

**Application to register as a town green, land at Humpty Hill, Faringdon,
Oxfordshire**

Witness Statement in support of the Application

1. I, David Butler of 49 Beech Close, Faringdon, state that I moved from Pangbourne to Faringdon with my wife and two young daughters in 1980 and we have always lived in the same house; although by 1998 our daughters had both left for University and made their lives elsewhere.
2. My family have benefited from unfettered access to the field for over 34 years. During the early years, when my children were very young, it offered a green recreational space for us to enjoy within reasonable walking distance of our home. Over the many years since then the field has become part of our regular recreational activities all year round. In addition to the public footpaths along its Southern and Northern edges, we, along with many others, have become accustomed, courtesy of the landowner, to be able to walk frequently all around its perimeter and to enjoy the whole field. Apart from walkers, I have seen people birdwatching, picnicking, exercising dogs, flying kites or model aircraft and practising golf. In good weather, particularly on late Summer evenings, we have, along with many others, been drawn to the field simply to enjoy walking or sitting at its high points (perhaps with a bottle of wine) to enjoy its wide panoramic views across the open country; and, especially, of the sun setting over the Thames Valley. In snowy winters we have, like many families, seized the opportunity to enjoy practising winter sports on the slopes of the field. I have seen people sledging, snowboarding and even skiing. On clear nights I have seen people sitting in the field looking at the stars and, last November 5, watching firework displays across the whole of the Thames Valley.
3. Humpty Hill, like all high points throughout history, acts as a powerful magnet drawing past, current and future generations of Faringdon residents and visitors to enjoy the freedom of the open space and the uninterrupted views beyond the perimeter of the town. Its impact on our well-being is comparable to that of coastal headlands so far away from Faringdon. It has undoubtedly been a source of joy to many generations of people who have lived here. For me and my family the field is a truly special place: one where, for over 34 years, we have been free to go for recreation; to take a break from the pressures of daily living; to reflect on wider horizons; and to find tranquillity and even solace in difficult times.
4. Registering Humpty Hill as a town green will preserve the best of our past for both present and future residents of Faringdon by securing sustainable access to the only open green recreational space on the Western edge of the town
5. I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

David Butler

DAVID BUTLER

4 February 2015

Commons Act 2006

Sec 15 (1)

Application to Registrar
a Village Green in
Great Faringdon

NLREG34: Great Faringdon
Humpty Hill

Town or Village Green
Application Land

Area: 5.5 hectares approx.

Approximate route of
unaffected rights of way

David Foster 4/2/15



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