Proof of Evidence – Peter Fawkes:

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

1. My name is Peter Fawkes.

2. I have lived in the vicinity of Verney fields for 50 years, for 21 years at Far Westrip, 23 years at the Stonehouse end of Ebley road and 6 years at Rosedale Avenue.

3. During this 50-year period I have walked on many of the Verney Fields footpaths as shown on the Order Route plan appended **PF1**, walking with family, friends or by myself.

4. Between 2010 and 2020 I joined the Stroud District Council weekly health walks starting and ending at Stonehouse, when the walk leader sometimes chose to walk through Verney fields using the well-used paths.

5. Although most walks were for leisure and exercise, when living at Far Westrip I sometimes ended up in Stonehouse Town for refreshments, before returning.

6. Footpath MST62 from MST27 to MST30: - whilst living at Ebley road and at Rosedale Avenue I very often walked up, and down, a well-used path H-T-A to get to Doverow entrance D, or to view Stonehouse from the "Rock" viewpoint, approximately point P. This footpath was easy going for the most part the hardest was to get up the short steep bank to the stile at point T. At some point (about 15 years ago) the footpath was blocked at point T when a tree had fallen and blocked the stile. I used another path that walkers were using from T to Q to O and back to A to avoid it.

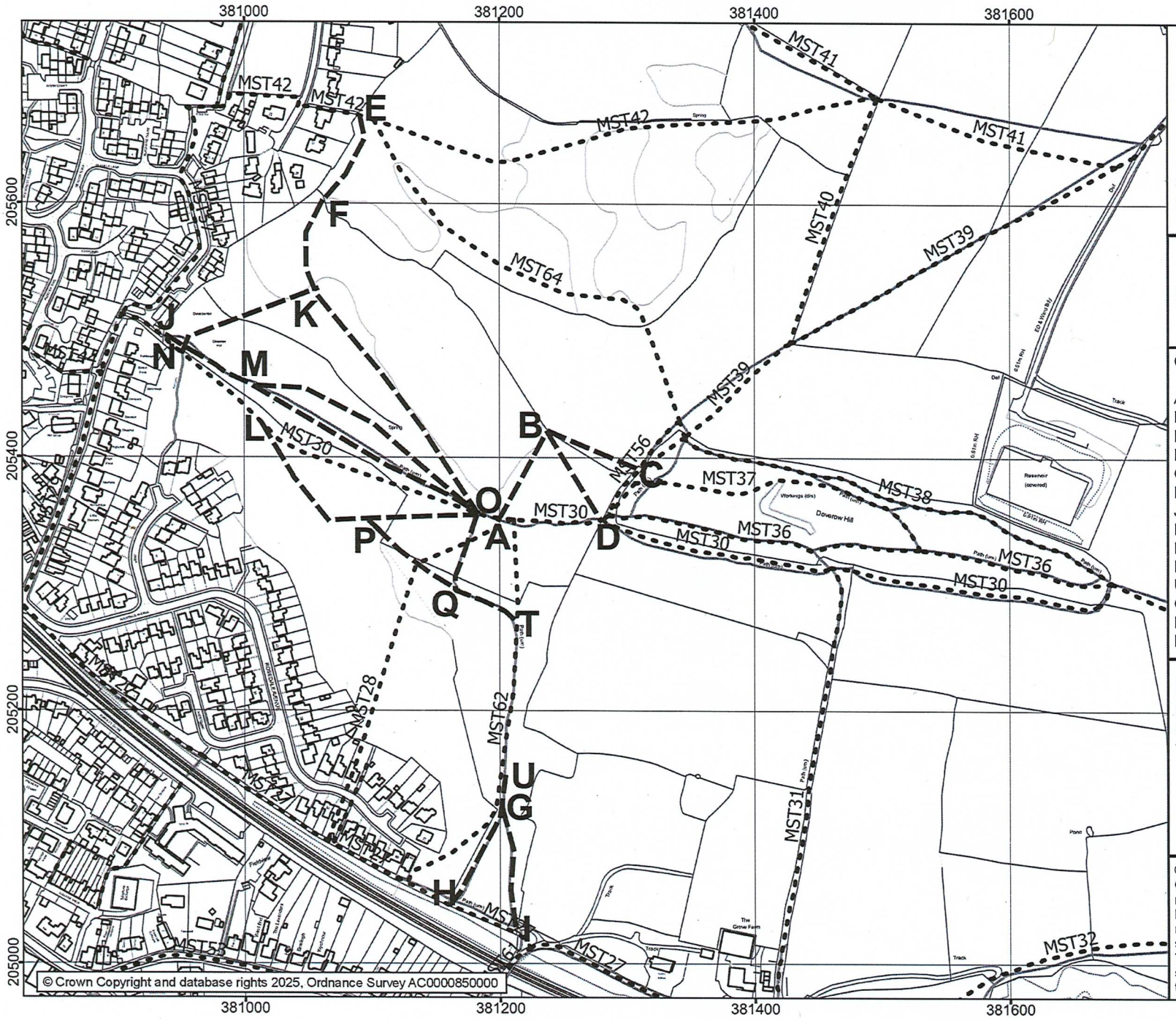
7. At no point did anyone tell me that I should not be walking this particular footpath also there were no signs indicating that it was not a public footpath until 2023 when signs appeared stating that it was private land, Windmill Farm, and a fence erected blocking access at H-I.

8. Footpath at the top of Verney road to where MST30/57/29 join: - during the last 50 years I used this footpath J-M-O-D, both ways, to travel for leisure/exercise. The footpath was well used and easy going. At point O, a concrete bench had been built for people to rest and enjoy the view.

9. Again, at no point, until 2023, was I told that that any part of the route was not a public footpath, also there was never any notice or barriers placed indicating that the footpath could not be used.

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

Signature... [redacted] ..... **Date.....** 26/08/26



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

© Crown Copyright and database right 2025, Ordnance Survey AC0000850000. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form. This plan may be subject to distortions in scale so any measurements taken may not match those between the same points on the ground.

PC1