Proof of Evidence – Tim Jackson:

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. I moved to Stonehouse in 2002 and have regularly used all the footpaths listed. In all this time I have never been stopped, given any indication that I shouldn't be using them, or heard of anyone else being prevented. In my experience I have regularly encountered walkers, runners and children using these paths. The paths have always been clearly marked and unobstructed until recently. It was my understanding during this period that these were official footpaths, as several local residents over the years have mentioned using the paths for many years. I was also aware of their visible existence on aerial imagery going back to 1945, so when the current landowner erected barbed wire fences I was surprised to discover they were disputed.

2. I am a keen runner, running up to twice a week, with periods of increased running whilst training for various events over the last 20 years. I have used various routes over the years but all of them included some or all of the listed footpaths - particularly H-T, O-K-F-E, J-M-O, A-B-C. My usual running took place on Sunday morning, however for several periods over the years in question I would run on a late Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. In periods when I increased my training (for example in preparation for the Stroud Half Marathon in October) I was running the paths several times a week.

3. I have also regularly used the paths for walking, initially with my young family and more recently with my dog. We live close to the footpath leading up Doverow (J-0),

so have regularly used this path, not only for recreational purposes, but also to access the slopes of Doverow to pick blackberries and Sloes. My children literally grew up using these paths to access Doverow woods, where they would build camps and play. In the winter when we had snow we would use the paths with many other local residents to access the top of Doverow hill for sledging, particularly the paths listed B-O and O-M.

4. As a Stonehouse Scout leader (2007 - 2013) I organised many outdoor activities for Scouts on Doverow, utilising all the paths listed, including map reading challenges, nature walks and hash runs. These have usually taken place on Wednesday evenings and occasionally on a Saturday.

5. I have also helped the Stonehouse Primary School who have taken children during the school day for activities on Doverow. We would access the hill using the J-M-O paths.

6. In all the time since 2002, when I first started using the listed paths, I have never been prevented or been given any indication that I shouldn't have been using any of these paths.

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

Signature.. [redacted] ..... **Date..**3/9/26