OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Public Right of Way User Evidence Statement (Information Sheet)

The following Declaration and Statement should be completed and returned **to the person making the application** so that it can be submitted with or form part of an application seeking a change to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. Please keep a copy for your own records.

The statement is intended to provide preliminary evidence about the application. When Oxfordshire County Council, as the Order-Making Authority (OMA), commences detailed research, a Council officer may contact you to seek further information or ask you to be interviewed about your evidence.

The statement is designed to help establish whether or not the route being claimed in the application is a public right of way. It also provides evidence of how it is used (for example on foot, on horseback, by vehicles etc).

You should answer the questions as fully as possible and not keep back any information, whether for or against the public claim. This is important if this information is to be of real value in establishing the status of the application route. The information given may be examined at a public inquiry.

This statement should be completed by one person only and should relate to only one route. Do not include information about another person. If you need more space, please continue on a separate sheet which will need to be attached to this statement.

If completing the statement by hand, please ensure it is written legibly and in black ink.

If the OMA proceeds with the application but it is contested (for example by a landowner), there may be a public inquiry. This will be held locally and if you are unable to attend your evidence will be given in writing, but user evidence is of much greater value if you attend in person and are prepared to answer questions about it. Inquiries are kept as informal as possible, and the OMA will help you with the procedure.

Data Protection Statement – Please Read Carefully

Under the General Data Protection Regulation, the OMA has a duty to inform you about how your personal data will be handled. The information you provide will be retained by the OMA for the purposes of undertaking its statutory obligations in accordance with The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, section 53. It will be used for the sole purpose of processing the application for the route referred to, and for no other purpose.

The information you supply by way of the User Evidence Statement or by other means such as letters or emails (other than your personal contact details i.e. mobile / landline number, email address and signature) cannot be treated as confidential.

It may be necessary for the OMA to disclose information received from you to others, which may include other local authorities, the Planning Inspectorate and other government departments, public bodies, other organisations, any affected landowners, and members of the public. If the application proceeds to a public inquiry your evidence will be made available to the inquiry.

Further information can be found on our Privacy Notice at PrivacyNotice-CountrysideRecords.pdf (oxfordshire.gov.uk)

DECLARATION – Important, please read carefully

This User Evidence Declaration should be fully completed, signed and returned with the completed User Evidence Statement for your evidence to be considered. Your contact details and signature on this page will not be made publicly available. However, by signing it, you are acknowledging that your User Evidence Statement may be made publicly available.

Please print your name here **Johannes Cognomen**

Your: Home Telephone Number **01865 1234568**

Mobile Telephone Number **07712 3456789**

Email Address **electricroadrightofway@oxford.ox**

Statement of Truth

I BELIEVE THAT THE FACTS AND MATTERS CONTAINED IN THIS STATEMENT ARE TRUE AND I HAVE READ THE DECLARATION ABOVE AND THE WARNING BELOW

Your Signature:

Date:

You should keep a copy of the completed statement

Warning: If you dishonestly enter information or make a statement that you know is, or might be, untrue or misleading, and intend by doing so to make a gain for yourself or another person, or to cause loss or the risk of loss to another person, you may commit the offence of fraud under section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006, the maximum penalty for which is 10 years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine, or both.

Information on this page of the Statement will be redacted and <u>not</u> made publicly available

PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY USER EVIDENCE STATEMENT

ABOUT YOU

Name St. Fridesiwde

Address Priory of St. Frideswide

Oxford

Postcode OX1 1DP

Year of Birth c650
Have you lived at any other addresses during the time you have used the path or way?
If so, please provide details of locations and years [full addresses are not required]

No

MAP OF THE APPLICATION ROUTE

Please attach an extract from a map of your own choice to identify the route you are providing evidence about and annotate it with anything you provide details about in this statement. Please put your initials on your map and date it. **DO NOT ADD YOUR FULL SIGNATURE**.

YOUR USE OF THE APPLICATION ROUTE

1. In which years did you use the application route?

   From 1970 To 2025

2. Were there any extended periods during which you did not use the route at all? If so, please state when and why?

   No

3. Describe the application route (include start and finish points and provide OS grid references if you can)

   A map and grid references for the points referred to can be found in Annex A on pages A-2 and A-3 of the main application.

   The route is from North Hinksey Lane where there is a stile marked with a green arrow as described in Annex B of the main application (at point D on the map) to the Thames Path where the current railway crosses the River Thames (at point K on the map).

   The key points along this route are point B where there is a stile (this is again marked with a MAFF green arrow as described in Annex B) to access a footbridge over Hinksey Stream then through gate posts in the fence (the gate has never been operative in my experience) and follow across the field to C.

   At point C there is another path off to the right and shortly after there is a gap in the fencing and across the Hogacre Ditch then towards point H along the field margin with the Bulstake Stream now on the left.

Point H is where the path crosses the Electric Road. Here there are brambles encroaching into the field from the bank of the Bulstake Stream and the path is a little further from the Stream. The mass of brambles hide the original signpost showing arrows to MAFF Environmentally Sensitive Areas in two directions – One arrow points back towards point C and the other points along the edge of the Bulstake Stream towards point J.

From Point H the path follows the field margin along the south side of the Bulstake Stream until point J is reached where this path and two others converge. The final segment of the path follows close to what I believe is a railway fence on the right with the Bulstake Stream close by on the left to reach the Thames Path.

4. Where were you going to and from, and for what purpose?

I have used the path for two distinct journeys. The first is for fresh air and exercise as part of walking a loop from my house returning via several routes as part of a regular family trip or with friends to the Fishes Pub. The second is as part of my usual daily commute to work to reach the city centre across from point Y to Point H where I turn right to take the Bulstake Path to access the Thames towpath at point J using the same route in reverse at the end of the day.

5. How did you use the application route and how often? (This may have varied over the years, please give approximate dates for each type and frequency of use and tick the relevant boxes)

Approximate years		**How you used it (tick one)**					**How often you used it (tick one)**					
From	To	On foot	Horse back	Pedal cycle	Motor vehicle	Other	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Every few months	Yearly	Other
2019	2025	✔					✔					

6. Has the application route always followed the same course?

□ Yes

✔ No

If no – how and when was the route altered?

The route of the path passes through some areas which do get flooded after heavy rain in the upper Thames basin. The path route is adapted to pick the drier areas where possible.

By studying the satellite images of the area over time it is clear that, as the trees, shrubs and particularly brambles growing along the edge of the Bulstake Stream and between point L and G have increased in size and area, in places as much as 5 metres. This is particularly noticeable at point H where the signpost which must have been erected in the period between 1994 and 2001 is now hidden from sight in a bank of brambles about 5 metres further from the Bulstake Stream than 25 years ago.

7. Approximately how wide is the application route?
[Please give your estimate of the width across which you used the route including the width used when passing others or walking with others. Take care to consider the overall width of the route. If this varies, please describe how] [or please state ‘don’t know’]

The width varies between 2 metre in the clearly defined paths across the fields to about 5 metres where the path avoids encroaching vegetation along the edge of the Bulstake Stream.

8. What type of surface does the application route have? (for example grass, gravel, earth) [For varying surfaces, please describe with reference to your map]

The path is covered in gravel and hardcore with concrete slabs running continuously alongside which cover electic cables.

9. Have there ever been any of the following on the application route?

a. Stiles [state locations and show on your map]

Stile near point X
Informal Stile at point Y

How long were they in place?

At all times that I have used the path since 2019.

b. Gates [state locations, indicate whether locked – and when – and show on your map]

There are two “gates” at both ends of the Electric road on point X and Y.

- Gate X is fully overgrown and the foot access is around the side via a well trodden and maintained path. This gate has an old sign saying ‘Private’





- Gate Y is locked but frequently open with access being a small step over bit of fencing/informal stile which has been like this since I've been using the path. The Gate notes 'No camping', 'no littering'.





c. Other barriers [state what they were and location, how long they were in place and show on your map]

Between points J and K alongside the railway fence there are several fallen trees that have been present since the first time I walked the path in 2019. These are not a formal barrier and do not make the path inaccessible for ambulant people.

10. Did any of the above prevent you from using the application route?

✔ No

□ Yes

If yes, please give details

……

……

11. Have you ever seen any signs or notices suggesting whether or not the application route is a public right of way? (for example “Private”, “Keep Out”, No Right of Way “Trespassers will be Prosecuted”, “Permissive Route Only”)

✔ No

□ Yes

If yes – state when and give details, including when they were present and mark their location on your map. On the contrary there are MAFF green arrow signs showing the route of the path from North Hinksey Lane and thus suggesting that the path is open and accessible.

Land Ownership

12. Were you working for any owner or occupier of land crossed by the application route at the time when you used it, or were you then a tenant / licensee of any such owner?

✔ No

□ Yes

13. Did the owner or occupier ever give you permission (or did you seek permission) to use the application route?

✔ No

□ Yes

14. Has anyone ever told you the application route was not public (including by an owner, tenant of the land or by anyone in their employment)?

✔ No

□ Yes

15. Have you ever been stopped or turned back when using the application route?

✔ No

□ Yes

16. Have you ever had a private right to use the application route? (for example, an easement, private right of access, licence, etc)

✔ No

□ Yes

If answering 'yes' to any of Questions 12 - 16, please provide further information below including when this happened

Q15 – Only when the path is flooded

Other Information

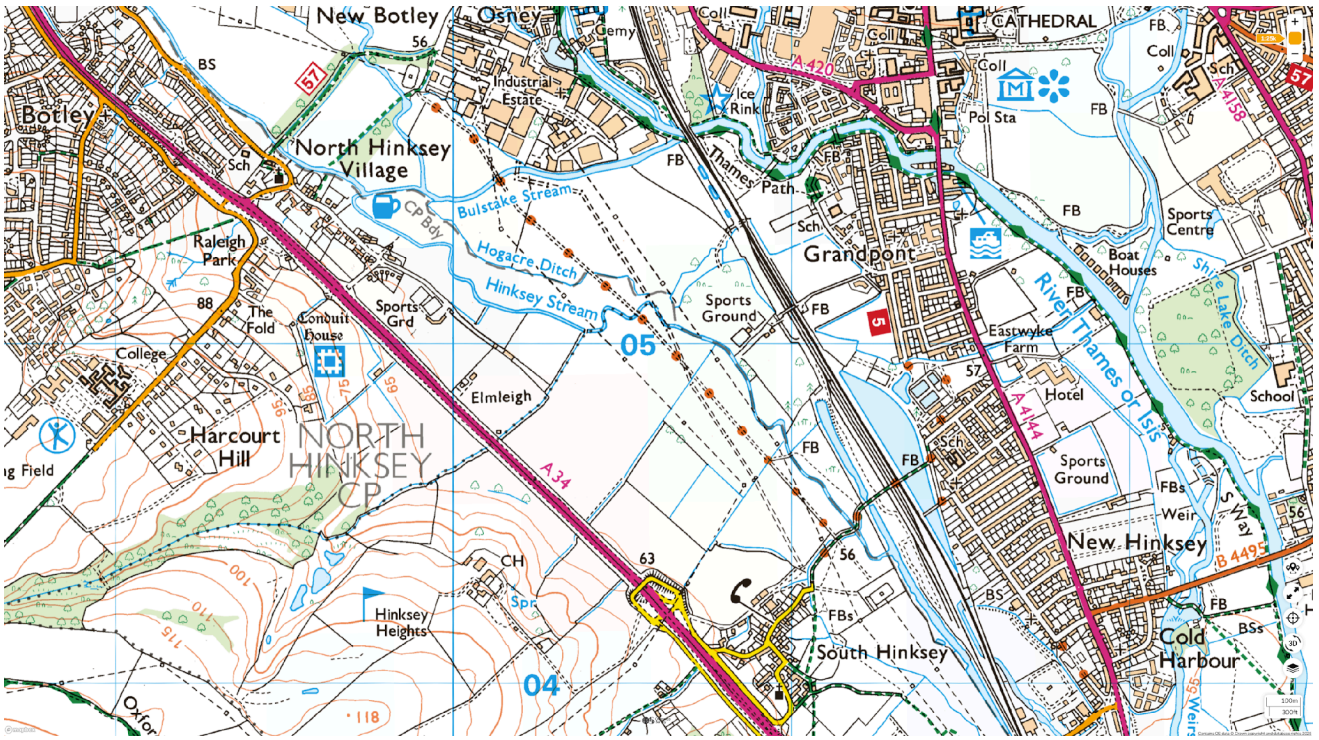
17. Do you have, or do you have knowledge of, any documentary evidence which is relevant to the application route or which indicates public use? (for example photographs, guidebooks, letters, sale documents, old maps, etc)

□ No

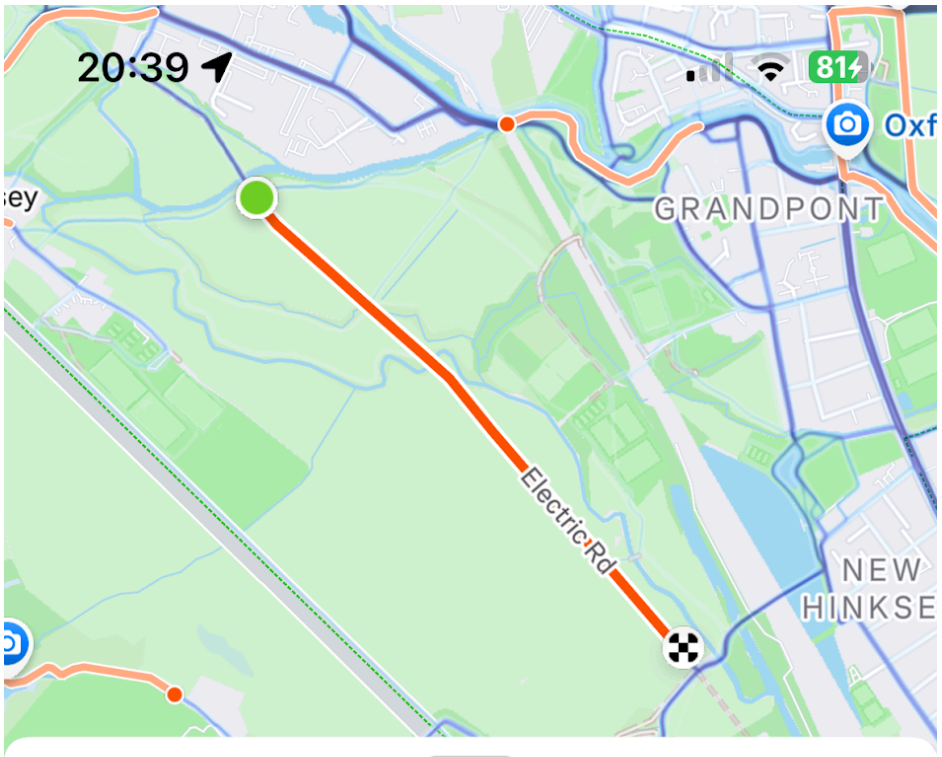
✔ Yes

If yes – please provide details

My copy of the OS map show that this path is available as a cycle route:



Various ‘Running’ mobile phone apps clearly show that this route is established for public use and is used very frequently and regularly by runners and walkers. For instance the running app ‘Strava’ notes that this route is being used by hundreds of App users annually and on 9000 occasions since it’s introduction See below screen grabs.



Segment

Electric Avenue

1.35 km 0.2% 5 m

2,000 athletes completed **9,000 total efforts** all-time

See details

Home Maps Record Groups You

20:40

81

Segment **Leaderboards**

All-Time | All-Time (Men) | All-Time (Women) | This Year

RANK	ATHLETE	TIME, PACE
3	Daniel [redacted] 25 Nov 2022	4:35 3:23 /km
4	Jame[redacted] 25 Nov 2022	4:38 3:25 /km
5	Andrew [redacted] 25 Jun 2023	4:39 3:26 /km
6	Jon [redacted] 11 Jul 2015	4:43 3:29 /km
7	Dan [redacted] 8 Jan 2019	4:45 3:30 /km
8	Sean [redacted] 15 Apr 2014	4:50 3:34 /km
8	Tom [redacted] 15 Apr 2014	4:50 3:34 /km
10	Joseph [redacted] 18 Feb 2017	4:51 3:34 /km

1,777 Total

Tackle this segment to compete for the crown!

Home | Maps | Record | Groups | You

20:40

Segment **Leaderboards**

All-Time | All-Time (Men) | All-Time (Women) | This Year

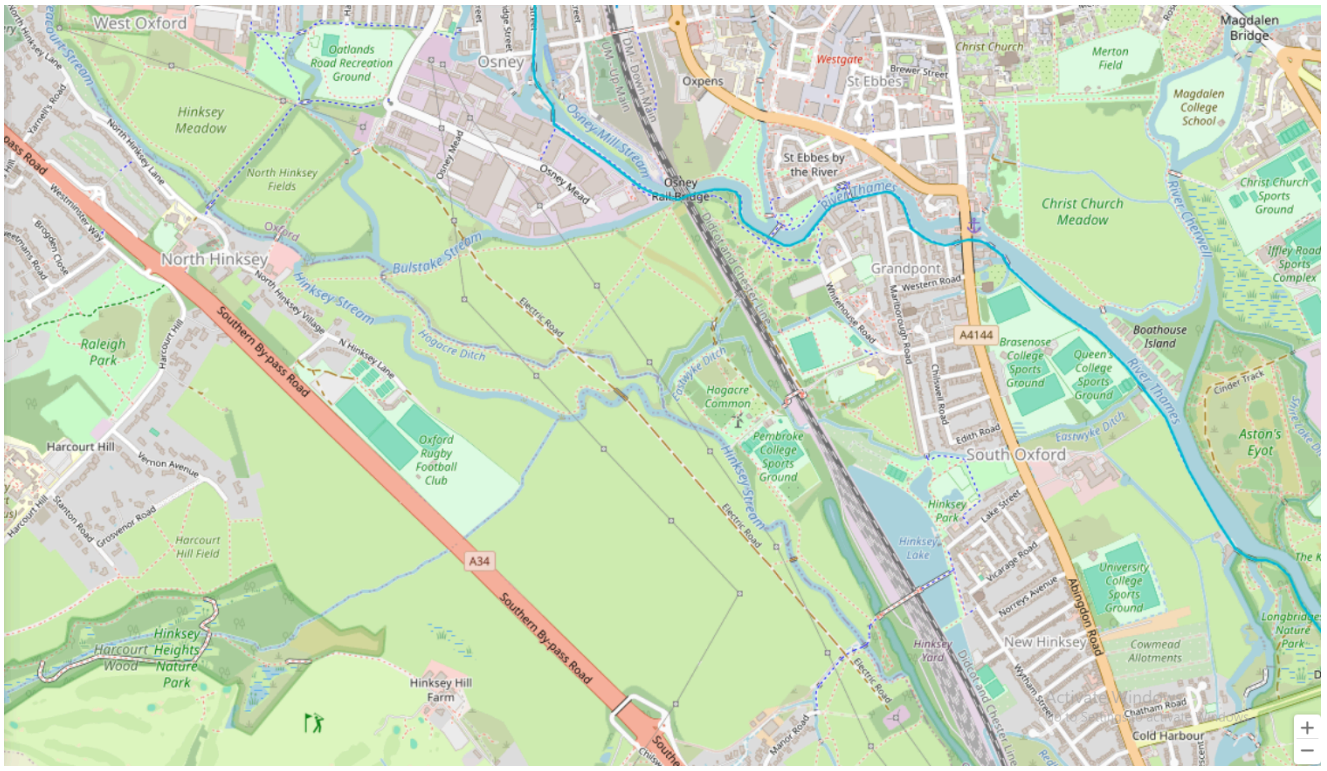
RANK	ATHLETE	TIME, PACE
3	dani[redacted] 14 May 2025	4:58 3:40 /km
4	Rhys J[redacted] 27 Apr 2025	5:08 3:47 /km
5	Lucas [redacted] 20 May 2025	5:19 3:55 /km
6	Nick[redacted] 28 Mar 2025	5:22 3:57 /km
7	Matt[redacted] 24 Jul 2025	5:26 4:00 /km
8	Daniel[redacted] 16 Mar 2025	5:36 4:08 /km
8	Alan[redacted] 11 Jun 2025	5:36 4:08 /km
10	Chris[redacted] 20 Apr 2025	5:38 4:09 /km

335 Total

Tackle this segment to compete!

Home | Maps | Record | Groups | You

Footpathmap.co.uk shows the track as mostly solid Agricultural and or forestry road:



18. Please give any further information which you consider would be helpful in reaching a decision as to whether the application route should be recorded as a public right of way?
[Continue on a separate sheet if necessary]
[If you wish to provide a separate sketch map, please do so and attach to this statement]

Oxford Preservation Trust publish on their website the itinerary of a circular Oxford green spaces walk from Seacourt Park and Ride over to Grandpont and back which has been in existence for many years. We have been unable to find out when it was first published. The walk includes the segments from point D to point B to point C and to point H. The walk may be referenced at https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Seacourt%20P%26R%20to%20Grandpont%20-%205%20miles.pdf.

The segments of the Bulstake Path from point H to point C to point B to point D represent a portion of an often used summer route for residents of South Hinksey to get to the Fishes Public House on North Hinksey Lane which can only be accessed via the Electric road.

19. During the investigation the OMA may want to interview some or all of the claimants in order to gather additional information. Would you be willing to talk to an officer from the OMA about your knowledge of the application route?

✔ Yes

□ No

20. Would you be willing to attend a hearing, or public inquiry to give evidence if necessary?

✔ Yes

□ No