

APPENDIX 3

Church Field Friends
c/o 2 Nursery Close
Hilperton
BA14 7RP

Ms S Madgwick
Rights of Way Officer
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

26th February 2018

Dear Ms Madgwick

Thank you for your letter of 25th October 2017 and attachments which we read with interest and would like to use this letter to formally respond.

In response to the objections we have grouped objections for clarity so as not to necessitate repetition.

Goughs point 1: 33 Statements and some from the same family do not represent a significant number of inhabitants of the locality.

Point 4: Activities have not been indulged with sufficient regularity to count as sport and pastimes.

Point 7: Not enough People with over 20 years use.

The number of people using the land in question has to be sufficient to indicate that their use of the land signifies that it is in general use by the local community for informal recreation, rather than occasional use by individuals as trespassers.

We believe the evidenced through numerous personal witness statements and photographs, evidences fully 20 years use, not only pertaining to themselves and seeing others use the area in question on a regular and daily basis but also by other users such as the local Scouts, Brownies, pre school, school, running club and church.

We are providing an additional 5 statements covering a 20 year period giving evidence of use of Church Field as Village Green and that some of the people mentioned by name in paragraph 7 have now completed 20 years and we are willing to ask them to reissue their letters.

On any day of the week from as early as 6.30am until well after dark, the area can be seen to have a number of users enjoying the space for different forms both recreational and for socialising.

We also note that there is an objection to statements being made from members of the same family but we believe that all members of a family are valid as different individuals, who use the area on different occasions for different uses, as well as together.

Goughs Point 8a: The Pre School children use the field at the Village Hall.

Pike point 4: Why would the children use Church field when they use the Village Hall Green?

Sims point 1: There is already a Village Green Space used for Fetes and Football.

The Village Hall green area is very different in nature to that of Church Field and has been used in very different ways. It is clear from the evidence provided in statements that the Village Hall area is restrictive in what you are able to use it for, for example you are not allowed to allow your dog off the lead there. There are overhead cables which make it

difficult to fly a kite and there are often football and Cricket matches going on which prevent you from walking freely with you dogs, jog, cycle, or meet friends. Church field is, as stated by Sonja Kotevska used by St Micheal's Pre School to explore nature, wildlife and insect hunts.

Goughs Point 2: Asking for permission to use the field for sports and pastimes

Goughs solicitors (on behalf of Mr Pike) state that on several occasions throughout the 20 year period prior to the Application Mr Pike was asked for permission to carry out activities. For example Hilperton school when it was in the Knap. (Hilperton school relocated from the Knap in 1970).

We believe that this is a rare example as from the land registry evidence we provided in our application the land is unregistered and therefore how could people ask for permission to use the land if they did not know who owned it.

Goughs point 2 and 3 Pike points 3, 5, 6, 7: Use of Church Field 'as of right'

Use of the official footpaths on Church Field is sporadic and as can be shown by aerial photos in new evidence provided ref 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b and 3, there are well trodden paths away from the footpaths that have been used over time by many people using the field. The term "as of right" means that use must have been without force, without secrecy and without permission. We have provided signed statements that these users of Church field were never asked nor did they seek permission to use the area in its entirety, they used the field openly and without secrecy.

Ref Goughs case study - Richard Naylor v Essex County Council v Silverbrook Estates Ltd, Diana Humphreys, Tendering District Council

We are of the firm opinion that the case cited is not applicable to our application as the public have used Church Field 'as of right' and not 'by right' and that the above case is not relevant as Church Field has always been used for 'grasskeep' or cattle and has not been maintained by the Council. We have evidence letters from users of Church Field over a continuous 20 year period to support our opinion.

Pike point 8: People have not enjoyed unrestricted freedom

We do not believe and have never heard of an occasion where any person was asked to refrain from entering and using Church Field as they saw fit. Nearly all the witness statements state that they have always openly used the field without challenge nor having seen a notice stating the field is private property.

Goughs points 5, 6a, Pike points 1, 2: Livestock grazing on Church Field incompatible with land use.

We agree with Mr Pike that the land was used for grazing during summer and autumn intermittently over some of the years but we strongly disagree that local people did not use the field during this time. (See new photographic evidence provided, number 9) During grazing time the field seemed to be busier than ever as an attraction to see the calves. The cattle would congregate in corners or block the footpaths and therefore local people would make alternative routes through Church Field to avoid the cattle. Denise Harvey can personally remember walking through the field when a cow had just given birth to a calf and the herd was gathered around, stating: "It was necessary to walk well into the middle of the field, away from the footpath, in order to give the mother cow and the herd plenty of space."

Goughs point 6 There have been other uses of Church Field

If Church Field has been used as an overflow car park for St Michael's Church it has been very rarely and never enough cars to interrupt the continued general use by the public.

Ref Goughs case law - The Queen on the application of Cheltenham Builders Limited v South Gloucestershire District Council

We are firmly of the opinion that the case cited is not applicable to our application as the whole of Church Field is accessible to the public there are no significant areas of trees or brambles which would prevent lawful sports and pastimes. We have evidence in the form of 44 letters from users of the field to support our opinion that continued and full use was never interrupted.

Goughs points 9, 10 and Sims point 4: Motivation from some to not see the land developed, and that the letters have somehow been tampered with

We did not tailor or edit any of the letters that we received, Goughs Solicitors (on behalf of Mr Pike) reference the letter from Mr Kenneth Warr (date 28 March 2017). If we had edited or asked people to re-submit their letters we would not have let this statement remain or any that may have personal feelings about future development. We realise these opinions are not valid in terms of a village green application but we left all letters, however emotive, intact. As it is, this un-edited letter proves that we did not tailor or contrive evidence.

Simms point 2: That there is no wildlife to speak of on the field.

We have included a number of photographs of the wildlife currently within Church Field see new photographic evidence provided 4a,4b,4c, 7,10, 15a and 15b.

Within the Hilperton Neighbourhood Development Plan Scoping Report for the Parish of Hilperton 2016-2026 in its Biodiversity section 6.6 it states that:

'In Wiltshire, the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) sets out Habitat Action Plans for a range of habitats. The BAP will soon be complimented by a new Wiltshire and Swindon Landscape Conservation Framework. To deliver conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, a number of Landscape Biodiversity Areas have been identified. These are shown on the Lnk2Nature website. In terms of the Landscape Map of the latter, Hilperton lies within the 'Bristol Avon Vale' area.'

It goes on to state in section 6.7 Biodiversity in Hilperton parish that:

'there are several categories of what the Wiltshire BAP identifies as 'Priority Habitats' present.'

One category they include is:

6.13 Farmland habitat

'Much of the land in the Parish is farmed— mainly arable. This land is home to a range of species from plants, fungi, butterflies, mice, birds, hares and rabbits. There are many species of birds on the red danger list (published by the RSPB) that seem to be surviving on the untouched fields and many on their amber list too but in lesser numbers than 10 years ago. Lost in the last 2 years is the Skylark (which was in fields adjacent to Middle Lane) and this year Crickets and Grasshoppers. On the original survey it was shown that the very rare Bechstein Bats were present but since then no survey has been done to see if they still visit these fields. During the winter months the fields and the banks of the River Avon at Whaddon provide an ideal habitat for visiting migratory birds.'

We also provide the written statements as evidence of using the field for exploring all the wildlife from: Chris Hart, Denise Harvey, Heidi Hart, Helen Whitehead, Jacqui Clark, Katherine Warr, Ken Warr, Martin Wilcox, Lucy Wilcox, Sonja Kotevska, Lesley House, Sheila Sawyer and Emma Herlinger.

Simms point 3: The field will not be cultivated to Village Green standards and left and used as it is now.

We believe that the field being less cultivated is why it is being used so much now and feel that most of the village would prefer it that way. The Brownies, Scouts, Runners, Schools and ramblers have expressed this as a reason that they visit it because as it is an open and relaxed area full of nature, with no overhead cables or restrictions.

Cradock point 1 and 2: Church Field has been farmed for 3 generations as part of a commercial business.

We believe that there is evidence to prove that no ploughed agriculture has occurred within the chosen qualification period of 20 years, in Church Field, as it appeared to have always been permanent pasture. We believe the witness reports we have provided offer additional evidence of no interruption of use.

As Mr Cradock points out himself, the land has been farmed on a grass keep basis. We believe this does not constitute agricultural use within the terms that prohibit the granting of Village Green status.

In R(Laing Homes Ltd) v Buckinghamshire County Council [2004] 1 P & CR 573 it was held in the High Court that the annual gathering of a hay crop was incompatible with the use of the land as a village green but The Open Space Society note Lord Hoffman has commented on that decision by saying "I do not agree that the low level agricultural activities must be regarded as having been inconsistent with use for sports and pastimes...if in practice they were not" (Oxfordshire County Council v Oxford City council [2006] 2 AC 674 para 57)

Cradock point 3

Mr Cradock suggests that there has been no "lawful sports or pastimes on this land" and that any suggestions to the contrary are untrue

We believe that there is significant evidence from users of Church Field over a 20 year period to prove that there has been lawful sports and pastimes on Church Field and that local people have used the whole field as of right . We have provided additional evidence from an aerial photographs (1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b and 3) to show that there are marked walking paths on Church Field which do not follow footpaths HILP1, HILP2, HILP3 or HILP4 , in particular there is a well trodden path which skirts around the graveyard and runs parallel to Middle Lane. Additionally the google maps satellite photograph of the field shows a well trodden path around the circumference of the field in addition to the footpaths above.

Cradock point 5: That Mr Pike has donated land for the village allotments and is being forced to defend his property at his age.

We did not know who owned all of land and on investigation discovered that it was unregistered apart from a tiny part owned by Mr Pike next to the cemetery.

Yours sincerely

Denise Harvey 
Secretary on behalf of Church Field Friends

Summary Of Time and Usage Of Church Field

Name	Years used/ since	Use
1. Andy Sewyer	1974/ 44yrs	Walked Dogs, Bikes, Flying Kites.
2. Catherine Davis	1998/ 20yrs	Walks, Ball Games, Enjoying Green Space
3. Charlie Barker	2003/ 15yrs	Playing Games with Friends and Family, Rounders, Football, Walking Dog, Treasure Hunt, Built Snowmen and Igloos.
4. Chris Hart	2007/ 11yrs	French Cricket with wider family, Rounders, Kite Flying, Wild Flower Collecting to press with children. Dog Walking, Socialising whilst walking.
5. Graham Kehily	1998/ 20yrs	Running, Kite Flying, Walking Dog, Relaxing
6. Denise Harvey	1993/ 25yrs	Sports, Picnics, Rounders, Blackberry Picking, Birdwatching, Building Snowmen, Model Plane Flying, Dog Walking, Children Playing.
7. Ernie Clark	1992/ 26yrs	Blackberry Collecting, Exercising, Dog Walking, Football, Kite Flying, Snowball Fights, Social Gatherings.
8. Heidi Hart	2007/ 11yrs	Snow Play, Dog Walking, Rounders, Football, Flying Kites, Schools and Clubs Use it for Nature Trails and Treasure Hunts, Running Club use It, Social Walks.
9. Helen Davies	1998/ 20yrs	Family Walks, Dog Walks
10. Helen Whitehead.	2008/ 10yrs	Took the children in her care as a childminder on Nature Walks. Dog Walks, Socialises there, Running for Exercise.
11. Isabelle Hart	2007/ 11yrs	Sees nearly 100 people a day use it mostly in groups socialising. Cartwheels, Cycling, Walking Dog, Watch Sunset there, Balloon landing, Helicopter use.
12. Ivan Moore	1960's /35yrs	Dog Walks, Football, Say it is always in use by locals, Walking, Jogging, Games, Kite Flying.
13. Ayesha Moore	1960's /35yrs	Dog Walks, Football, Say it is always in use by locals, Walking, Jogging, Games, Kite Flying.
14. J Clark	1992/ 26yrs	Frisbee, Walking, Spotting Wildflowers and Nature, Running and playing with a ball, Hiding in Bushes, Playing Chase, Paintball Fights, Picnics, Dog Walking, Building Snowmen and playing Snowball fights with the whole community gathered drinking hot toddies. Built igloos.
15. J Waring	1983/ 35yrs	Children Playing with the neighbours children, Making Daisy Chains, Making Camps, Practising Brownie and Guide Skills for badges, Dog Walking, Meeting friends for chats.
16. James Davies	1998/ 20yrs	Football, Walks, Rugby, Dog Walks, Witnessed many people use the field.
17. Julia Goodwin	1988/ 30yrs	Walking, Sees the field used extensively throughout the day, Dog Walking, Socialising, Children Playing, Kicking a Ball, Kite Flying, Running and Keeping Fit.

Summary Of Time and Usage Of Church Field

Name	Years used/ since	Use
18. K Waring	1983/ 35yrs	Children Played with the neighbours children, Walked dogs.
19. Katherine Warr	1980's /33yrs	Walking for leisure, Seen many villagers use the field for Exercise, Running, Socialy and for the Wildlife. Cemetery visitors use the field for a bit of peace.
20. Kenn Warr	1980's /33yrs	Walking for leisure, Seen many villagers use the field for Exercise, Running, Socialy and for the Wildlife. Cemetery visitors use the field for a bit of peace.
21. Kathi Walker	1987/ 31yrs	Recreation, Dog Walking, Used by families as a safe area to play.
22. Kathryn Lacy	1992/ 26yrs	Walked Dog with the family, Rounders, Ball Games, Picnics, For Fun.
23. Martin Wilcox	1996/ 22yrs	Dog Walks, Witnessed the community use the field daily. Kite Flying, Model Aeroplanes, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs for Nature Activities and Camping, Exercising, Games, Running and Socialising.
24. Lucy Wilcox	1996/ 22yrs	Dog Walks, Witnessed the community use the field daily. Kite Flying, Model Aeroplanes, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs for Nature Activities and Camping, Exercising, Games, Running and Socialising.
25. Nicola Walker	2008/ 10yrs	Walking dog twice a day, Playing Games, Badminton, French Cricket, Cricket matches, Sunbathing, Meditation.
26. Phoebe Hart	2007/ 11yrs	Dog Walks, Building Snowmen and Igloos, Football, French Cricket, Frisbee with Friends. Watching the Sunset with friends and family. Always full of visitors.
27. Rob Coles	1978/ 40yrs	Play Area, Flying Kites, Build Snowmen, Dog Walking, Large Groups Of People Socialising.
28. Maggie Coles	1978/ 40yrs	Play Area, Flying Kites, Build Snowmen, Dog Walking, Large Groups Of People Socialising.
29. Ros Huggins	1998/ 20yrs	Walking Dogs, Playing with their Children, Exercise, Socialising with Friends.
30. Sally Lacey	1993/ 25yrs	Walking the Dogs off the Lead, Playing Games, Rounders, Cricket, Kite Flying, Playing in the Snow.
31. Sarah Kenich	1988/ 30yrs	Dog Walking with them running free, Walking for Leisure, Playing Catching a Ball, Feeling Happy and Safe and Socialising.
32. Sonja Kotevska	1992/ 26yrs	Exploring nature and Wildlife with the Pre School, Looking For Insects. Seen people Flying Kites, Dog Walking, Jogging.
33. Steven Harvey	1993/ 25yrs	Picnics, *Used Field even when the Cows were in there. Dog Walking, Kite Flying,
34. Thomas Clark	1995/ 23yrs	Blackberry Picking, Football, Rugby, Playing Paint Ball, Picnics, Snowmen Building.

Summary Of Time and Usage Of Church Field

Name	Years used/ since	Use
35. Tasha Harvey	1996/ 22yrs	Building Snowmen, Social Gatherings, Kite Flying, Rounders, Walking Dogs, Building Dens, Playing Hide and Seek with friends.
36. Tim Davies	1998/ 20yrs	Recreation, Walks, Kite Flying, Ball Games, Dog Walking.
37. Wendy Coles	1980's /30yrs	Playing Imaginative Games, Running, Exploring, Walking Dog, Pretending to Ride Horses, Dance Routines, Built Obstacle Courses for the dogs, *Trying to Stroke The Cows, Making Dens.
38. Alison Hoskins	2011/ 6yrs	Exercised the Dogs off the lead and frequently sees people use the field similarly.
39. Kate Hayes	1988/ 30yrs	Dog Walking, Socialising, Exercising and always sees others using the field.
40. John Bowden	1977/ 41yrs	Walked Daily, Built Friendships, Walked Dogs.
41. Lesley House	1987/ 31yrs	Walked Dog Twice Daily, Played, Flying Kites, Picking Buttercups, Blackberrys and Sloes, Building Dens, Paint Balling, Snow Ball Fights with Friends, Learning about Nature, Meeting Friends Socially, Kite Boarding, Drones, Radio Controlled Aircraft.
42. Edward Clark	1997 /21yrs	Walking, Blackberry Picking, Playing Football, Building Snowmen, Paint Balling in the Hedgerow, Dog Walking.
43. Sheila Sawyer	1974/ 44yrs	Play, Exercise, Learn about the Countryside, Flying Kites as there are no overhead lines, Dog Walking, Camping, Brownies, Guides and Scoutes use it for Tracking, Artists.
44. Emma Herlinger	2016/ 2yrs	Dog Walking, Running, Children Play Safely, Saw People Flying Kites, Scooting, Blackberry Picking, Socialising and Making Friends, Spotting Wildlife including Muntjac Deer and Identifying Wildflowers.

Church Field Additional Photographs - Key For Evidence Of Use

- 1a Church Field Northern Corner siding St Michaels Church Cemetery showing a well trodden wide
1b area of track marks from regular pedestrian use. These marks continue following the northern
1c edge of the field where there are no public footpaths. (photographs by Graham Kehily 4th Feb 2018)
- 2a Church Field North west corner showing a well defined track mark from pedestrian use continuing
2b where there are no public footpaths. Also some members of the public clearly using the field
indiscriminately. (photographs by Graham Kehily 4th Feb 2018)
- 3 The west side of Church Field showing the continuing track marks where no public footpaths exist.
(photograph by Graham Kehily 4th Feb 2018)
- 4a Church Fields vast array of meadow grasses, a butterfly on the grasses in the foreground.
4b (photographs by Heidi Hart 3rd July 2017)
4c
- 5a Church Field users playing frisby and dog walking, Elizabeth way in the background.
5b (photographs by Heidi Hart 19th July 2017)
5c
- 6a Walkers and dog walkers using Church Field and Socialising in groups.
6b (photographs by Heidi Hart 8th July 2017)
- 7 Wildflowers on Church Field. (photograph by Heidi Hart 3th July 2017)
- 8 Runner on Church Field. (photograph by Heidi Hart 20th July 2017)
- 9 Brownies socialising and trying to pet the cows in Church Field. (Photograph by Rob Coles Spring 1992)
- 10 Butterfly in Church Field/closer view (photograph by Heidi Hart 3rd July 2017)
- 11 Someone flying a remote controlled aircraft on Church Field. (photographs by Heidi Hart 31st Oct 2017)
- 12 Runner on Church Field from further away to show more of the field. (photographs by Heidi Hart 20th July
2017)
- 13 Duplicate of image 5
- 14 Frisby playing on Church Field. (photographs by Heidi Hart 30th May 2016)
- 15a Flocks of Rooks and pigeons on Church Field. (photographs by Heidi Hart 20th Feb 2018)
15b
- 16 A selection photographs of her family using Church Field from Mrs Lesley House to accompany an
additional evidence letter provided.
- 17a Children Playing in the snow in Church Field. (photographs by Ernie Clark 2009/10)
17b

04 FEB 2018

1a

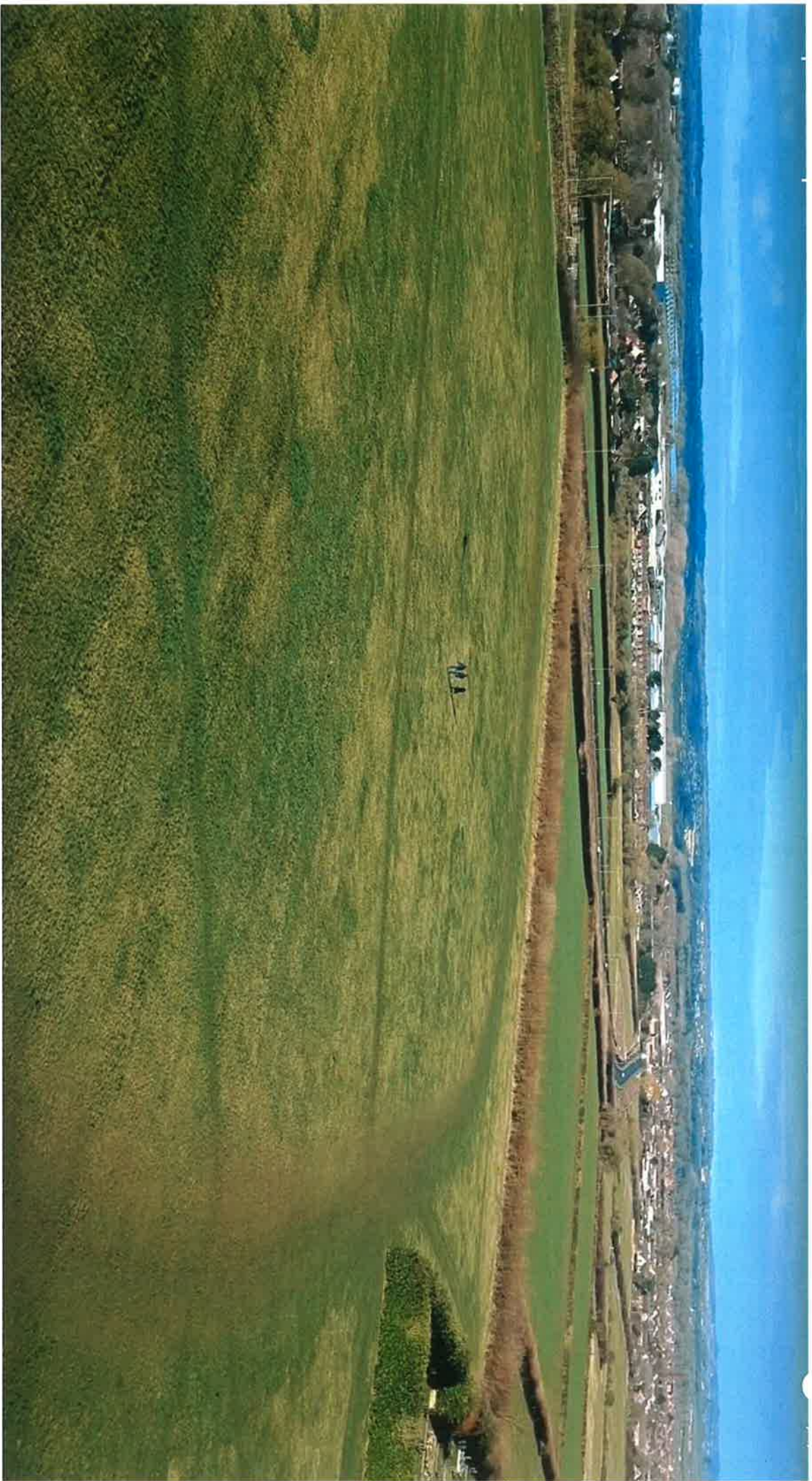




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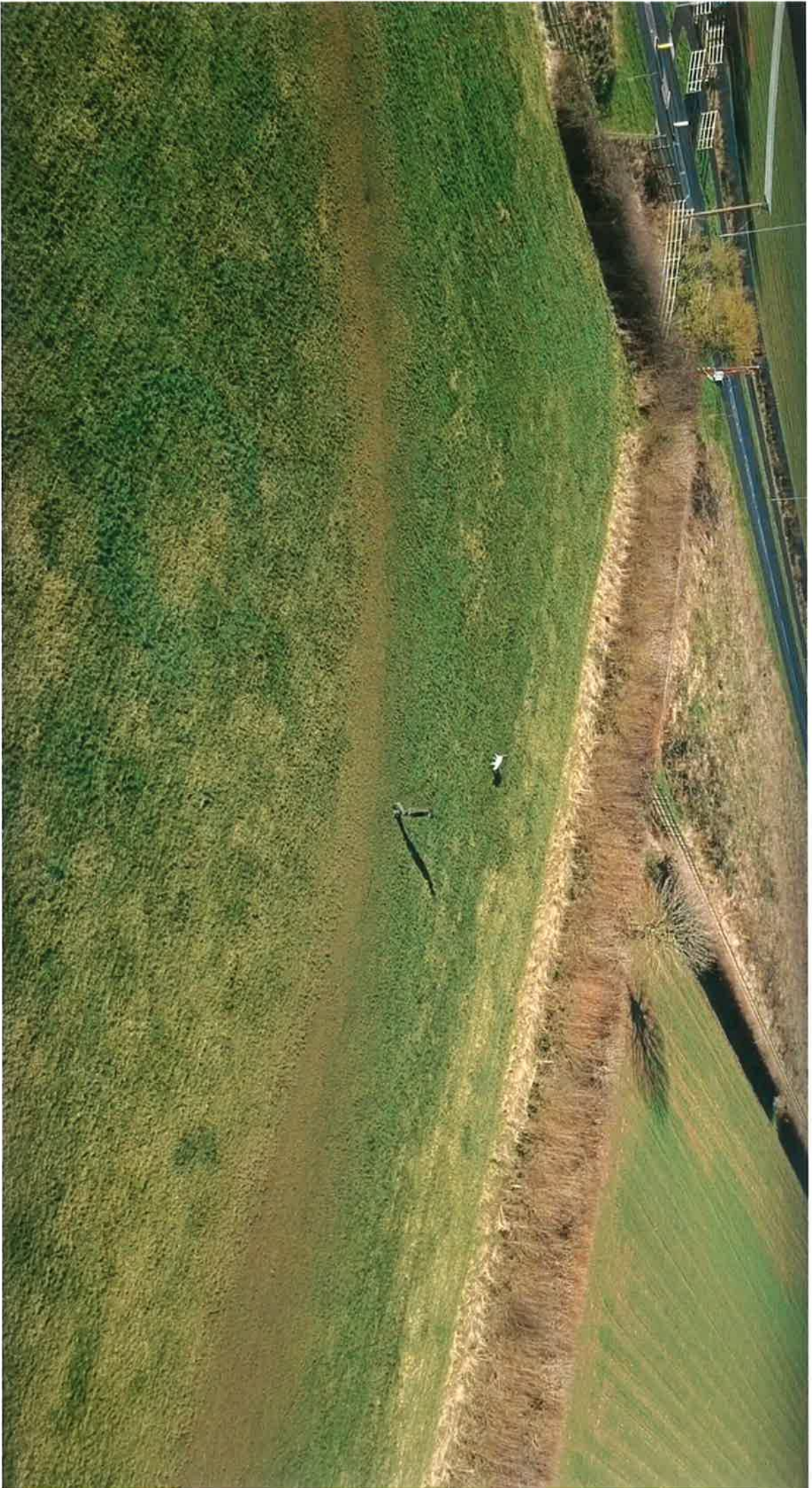
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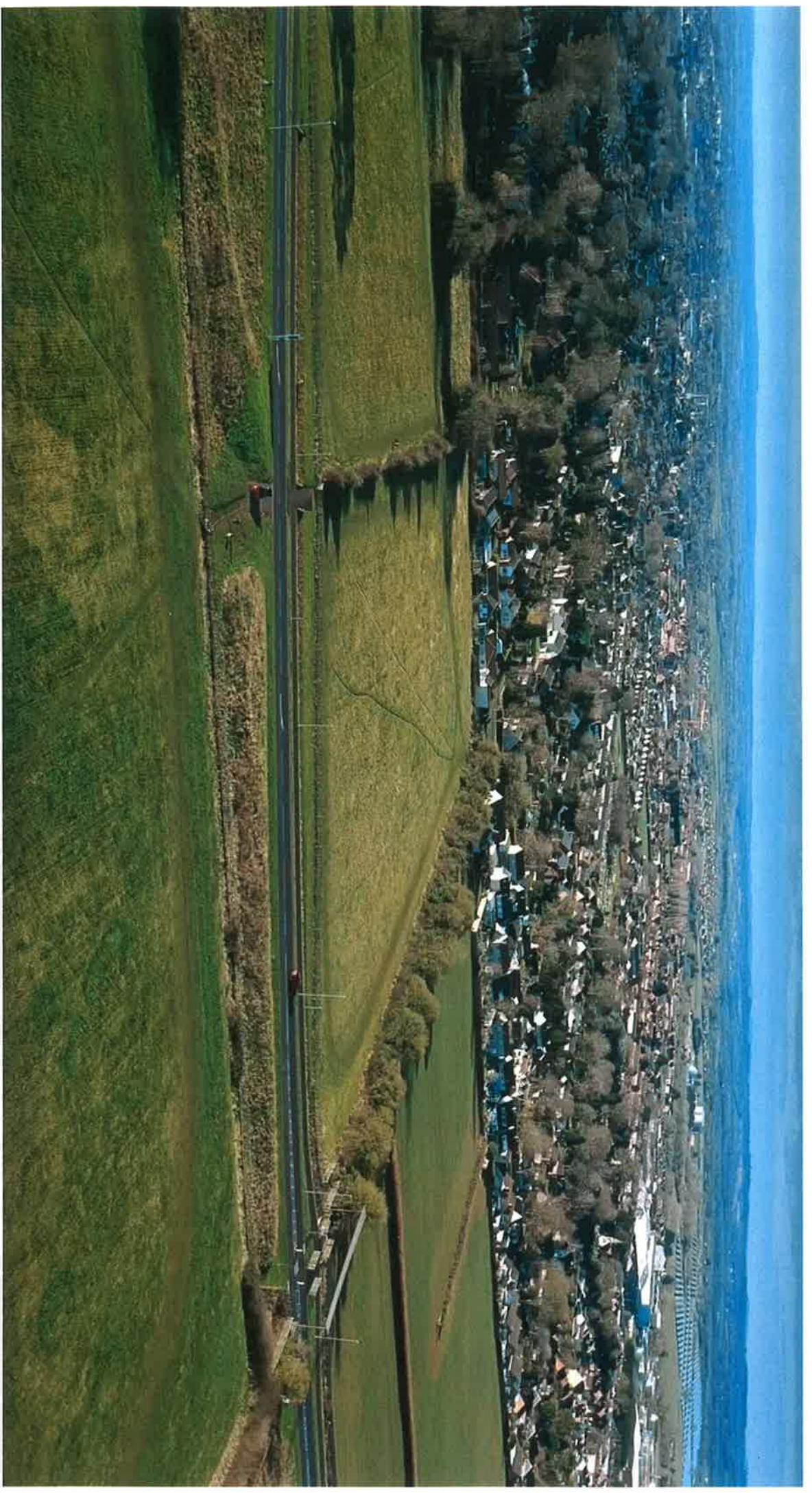
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04/02/18

26

04 FEB 2018



4a

03 July 2017



4b

03 July 2017



Ac
03 JULY 2017



5a
08 JULY 2017



5b



19 JULY 2017

5c



19 JULY 2017

68
8 JULY 2017



69
8 JULY 2017



7 03 JULY 2017



8 20 JULY 2017



9

SPRING 1992



10

03 JULY 2017



31 OCT 2017

11



20 JULY 2017

12



Duplicate of Image 5

13



30 MAY 2016

14



20 FEB 2018

15a



15a

15b



15b

16a

L House



11/25/11
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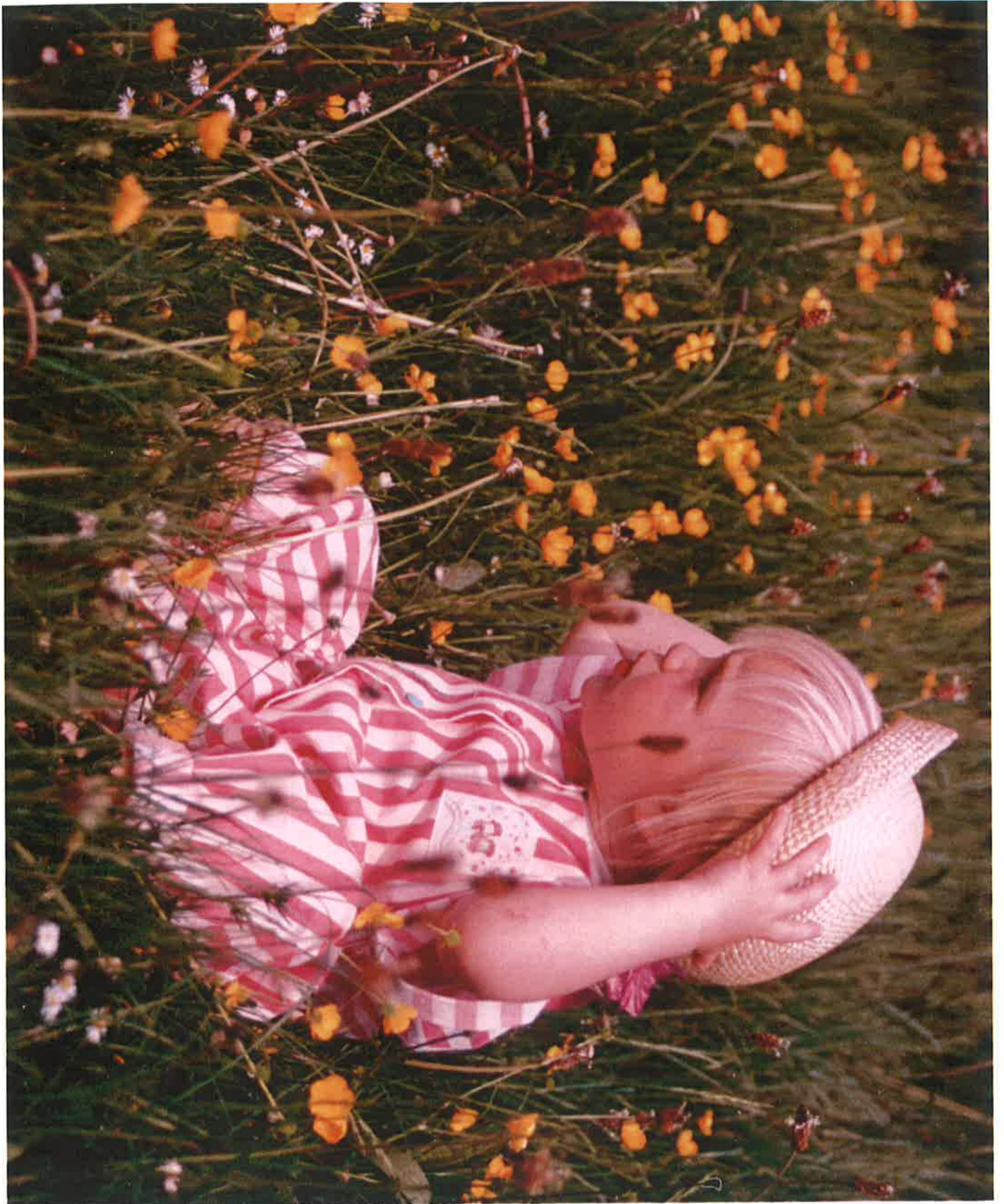








at the time
all the time





17a

2009/2010



176

2009/2010



Emma Herlinger

■ Nursery Close

Hilperton

BA14 7RP

18 February 2018

I am writing in regards to the application for Church Field to gain Village Green status,

We moved to Hilperton 2 years ago and in that two years I have used Church Field most days and every time without permission or challenge.

When we moved here we wanted somewhere to walk our dog, a place to go running/jogging and for our children to safely play, I could always see people using church field and had no idea it was privately owned as there were no signs up and people were using it in its entirety. We therefore started using church field to walk our dog and exercise ourselves and the children, I found it a very sociable place and have met lots of people from the village by using this field for recreational activities. We moved to Wiltshire in the summer and out of our window we could see people flying kites, children playing and groups of people meeting up to walk their dogs, I knew instantly that we had made the right decision to move here as I could see this village had a heart and could picture my boys using this field as they grow, playing ball and running around playing with their friends.

I still feel the same about this field two years down the line and feel it is a great candidate for village green status. I have had the pleasure on early morning dog walks of seeing Monjack and Deer in this field and in the summer I have seen teenagers sitting down with friends and chatting or eating. My children run around the field and have even used their scooter in the dryer summer months. We have picked blackberries and my eldest son loves trying to identify the wild flowers.

We are aware that there is another village green in Hilperton however it is a very different space to Church Field my children love to use the park there, however for unbridled and unrestricted fun they love to run around Church Field with other children and being animal lovers having numerous dogs also running around with them just adds to the magic.

Yours sincerely,

■
Emma Herlinger

Received 14 Aug. 2017
Ack. 15 Aug 2017.

4

Westmoreland Avenue
Hornchurch
Essex
RM11 2EF

✓ Wiltshire Council
Church Field Friends

Dear Sirs,

I have seen the Wiltshire Council notice dated 21 July regarding a village green application for Church Field.

I wish to add my support to the application.

I have used the field, and others in Hilperton Gap, for twenty-one years. My first use was simply when I was taken there for walks by my parents. Over the years I have since used the field for many uses including blackberrying, playing football, building snowmen, paintballing in the hedgerow, and dog walking. I still use the field for dog walking when I am in Hilperton.

I did not, and do not, remain on either the 'public' or 'other' footpaths but used/use the whole of the field and its hedges. At no time have I ever been asked to leave by the owner or anyone else and my use of the field has been in broad daylight.

Yours faithfully,


Edward Clark.

28 July '17

Hi,

I have been using the church field to walk across as a short cut on my regular trips to Trowbridge since 1974, at no time has anyone ever told me not to use this route and I have never seen any signs telling me not to use this route.

This is a very loved and utilised dog walking area which I have personally used since 1987, at no time has anyone ever told me not to use this route or I have never seen any signs telling me to not use this route.

Also during this period people have walked this area flying kites and with their children and bikes etc.

I have known people use the church field from Paxcroft Mead and the adjoining area of Trowbridge as well as the ever expanding village of Hilperton.

Kind regards



Andy

✓

Sent from my iPad

23 July '17

Hi,

I have been using the church field to walk across as a short cut on my regular trips to Trowbridge since 1974, at no time has anyone ever told me not to use this route and I have never seen any signs telling me not to use this route.

This is a very loved and utilised dog walking area which I have personally used since 1987, at no time has anyone ever told me not to use this route or I have never seen any signs telling me to not use this route.

Also during this period people have walked this area flying kites and with their children and bikes etc.

I have known people use the church field from Paxcroft Mead and the adjoining area of Trowbridge as well as the ever expanding village of Hilperton.

Kind regards


Andy

Sent from my iPad

██████ Trowbridge Road

Hilperton

Wilts

BA14 7QQ

11th September 2017

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing in support of the application to give Church Field, Hilperton, 'Village Green' status.

We bought our house on Trowbridge Road, Hilperton in August 1987, in part, because it is situated opposite the Church fields. We had a dog which we exercised there twice daily, until her death almost ten years later. We have since had two more dogs, and both have been walked regularly in Church Fields.

During the thirty years we have lived in our home, we have brought up three daughters. The field was a wonderful place for them to play. They enjoyed walking with the dogs, flying kites, picking buttercups, blackberries and sloes and as they grew a little older, playing games with their friends, building hide-outs and paintballing. In the winter snows, they would join the crowd of local children who gathered to build snowmen and have snowball fights. We used the footpaths on their walks to and from Hilperton Primary School. It has been a wonderful place to teach them to love and appreciate nature; they have learned to identify plants, butterflies and birds.

We meet many people using the fields each day. Some we see almost daily, also walking their dogs, others, we see less regularly, playing with their children or simply enjoying walking in the fresh air. Looking out of my window as I write this letter I can see three groups of people walking with their dogs.

In the past, a group of teenagers practised kite boarding in the field. Others have flown radio controlled aircraft and more recently drones. Many use the footpaths to walk into the village or, in the opposite direction, to go to Trowbridge or Paxcroft Mead, but we have always used the entire field not just the foot paths and have never been challenged or told to stop. The only time we have been unable to use the fields was during the last foot and mouth crises, when most fields in the country were closed to walkers.

I feel that Church Field is a valuable resource for Hilperton Village, one that I and my family have cherished for the last 30 years. I hope that the Church Field will be given 'Village Green' status and will provide a natural space for future generations to enjoy.

I enclose some photographs of my family enjoying using Church Field.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Lesley House

(Female, in my mid fifties)

Church Field, Hilperton
Village Green Status

10 August 2017

I feel that it is essential that Church Field, Hilperton be designated Village Green Status.

I have walked over these fields, daily, since 1977, being now well over 80 years, and can name quite a few friends who have also walked there daily. And still do!. Over the years we have become almost a family, talking of our families and "putting the world to rights"

My own children have accompanied me, and then my grandchildren also, as well as a succession of dogs, from puppies to old age. I look forward to taking my great grandchildren in a few years!

No one has ever challenged me for walking on the fields and apart from cows from time to time, nothing else happens to the field.

In these days of change and impermanence it is essential for some things to remain the same. Church Field is one such - streets and houses cannot replace the calm memories of the Church Field and the bridleway - just ask the young children who have walked with parents, grandparents and a variety of dogs.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Green Lane
TROWBRIDGE

St Mary's Close,
Hilperton Marsh,
Trowbridge,
BA14 7PW

17th August 2017

For almost 6 years now I've been using Church Field approximately once a week to exercise my dog. We have made full use of the entire field for off-lead running & playing, rather than simply following the footpaths. Never, at any time, have I been challenged, seen a notice stating that the land is private nor been prevented from entering the field. No-one has given me permission to use Church Field in this way. It never occurred to me ask because my late mother-in-law used Church Field to exercise her dogs in the 1970s and 80s and I frequently see up to six people using the field similarly.

I do hope that Church Field can be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Yours truly,


Alison Hoskins (Mrs)

Statement regarding use of Church Field, Hilperton Parish

I have been using Church Field in Hilperton Parish since I moved into the area in 1988.

I have used the whole of this field for recreation, dog walker & exercising and socialising with other users.

When I had a dog I used the field almost daily but now not so frequently.

There are always other people using this field.

I have never been challenged on using the field nor prevented from use. I have never seen a sign to say the land was private.

I have never sought permission to use the field.

I fully support the application for a village green for this field.

[REDACTED]

Kate Hayes

[REDACTED] Horse Road, Hilperton

HILL STREET
HILPERTON
TROWBRIDGE
WILTSHIRE
BA14 7RS

22nd July 2017

To whom it may concern.

I and my family moved to Hilpert on in Jan 1974.
and have used church field since at least the summer
of 1974 regularly, for both short cuts into Trowbridge
and to let the children play, exercise and learn
about the country. indeed in the school holidays
it could be quite a social gathering.

It was one of the few places you could fly
a kite (it not having any power lines across

it.)

We blackberried in Autumn
We always walked our dogs here, all year
round & apart from 'foot-mouth-scave' I've
never seen a notice to prevent this use.
I've seen tents in the field in the morning &
where youths had enjoyed camping and I've
seen when my children attended brownies/queids
cubs/scouts in the nearby church hall (now a private

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hours) they used the field for tracking etc,
I once came across a gentleman perched on a
stool drawing the church from that angle.

In the 29 yrs I lived at the crown my family
enjoyed the care of Church Field, and since
moving further down the village my son has
continued to walk our dogs here most days

Sheila SAWYER.