

In the Matter of Runnymeade (part), Egham, Surrey (No. 2)

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Runnymeade (part), Egham, being the part of the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 488 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Surrey County Council of which no person is registered under section 4 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 as the owner.

The land the subject of the reference consists of two small areas, one bounded on the north by the Thames and on the south by a road, and the other a triangular area near to Langham's Pond.

Following upon the public notice of this reference no person claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and no one claimed to have information as to its ownership.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Guildford on 14 December 1979.

At the hearing the National Trust was represented by Mr D J Carter, one of its members On this occasion Mr Carter adduced evidence which satisfied me that the National Trust was the owner of the area adjoining the Thames, but did not adduce any evidence regarding the triangular area.

I re-opened the hearing at Guildford on 22 January 1981, when the National Trust was again represented by Mr Carter.

By a conveyance made 27 August 1931 between (1) Sir Reginald Ward Edward Iane Poole and Albert Cecil Tranter (2) The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty there was conveyed to the National Trust an area of 182 a. 2r. 25p. of land known as Runnymerde. This area included the triangular area the subject of the reference. Most of the land so conveyed was later registered in the Land Registry, but the triangular area was omitted from the registration, apparently by an oversight.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Mational Trust is the owner of the triangular area of land, and I shall accordingly direct the Surrey County Council, as registration authority, to register the Mational Trust as the owner of the land under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.

I am required by regulation 30(1) of the Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971 to explain that a person aggrieved by this decision as being erroneous in point of law may, within 6 weeks from the date on which notice of the decision is sent to him, require me to state a case for the decision of the High Court.

Dated this

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day of

January

1981

Chief Comons Commissioner