

ROW/3363939: City Council of Bristol Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order No.7 2024
Summary Proof of Hilary Corfield

This is a summary of the Proof of Evidence of **HILARY CORFIELD**.

1. My Proof of Evidence provides details of my use of 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
2. My family lived on Stoke Grove from January 1965. My Mother died in August 2025 and I walked on Stoke Lodge fields with her until the autumn of 2024. 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 61 years, I have regularly crossed the fields at Stoke Lodge using the routes that are being applied for.

My use of the RED ROUTE (January 1965 to present)

3. 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. Reasons for using the route included:
 - to get to the local doctor's practice and the shops on Shirehampton Road;
 - to accompany my Mother to classes at the Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre; and
 - to meet my sister on Shirehampton Road at the entrance to Stoke Lodge, as a halfway point from Sea Mills station.
4. In particular, from 1974 until 1977 I had a paper round, regular weekend work and odd days during the 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.
5. I have used the Red Route for 61 years, I have never been asked to leave or to stop using it. My use would average at least once a week over the whole period. 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. Due to the grass being flattened and the soil compacted by use over many years, I have always found the Red route easy to use.

My use of the YELLOW ROUTE (1965 to present)

6. From 1965 to 1978 I used this route every week and probably three times a week in school holidays; then 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.
7. Reasons for using the route included:

ROW/3363939: City Council of Bristol Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order No.7 2024
Summary Proof of Hilary Corfield

- as a child, to get to the shops on Shirehampton Road from our family home (when we were also walking the dog so we could keep him away from Shirehampton Road);
 - to walk between the family home and my grandparents' house on Sylvan Way in Sea Mills from 1965 to 1977;
 - to get back home via West Dene after finishing my paper round in Cheyne Road on Sundays from 1974 to 1977;
 - to walk with Mum for her exercise while looking after her over the last nine years; and
 - to walk for enjoyment and exercise with my husband along with our dogs, children and grandchildren and often my parents over the last 40 years.
8. I was never challenged nor saw any signs etc and I used this Route regularly and openly.

My use of the GREEN ROUTE (1965 to present)

9. The Green Route is the direct route from Cheyne Road to Stoke Lodge House. When combining the dog walk and shopping, Mum and I would often walk directly across the field on the Green Route. We would then walk to the West Dene entrance on the Red Route and carry on home.
10. Since 1965 as a family, we have always used this route when walking our dogs. 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.

My use of the BLUE ROUTE (1965 to present)

11. Some of my use of the Blue Route is end to end and sometimes I would exit via the Red Route at West Dene. I have used the Blue Route from 1965 to the present except when Cotham School's fence has blocked it – from 1965 to 1983 this would be once or twice a month; from then to about 1994 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). I was never challenged nor saw any signs etc and I used the Blue Route regularly and openly. I never received permission from anyone to use the Blue Route.

The entrance at Point C

12. There have been gates at Point C 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. I used the entrance every day before 7am with the paper round and my Saturday job from 1974 to 1977/1978, and I never encountered any gate (either locked or unlocked).