Proof of Evidence - Paul Capener:

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
The Definitive Map and Statement of
Public Rights of Way for Gloucestershire

Ref: ROW/3377321 - Additional Public Footpaths across land known as Verney Fields and Surrounding Area, Stonehouse Parish Modification Order 2025

&

Ref: & ROW/3365454 - Additional Public Footpath Connecting Oak Way and MST30, Stonehouse Parish Modification Order 2025

1.My name is Paul Capener. I have known the claimed routes for 50 years. I am not related nor have ever worked for this or any previous landowner.

2.My wife and I moved into Stonehouse (Little Australia) at the beginning of 1976, where I took on a control systems engineering role at Grundy and Partners, Bonds Mill. With little/no spare cash, we spent most of our spare time exploring Stonehouse and the surrounding areas including; Doverow Hill, Standish Wood, Selsley common and the Cotswold escarpment in general.

3.Much time was spent on and around Verney Fields both as a means of getting to places further afield and for recreation in that area alone. Although there were often cattle in Verney Fields the area was much like an "open access area", there were never any signs or obstructions to indicate any restriction to access. Either alone or with my family we would often walk these paths any day of the week and at any times, day or night. At no point was I ever challenged about the legality of using these paths. I never requested permission to use these paths, and I would not have known who to ask.

4.All of the footpaths indicated on my map; O-Q-T, J-O, M-O, L-O, P-Q, U-H, G-I (appended **PC1**) and the path from Oak Way (**PC2**) were the result of regular foot traffic, the gradient of the field was such that it would be difficult to take alternative routes especially in wet conditions.

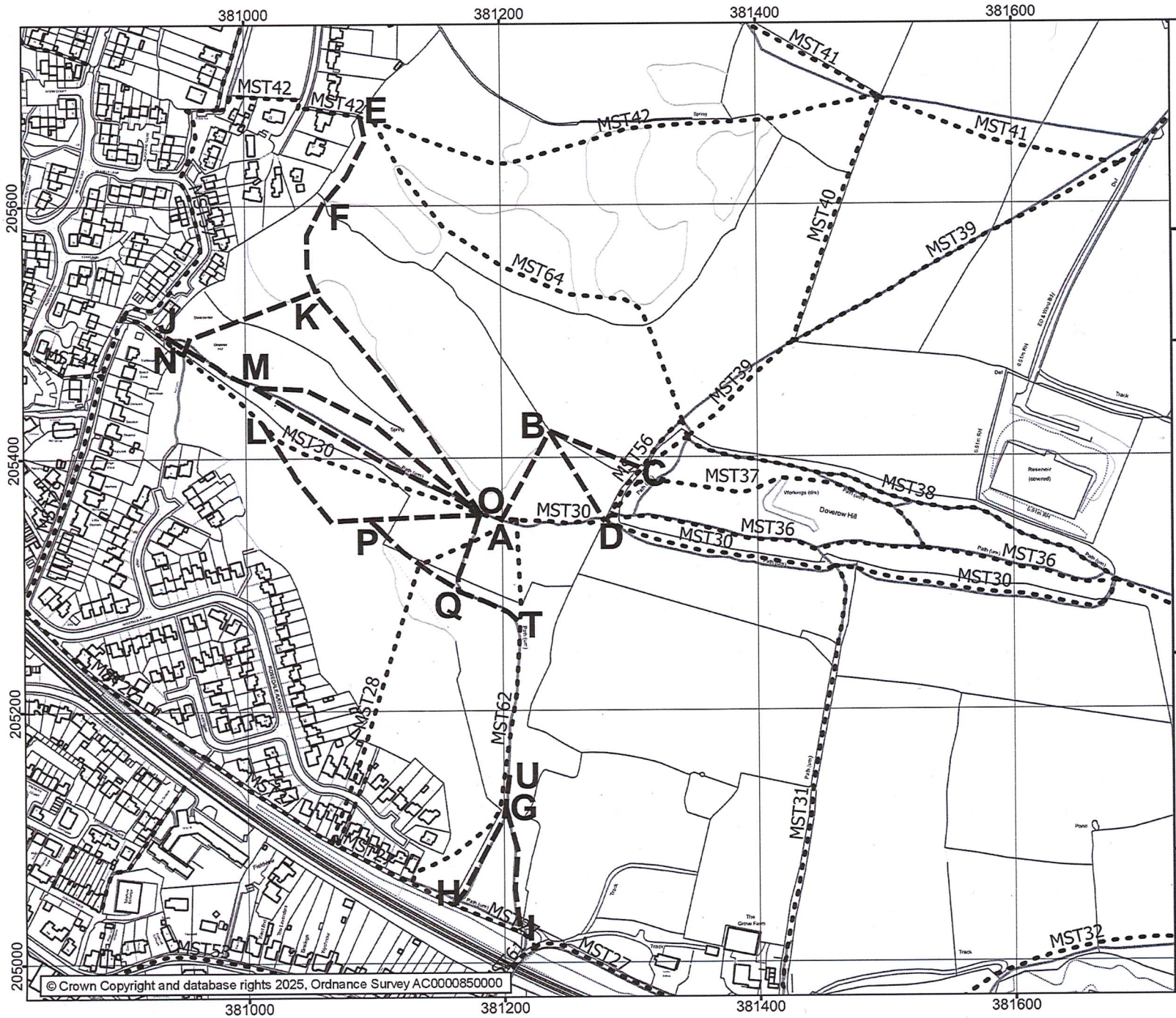
5.When we started a family and moved to Oak Way (1982) all of the paths in Verney fields were used much more frequently and by all of us. As our children have now grown up and have their own families, it then became a place for our grandchildren to explore.

6.The fact that photos show clear paths up Verney Field to the bench under the oak tree suggest that the previous landowner was content with this arrangement. To the best of my knowledge, the bench or a previous version of it, has been in existence for 50 years or more.

7.From my knowledge, there was never any sign of anti-social behaviour or vandalism in or around any of these paths; that is, until several wrecked caravans were dumped there after the new owner took control.

8.I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief this is a true statement

Signature. [redacted] ..... **Date..**21.-.08-2026



ADDITIONAL PUBLIC FOOTPATHS ACROSS LAND KNOWN AS VERNEY FIELDS & SURROUNDING AREA, STONEHOUSE PARISH

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2025

Claimed footpaths:

A-B
B-D
B-C
E-F-K-O
O-Q-T
N-K
J-O
M-O
L-O
P-Q
U-H
G-I

Public paths unaffected by this Order

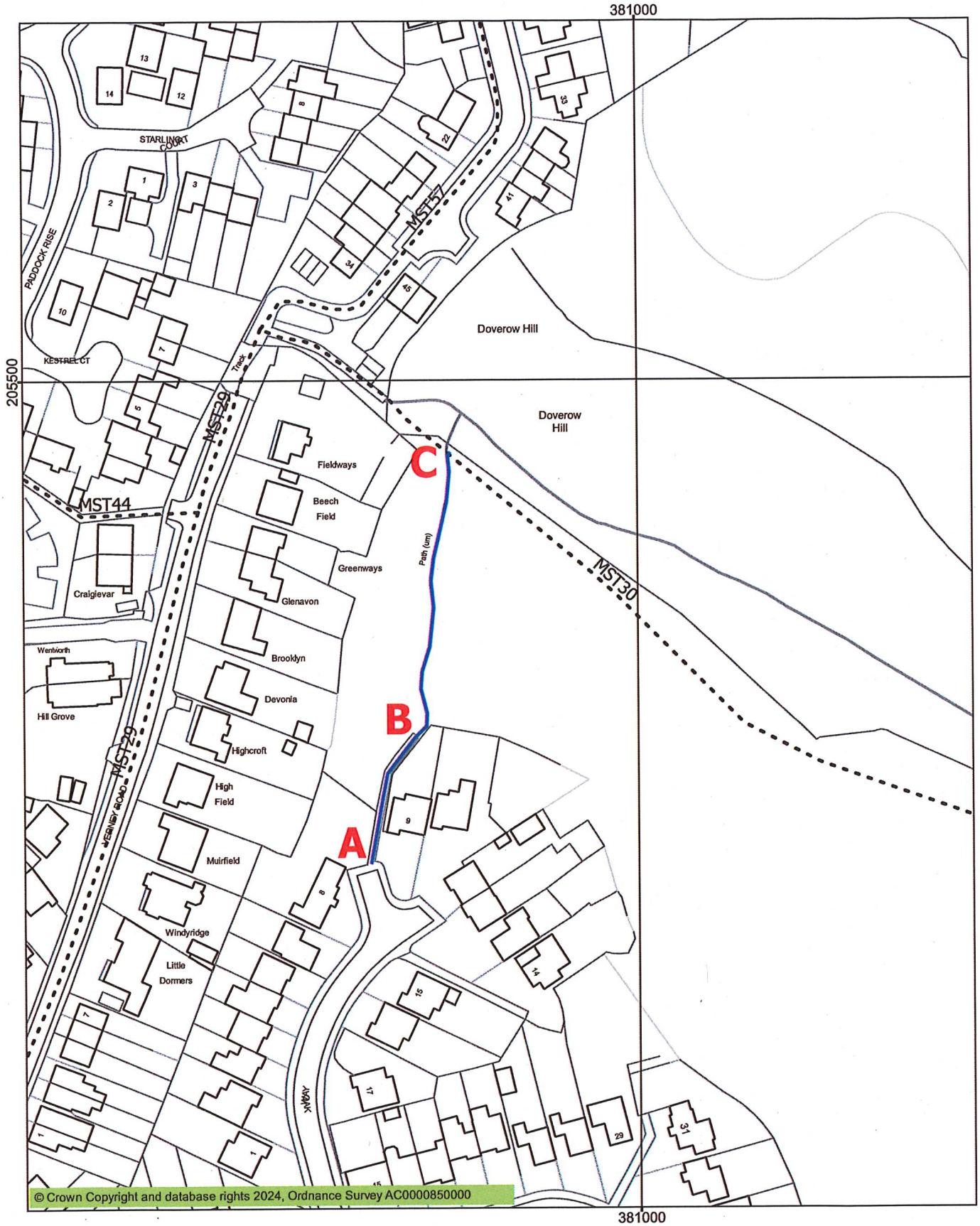
Highway Records
Shire Hall, Westgate Street,
Gloucester GL1 2TG
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Drawn by: J Harris
SCALE: 1:4,000
DATE: 08/01/2025

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PC1

PC2



Highway Records Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG Tel. 01452 427969 www.gloucestershire.gov.uk	Drawn by: J Haworth SCALE: 1:1,250 DATE: 27 September N	**CLAIMED ROUTE** **OAK WAY, STONEHOUSE PARISH** **(573/11/212(4))**

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Claimed Route ——————

Unaffected public rights of way - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -