Proof of Evidence – Theresa Watt:

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 Theresa Watt.

2. We moved into our property in Rosedale Avenue in May 1994 and have been regular users of the paths since then. We back onto the land now owned by Taylor Wimpey. Along with 3 other neighbours we purchased extra land from Alfred McAlpine in 1998. At no time in this period did we see people using what we now realise was part of Public Footpath MST62, the definitive right of way in the secondary woodland behind our house. We also never used this route as we thought the path ran along the field edge. Everyone including us, used the path alongside the field edge H to U or I to G as shown on my attached Application Plan, appended **(TW1).** H to U was our path of choice as it was well marked on the ground and walked by many people including those from supported living accommodation locally, who could walk up its gentle slopes.

3. We used H to U at all times of the day as we would walk up the hill with our children in back packs and as they got bigger and walked independently as well. We would often take friends for walks up the hill and again would always start off using this route. To continue our walks, we would then use the wider track which went to point Q where there was a field gate that was always open albeit it was very muddy at times. Although there was a stile at point T, the well walked path did not go to the stile but went to the open gate at Q which was the preferred route for most people. This allowed children to access the swing on the sycamore tree if they wanted to go there.

And we would often pause at the oak tree at point O which was a focal point for viewing Stonehouse and the Severn Valley.

4. We would often walk up to point B and more often point D and after looking around the wood would come back along J to O or back down U to H. At no point did anyone ever say we should not be walking on these paths. Sledging, when possible, was on the slope B to A and if lucky, turning the corner down towards point M, which again was never discouraged. We would walk J to O on numerous occasions following the well-trodden routes across this patch of land.

5. Wycliffe College school used these routes for cross country training, too particularly G to I , H to U and O to J and that would involve a lot of children using these paths. Again no one asked them not to or blocked their routes.

6. In later years our son would run these routes once or twice a week, using all the routes at different times, some of them mapped on Strava. Again, no-one asked him not to use the paths at any time

7. There was often livestock in the fields, and we occasionally saw Martin Fletcher looking after his cattle and he was always very friendly and never asked us to leave the paths we were walking on. We would walk along the field edge from point H to G and then walked along the open land which went on, or parallel to MST62 to point Q and was not fenced in any way. The route from G/U to T and Q was across open fields and varied at times depending on the muddiness of the track but was always open.

8. So I would refute the suggestion that the owners/tenants tried to stop people using the paths or that vandalism was rife or fences often cut. The paths were accessible to all of us at all times of the day and most people used them respectfully. We are not dog owners, but we were aware of the problems of dog waste on the fields, but no other concerns or issues were raised or heard by us over the many years of using these paths and in occasional social visits to the farmers in Grove Farm.

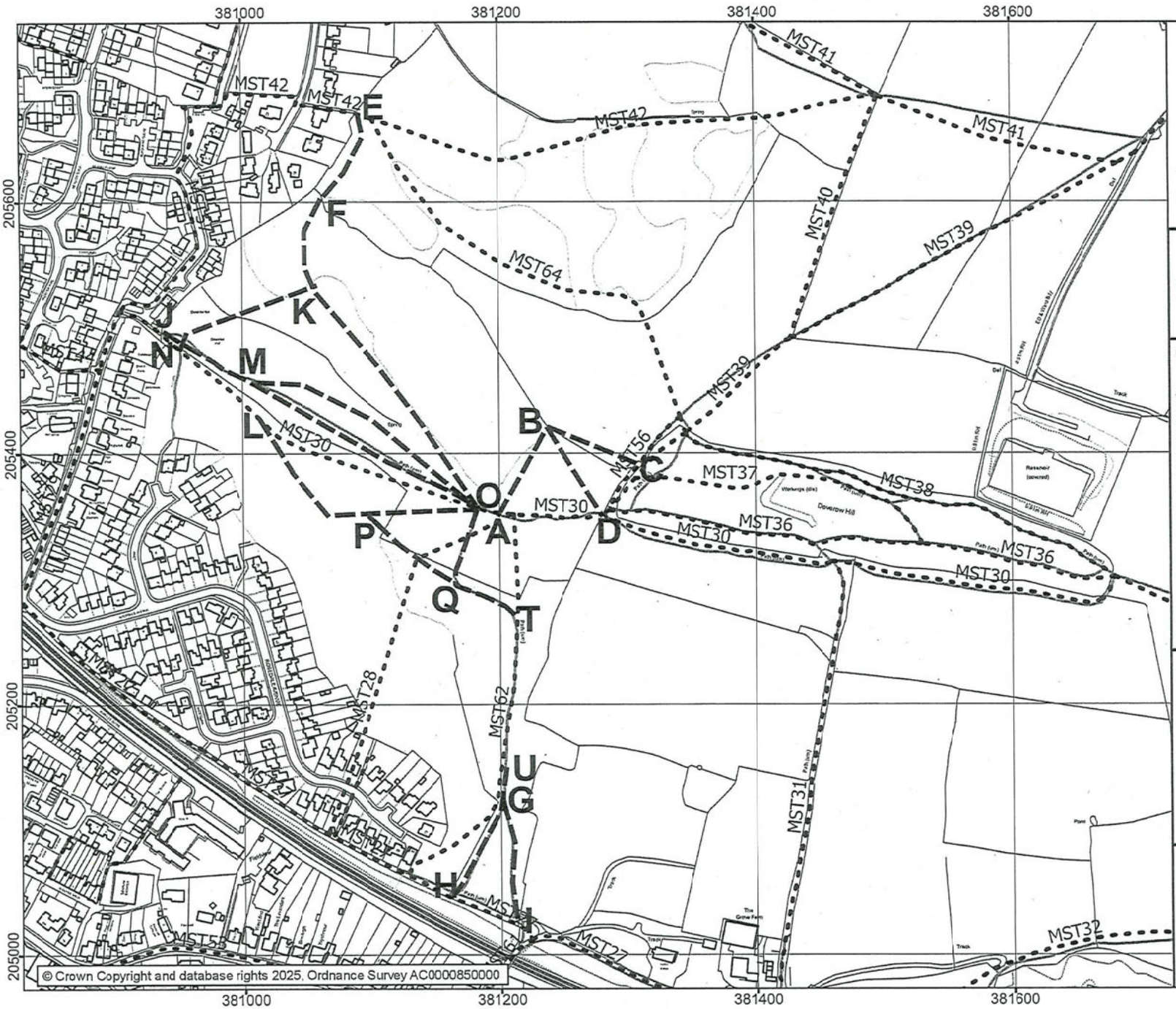
9. I have also accessed the viewing point above Rosedale (left of point P on appended Order Route plan – (~~TW2~~)) on multiple times, including lighting a beacon up there as part of the national celebrations at the Millenium and also the Jubilee celebrations for

Queens Elizabeth 2. Along with Stonehouse Council staff and councillors we carried up a gas fired beacon to light up there.

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

Signature. [redacted] ..... **Date**.....9/09/2026

TM7



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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