

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF:

MAURA HUGHES

I, MAURA HUGHES of [REDACTED] Sea Way Middleton-on-Sea PO22 7SA do Solemnly and Sincerely declare:

1. This statement is made in support of the application by Professor Alan Preece, seeking confirmation of the City Council of Bristol Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order (No. 7) 2024.
2. I am giving evidence of my past usage of Route 1, "The Blue Route" (A to F on the Order Map).
3. I was first introduced to the route in 1998 when visiting with a friend. I remember the year specifically because I had one child at the time and was pregnant with my second. When visiting my friend we would walk from her home on lower Parry's Lane and enter Stoke Lodge via the Druid Hill entrance at the top. We would walk through the field and exit through the Cheyne Road entrance, where we would continue down Cheyne Road to the Blaise Woods entrance on Bell Barn Road. We took this line because it is the shortest and most direct route between the two entrances. They lie at opposite corners of the field, and any other way means following the boundary round and adding distance for no purpose. A worn path was clearly visible across the grass, showing where people habitually walked, and we simply followed it. It was also a pleasant way to go, open, with views across the field. I did not live in Bristol at the time, so my usage wasn't as frequent in those days as it was when I became a local resident in 2002, but we used the route several times from that summer onwards.
4. In 2002, we bought a home in Westbury Park. From then until 2007 I would walk down Parry's Lane to Stoke Lodge about once a month on the way through to Blaise Woods or to the shops. Our access was always via "the blue route". I was also a member of an informal walking group from 2002-2006, and we would use Stoke Lodge as the final part of our route at least 2-3 times a month, walking the blue route across the field and

out at Cheyne Road. I don't recall any signage saying we weren't permitted, and I was certainly never approached or stopped. If there was any activity on the field, I would keep clear of the activity itself and continue along the route, but I do not recall witnessing any before I became a resident of Stoke Bishop. This walk and the area itself most definitely informed the criteria of our house search.

5. In 2007, my husband and I bought our home at [REDACTED] Cheyne Rd. The house bordered Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, and faced the public footpath, leading to the Cheyne Rd entrance which was in constant use. There were no signs discouraging us, and a fallen branch was adopted as a makeshift bench under the oak tree. If anything, the entrance appeared welcoming.
6. With the location of our home, I used the field, and the blue route almost daily until 2025 (except when prevented by Cotham School's fence). I and many others would use this route to get to the shops at the bottom of Druid Hill. I would often get prescriptions, fruit and vegetables and eventually found a hairdresser in the area in an effort to support our local merchants. I also adopted a dog and would use this route to continue her walks to the Downs.
7. In the early days of living on Cheyne Rd there would occasionally be PE sessions, but I honestly do not recall it being used very often. When sessions were taking place, I and other users of the field would avoid the activity completely. The staff were very pleasant, and I've never witnessed any hostility if we were accessing our short cut during sessions.
8. From my perspective (and from my personal observations from [REDACTED] Cheyne Road) this route and the others are in constant use by many members of the community, including families and the elderly.

SUMMARY

9. In summary I have used the following Route over the following period:
 - Blue Route: 1998 to 2025

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

Signed

Print Name... MAURA HUGHES

Sworn at... WANNOPS LLP

This 28 day of August 2026

Before...

ANAN WHARTON

(Signing solicitor)

wannops LLP

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