember over the years I have come across ramblers crossing the Blue route as part of the Bristol Green Walk where Stoke Lodge connects Blaise and Coombe Dingle with Hollybush Lane, over the Downs and onwards.
8. On a few occasions in the last ten years I have crossed to the middle of the Lodge (point B) and used the Red route via points I and H to access West Dene and through the sports centre grounds, Canford Park and Westbury.
9. As a walker who tries to avoid car use locally as much as possible, the health benefits of the walks across Stoke Lodge are as important as their usefulness and convenience for many different purposes. Until the Cotham fence appeared and obstructed our routes the community has had free access to the paths across the Lodge. May free unobstructed access flourish in the future.

SUMMARY

10. In summary I have used the following Route over the following period:
 - Blue Route....1975 to present

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

Signed

Print Name.....JOAN HOLLYMAN

Sworn at.....AMD Solicitors.....

This ...1st... day of ...September... 2026

Before

(Signing solicitor) ISOBEL SWANN

100 Henleaze Road
Henleaze
Bristol
BS9 4JZ