Proof of Evidence – John Parker:

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 John Parker. I grew up in and around Stonehouse and lived in the local area from 1981 until 1999, when I moved away to university. During those years I regularly and freely used the paths on Doverow Hill, most commonly the routes marked J-O and H-O, but also several others marked on the Definitive Map Modification Order 2025, usually on my way to Doverow Wood. A copy of the Order Plan is appended **JP1**. This was with friends and family including my grandparents and my cousins, who lived on the Rosedale Estate. As a student at Wycliffe College pre-prep, junior and senior schools between 1984 and 1999 we also used Doverow (including route J-O) for a range of school activities such as cross country running and Combined Cadet Force.

2. In early 2013 I moved back to Stonehouse with my family, first to Aldergate Street and then, in 2015, to the Rosedale Estate. Since 2013 we have visited Doverow, again most commonly using the routes marked J-O and H-O (until 2023), on at least a weekly basis to engage in activities such as hiking, running, dog walking, blackberry picking, sledging, wildlife watching and general recreation. In that period I have seen many other people using the routes for the same purposes. Since around 2019 I have also led tree walks around four or five times a year in the area for members of the local community, and spent a considerable amount of time on Verney in 2023/24 whilst researching a book about the history of Doverow.

3. Particularly important sites for myself, my family and the wider community are the Lonely Oak (or Verney Oak), midway up Verney field, and the viewpoint – known by us as the Rock, which overlooks the estate where I live and is an important local landmark offering views of the surrounding area. These specific locations have considerable cultural significance to many people in Stonehouse who to the best of my knowledge and experience have enjoyed unimpeded access to them over several generations.

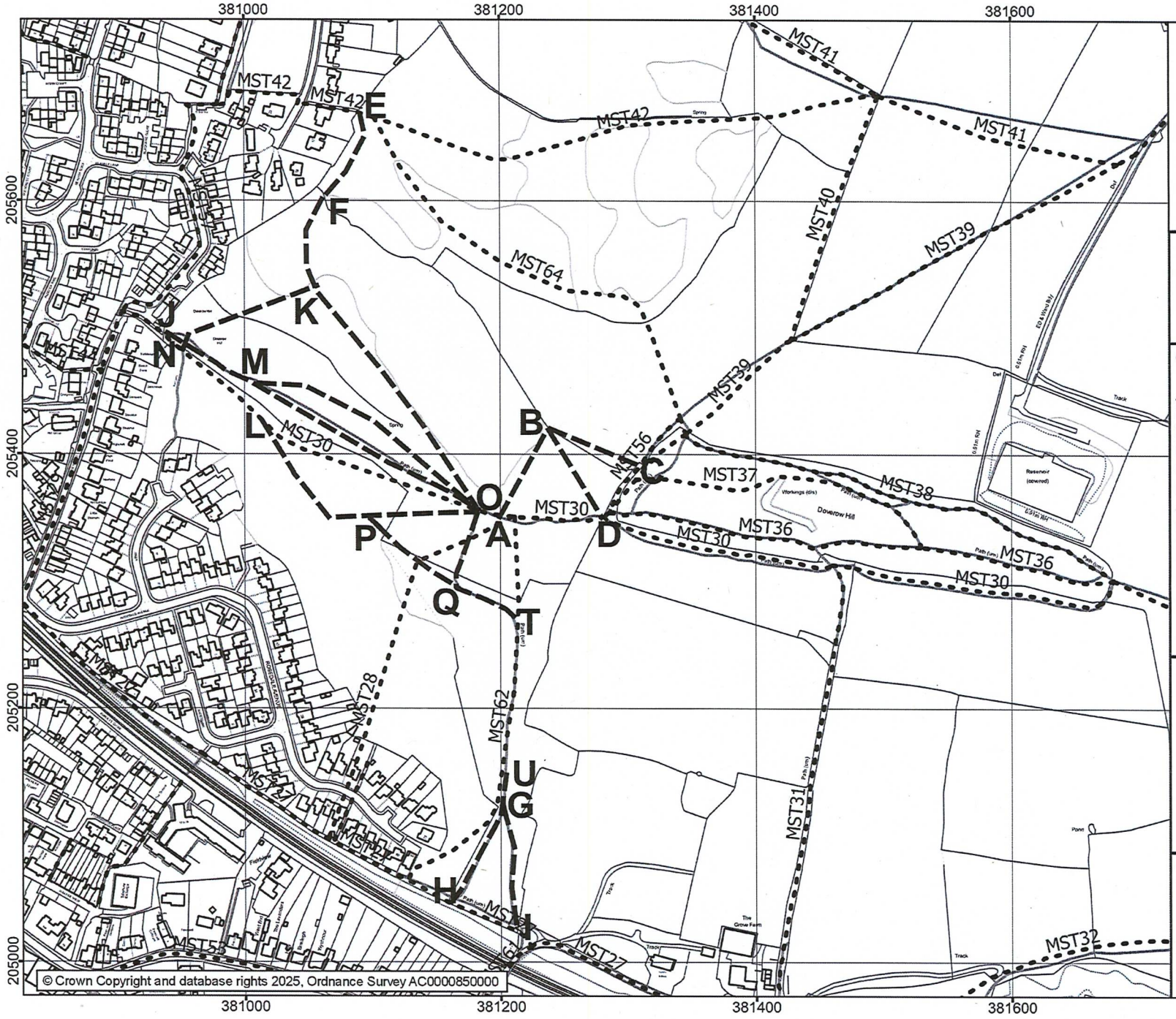
4. In the 40+ years I have been visiting Doverow and using the routes J-O and H-O, nobody has anyone ever approached me or my family to say that we should not be using those or any other routes, or accessing any portion of the site. At no point until 2023 were routes J-O and H-O blocked or signed in such a way that prevented the public from using them. There was never any doubt in my mind that the paths marked J-O and H-O were entirely legitimate, and they appeared to me to be the obvious, natural and entirely established way of accessing Doverow Hill and Wood and enjoying the countryside.

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

Signature: 

Date: August 24th, 2026

JP1



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
Tel. 01452 328981
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Drawn by: J Harris
SCALE: 1:4,000
DATE: 08/01/2025

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