

Fletcher-Jones family.

Mentions right to deviate around obstruction, MST30 (woodland path) became overgrown & unmaintained.  
Centre of field refers to J-M-O.  
Spring line is reference to M-O.  
Suggests some paths consolidated because wider field became too overgrown for 'wandering at will', which reverted to wander when topped in 2019

Dear Jemma

I understand that you are collating views on the proposal to make the land known as Verney Fields into a village green. My husband and I do not believe that this land should be designated a Village Green.

My husband and myself have known this field for many years. It was farmed by Martin Fletcher for about 30 years and he grazed cattle out there. The centre of the field became used as a path as the woodland path had become overgrown and not suitable for walkers. To the side of the area used by walkers is a spring line and the land has been consistently wet and not suitable for walking on.

Since that time the brambles have grown up and much of the land has become inaccessible. At no time have either of us seen the land being used as a village green. It was so overgrown that this would not be practical. It was just used for walkers passing through mostly with dogs. There have never been sports played on that field, it was too rough for any running activities and the overgrowth too dense for straying off the well trodden routes.

The field was mechanically topped before offered for sale which made it more accessible but this was only for a short period before the purchase was made by Windmill farm.

We understand that Windmill farm wish to plant and grow Orchard fruit on this land. That would increase the biodiversity of the field and be environmentally positive with more trees.

Stonehouse Town council wished to purchase this field and when they were unsuccessful they have spent much time trying to prevent the legal use of the land by the current owners. They have put TPOs in place, are attempting to create many new footpaths in the field, have spent much of the Town Council resources in campaigning against the new owners and now trying to get the field designated as a village green. In our opinion this is not the intended use of the village green legislation and is effectively a council trying to gain control of a field they did not purchase at the expense of a private owner.

We trust that you will consider our impartial contribution.

Thankyou

Kind regards

B56



[REDACTED]

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**From:** BROWN, Jemma  
**Sent:** 04 June 2024 20:08  
**To:** WOOD, Ami (Legal)  
**Subject:** FW: Ref: 77161/JB - land known as Doverow Hill or Verney Fields or Windmill Farm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please print this one too, I have added it to the folder for you to print

**From:** Lorna-Marie Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2024 11:34 PM  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ref: 77161/JB - land known as Doverow Hill or Verney Fields or Windmill Farm

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Dear all whom it may concern,

I am writing to inform you that my late Grandfather farmed the land in question for decades, these fields and surrounding areas are well known to myself and family who have been local farmers for several generations past.

In addition to being tenants, I was born at Grove Farm (1996) therefore my connection and knowledge of the land is much more than the average Stonehouse resident. Myself and all immediate family worked with our livestock across these areas, and I can attest to the challenges they faced in their time farming there even prior to my own personal experiences.

I'd like our objections of this application known.

The land is unsuitable and inappropriate for a commons/town green. It is FARM LAND ONLY. The recent public dismay is simply a reaction to the new ownership of said land. Ridiculous at best and an embarrassing waste of time/ resources, all I have read thus far is complete nonsense with zero grounds and should not be taken seriously. The fact that the claims made to date have even been considered is a complete insult to those who own/ work agriculture land.

Within the many years my family worked this land I recall them facing countless issues with regards to public wandering, trespass with intent to vandause, verbal abuse (mostly stemming from telling public and their often out of control dogs to get back on the FOOTPATH after blatantly ignoring signage) dog & human fouling, fires, littering & more serious fly tipping, fencing wire cut weekly by walkers to gain new access to PRIVATE LAND, wooden fencing stacks pulled out/ burnt/snapped. Dog attacks to young calves had been witnessed as well as arson to cattle sheds. Cattle were often escaping from their grazing site due to fence vandalism, gates being left open and even taken off hinges.

Aside from PROW footpaths which only provide access to Doverow wood the public have NEVER

used the majority of the land. Overgrowth alone makes it inaccessible, along with being very banky and steep, slippery in a lot of areas and also dangerous drops due to the topography.

With regards to uses typical of a town green.. that is laughable! It has never been used for markets, fêtes or sporting use within my 27 years in the vicinity NOR prior to.

Zero non footpath activity occurred there aside from extremely rare sledging, fields north or east of the application site were favoured due to their more suitable layout & longer sledging run (with farmers permission). This however still would not be considered as sporting use as blatantly our lack of snow means this has occurred just a few times in over a decade.

I hope these facts are noted and that no further time of yourselves or land owner is wasted on this matter.

Lorna-Marie Jones

Martin Fletcher – Grandfather  
Rachel Jones – Mother  
Lorna-Marie Jones & David Jones  
Farmers across 3 generations farming the land

Sent from writi iPhone

B58

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[Redacted]

**From:** Dave Jones [Redacted] on behalf of Dave Jones  
**Sent:** 04 June 2024 11:14  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Subject: Ref: 77161/JB - land known as Doverow Hill or Verney Fields or Windmill Farm

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Good Morning Gemma

I'm of the understanding my sister Lorna Marie Jones has sent over a statement regarding this land in subject.

I would like to support all statements made by her in relation to this land. In support of the current owners.

I am 5 years older than her and have been closely involved with the land over the years whilst my late grand father was legal tenant of this land and no other activities aside from farming/agriculture have been carried out here.

Some of the statements being made by public are very far fetched and simply untrue.

Can we please have a confirmation that these statements are being submitted.

Many thank David

B 59  
B58

**BROWN, Jemma**

**From:** Don Stewart  
**Sent:** 05 June 2024 21:52  
**To:** BROWN, Jemma  
**Subject:** Ref: 77161/JB - land

Mentions footpath only from Verney Road to Doverow Woods. (J-O) Mentions walking up to Gate (possibly O-Q) but that this gate was always locked & there was no footpath there. Mentions J-O/J-M-O was used because MST30 was inaccessible until reinstated (right to deviate around obstructions) Mentions southern fields were always closed off & believed there was no public footpath going south.

You don't often get email from [redacted]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Jemma Brown,

I have observed the situation involving the land known as Verney fields for some time. I feel I need to object to the application.

In the first instance this is private land and has been purchased, therefore the land owner has rights to the land and the use of this in accordance with applications to the council where required.

The objection of the use of the land is not even covered under right to roam as most of the land is and has always been inaccessible and footpaths are still accessible across the land.

I have grown up in stonehouse and have frequented the land for many years before I moved away in 2001 for a period of 20 years.

From the age of about 10, around 1993, I have accessed and crossed this land. This was mostly to use the footpaths to get to Doverow woods or the fields there after. I have never used it anything else.

For the most part the land comprising Verney fields was inaccessible, it was possible to walk up from the oak tree view point to a gate but there was no foot path, and down from the oak tree to the top of Verney road on the footpath. The rest of the land was scrub and what wasn't sloped from the footpath to the stream. We would use Verney fields to sledge on if and when it had snowed but again this was infrequent and only possible on the areas above the oak tree and down from it as described previously. I am unaware of the land ever being used for anything else.

I have never heard of the land being used or associated with activities befitting a town common or green, it would also be difficult if not impossible to use the land for such usages due to the contour and lack of any flat or even ground. The footpath was through the field itself as the footpath through the wood was inaccessible, until recently when it was reinstated.

The fields below Verney fields towards Browns lane and the footpath from Browns lane to the railway station as far as I am aware were never accessed as they were always fenced or gated or, I grew up under the impression these were inaccessible private land. They often had livestock in them.

It can be seen that there are only specific footpaths designated on OS maps.

If the application was to be granted it would concern me as to who would maintain the land designated as verney field. Stonehouse already has a plethora of town greens, and verney fields is a very important green space for birds and wildlife. If this were to be cleared and maintained as a green, I worry who or where the resources would come from, it could lead to a decline or loss of wildlife species and biodiversity. If the land owners intentions are true and they intend to plant fruit trees and allow rewilding of the area this could in fact increase wildlife and biodiversity to the area due to the fruit trees. I believe if the application were successful the land would remain as scrub and become even more overgrown scrub with the only access the footpath across it, I haven't even seen the stream since I moved back 2 and a half years ago.

I believe the application to be a response to certain people's unaccepting attitude of the land being private and akin to a child who sees another child with a ball and wants it because they don't have it, I don't believe anybody supporting this application has used the land for anything other than footpath access and to sit at the bench.

I have also found significant damage caused to the fences that have been erected to protect the land and enable the land owner to work without risk of injury to the public while crossing the land. A

footpath has been provided to access Doverow wood and Far Weststrip from Browns lane and Verney road, however I believe that either those supporting this application or associates of them have caused this damaged in a petulant response to being restricted from wondering across private land. The last occasion the damage was extensive and I have no doubt incurred significant cost to the land owner.

Regards

Don Stewart