

PROOF OF EVIDENCE OF:

David Cooper

Title of Order:

S53 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way for Gloucestershire
(Additional Length of Footpath at Witcombe Farm)
(Parish of Great Witcombe) Order 2009

Planning Inspectorate Reference:

ROW/3354782
Public Inquiry: 6 October 2026

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is David Cooper.
2. [REDACTED]
3. Apart from a short period in the mid 1970s I have always either lived and/or worked in [REDACTED]

I wish to state to this Public Inquiry that...

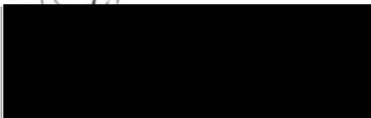
4. I regularly used this footpath for approximately 40 years from early childhood up until the early 2000's when the dispute became apparent.
5. My use of the path was open, unhindered and without interruption.
6. In the twenty years prior to approximately 2002/03 I walked/ran this route mainly with family or friends, probably averaging once to twice a month on weekday evenings and Sunday mornings. This was all part of my normal routine for exercise and enjoyment.

7. Throughout my use of the path I frequently saw the landowners, I was never asked to leave nor was I given any suggestion that the land was not a public right of way, my presence was never challenged.
8. At no time during this period was I ever given permission by the landowners or anyone acting on their behalf to use the footpath. Likewise, at no time was I ever told not to use the footpath.
9. I was unaware of any issues until new signs appeared in approximately 2002/03 indicating the route was not a public right of way.
10. Up until this time the appearance, condition and long standing public use of the route gave every indication of being a public right of way.
11. My use of the path has always been as a member of the public, not in any other capacity that would imply permission.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts I have stated are true and correct.

Signed:



Date:

25/08/2026

NB: You should keep a copy of the completed Statement