



Reference Nos. 270/D/103 270/D/108 to 111 inclusive

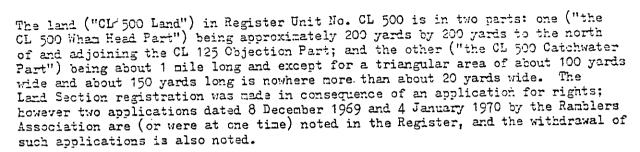
In the Matter of (1) Wessenden Valley (part of), (2) Binn Moor (parts of), and (3) Holme Moor—and Binn Moor (parts of), Kirklees Metropolitan Borough, West Yorkshire

#### DECISION

These disputes relate to the registrations (1) at Entry Nos. 2 to 4 inclusive, 6 to 11 inclusive, 13 and 15 in the Rights Section of Register Unit No. CL 125 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the West Yorkshire (formerly West Riding) County Council, (2) at Entry No. 1 in the Land Section and at Entry Nos. 1 to 8 inclusive in the Rights Section of Register Unit No. CL 500 in the said Register, and (3) at Entry No. 1 in the Land Section and at Entry Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive in the Rights Section of Register Unit No. CL 532 in the said Register and are occasioned (1) by Objection No. 2203, (2) by Objection No. 2201, and (3) by Objection No. 2202 respectively, all made by Mr Rene Beard, Mr Kenneth Rathbone, Mr Edward Eldon Plummer and Mr Bernard Plummer as Trustees of the Lydgate Rifle and Pistol Club and noted in the (1) CL 125, (2) CL 500, and (3) CL 532 Register on (1) 6 September 1972 and (2) and (3) 4 September 1972.

I held a hearing for the purposes of inquiring into the disputes at Huddersfield on 8 December 1981. At the hearing: (1) Mr J Briggs solicitor of Owen & Briggs Solicitors of Huddersfield represented the present Trustees of the Lydgate Rifle and Pistol Club on the instructions of their chairman Mr J R Carpenter; (2) Mr J Broadbent solicitor of Mary A Freeman & Co Solicitors of Slaithwaite represented Mrs Shirly Walton Waterhouse both for herself and as executrix and daughter of Mr San Bentley, (3) Mr K Senior legal executive with Heath Marshall and Heeley Solicitors of Holmfirth represented Mr Hilton Whitehead Sykes and Mr Stanley Mosley; (4) Mr Peter Sykes attended in person on his own behalf and as representing Mrs Alma Dixon; (5) Mr James Hall attended in person; and (6) the Yorkshire Water Authority were represented (in relation to the CL 500 and the Cl 532) by Mr R J Simpson their senior assistant Solicitor. The Rights Section registrations are summarised in the first five columns of the First Schedule hereto and I have set out in the sixth column how the persons above named and numbered (2), (3), (4) and (5) are concerned with these registrations.

The land ("CL 125 Land") in Register Unit No. CL 125 is a piece containing (according to the Register) about 215.6 acres, and being a little under a mile long from north to south having a variable width of a little under 1/4 of a mile for its north one third and about 3/4 of a mile for its south two thirds; the Land Section registration was made in consequence of an application for registration of rights. For the purposes of exposition I divide the Cl 125 Land into two parts: one ("the CL 125 Objection Part") being the part shown edged red on the plan attached to Objection No. 2203; and the other ("the CL 125 West Part) being an approximately rectangular area about 450 yards long from north to south and about 200 yards wide.



The land ("the CL 532 Land") comprises 8 pieces more particularly described in the first column of the Second Schedule hereto. The Land Section registration was made in consequence of an application for registration of rights.

The grounds of CL 125 Objection (limited to the Rights Section registration) are in effect that the rights claimed are not exercisable over the CL 125 Objection part. The grounds of the CL 500 Objection and the CL 532 Objection are that the land was not common land at the date of registration.

It having been agreed without prejudice to any question there might be as to burden of proof that Mr Briggs should begin, he explained that the Club was only concerned with the CL 125 Objection Part, CL 500 Wham Head Part and that part of the CL 532 land numbered 1 in the Second Schedule hereto. For the Club oral evidence was given by Mr James Raymond Carpenter who has been a member since the end of 1971 and chairman since 1976; in the course of such evidence he produced the documents specified in the Third Schedule hereto. After this evidence Mr Broadbent said that Mrs S W Waterhouse conceded the Objections made by the Club as explained by Mr Briggs; and Mr Simpson said that Yorkshire Water Authority (although not Objectors) claimed that I should remove from the Register the CL 500 Catchwater Part and the parts of the CL 532 land specified in third column of the Second Schedule hereto; Mr Briggs said that Club were not concerned with this claim, and Mr Broadbent said that Mrs Waterhouse did not resist it. Oral evidence was then given by Mr Hilton Whitehead Sykes in the course of which he produced the document specified in Part II of the Third Schedule hereto. Mr Peter Sykes gave oral evidence in effect saying no more than that his deeds showed he had grazing rights on Binn Moor and Wessenden Moor and that he was concerned merely to know what his position was. Mr James Hall had left when I was ready to hear his evidence, but I have a letter dated 30 November 1981 from his solicitors, Learoy Sisson & Co of Huddersfield saying that they had been satisfied by Messrs Owen & Briggs as to their rights and that in these circumstances such rights were concerned.

The documents produced by Mr Carpenter all rights of common over the CL 125 Objection Part, and the CL 500 Wham Head Part and the CL 532 No. 1 Part were in or before 1918 extinguished under Deer Hill Rifle Range Order 1912 made under the Military Lands Provisional Order Confirmation Act 1912, the Military Lands Act 1892 and the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907. So I am concerned only to consider whether over these parts of the CL 125, CL 500 and CL 532 Lands any rights of common have since 1918 been acquired by any grant actual or presumed or under the Prescription Act 1832.



- 3 -

Mr Carpenter said (in effect):- The Rifle Range targets are south of the firing point; about 50 yards behind the target is a cliff which long stops most of what is fired; the ammunition there is from .22 cm to the 7.62 mm currently used by the Army. The Template showed the area behind the targets considered to be dangerous (this area has been increased from time to time), and this included the parts of the CL 125, CL 500 and CL 532 lands to which the Club were now objecting. The Club owned much of the land to the east (including Deer Hill Moss) which was considered also to be within the Danger Area. Much of the Danger Area was fenced but cattle were from time to time found within. As far as he knew they had never given permission for grazing, and the permission asked for in the letter (JRC/1) had been refused. The Range was used every weekend by the Club and also used by Army units (4 or 5 of Territorial Army) and the Police; last year they staged one of the National Pistol Matches.

Mr H W Sykes began his evidence by saying generally that he had been in Wessenden Lodge for 63 years and had exercised common rights for 50 cdd years anyway without anyone from the Lydgate Rifle and Pistol Club trying to stop it. He knew the land because he had for 49 years been gamekeeper successively to Sir Joseph Radcliffe, Sir Everard Radcliffe, Captain Radcliffe and the National Trust. He understood that the Club did not own the quarry at Shooters Nabs near Hind Hill because the Uniteley who used the quarry paid royalties not to the Club but to the Radcliffe Estate. Before 1963 he rented the sheep gates which he subsequently acquired freehold by the 1963 conveyance (HWS/1), (they were therein described as "one beast gait on Holme Moor", "3 cowgates on pasturages called Holme Moor with a right of common in Wessenden Moor" and "cowgate on Holme Moor"). He said he had another deed in which he had 20 sheep gates on Wessenden Moor and 2 cowgates on Binn Moor.

There was nothing in the conveyance produced by Mr Sykes indicating the land over which the rights thereby conveyed were exercisable; nor did Mr Sykes say that he had any deed or other document defining such land. The rights registered on his application are not attached to any land, so to conclude that they at the date of registration existed I must somehow presume that they were duly granted; in the circumstances of this case, I can by law only do this if I am satisfied the rights claimed have been exercised as a right for at least 20 years before they were registered, see Tehidy v Norman 1971 2 QB 528. Mr Sykes explained that his farm was near Hey Green (south-west of the CL 125 Land), and that when exercising his rights as he claimed, he had done so by putting animals on to the moorland which was near Wessenden Lodge and between it and the CL 125 Land; from where they were put on they could by crossing this intervening moorland go on to the . CL 125 Objection Part and from there go on to the CL 500 Wham Head Part and from there on to the CL 523 No. 1 Part, there being between all these lands either no fence or no sufficient fence to stop them. In my opinion such grazing on the CL 125, CL 500 and CL 532 Lands was not as a right in any now relevant sense because in or just before 1918 any such rights as had then previously existed had been formally extinguished and because for animals subsequently to graze as (right of on these lands they must I think either be actually put on to the CL 125 Land with the intention that they shall graze there or at least there must be something to indicate to those concerned that Mr Sykes intended them to graze at least on the CL 125 Objection Part; the mere circumstance that they might so graze is not enough. For these reasons I refuse to treat Mr Sykes's general statement that he had exercised the rights for at least 50 years as being applicable to any part of the CL 125, CL 500 and CL 523 Lands to which the Club is objecting.



- 4 -

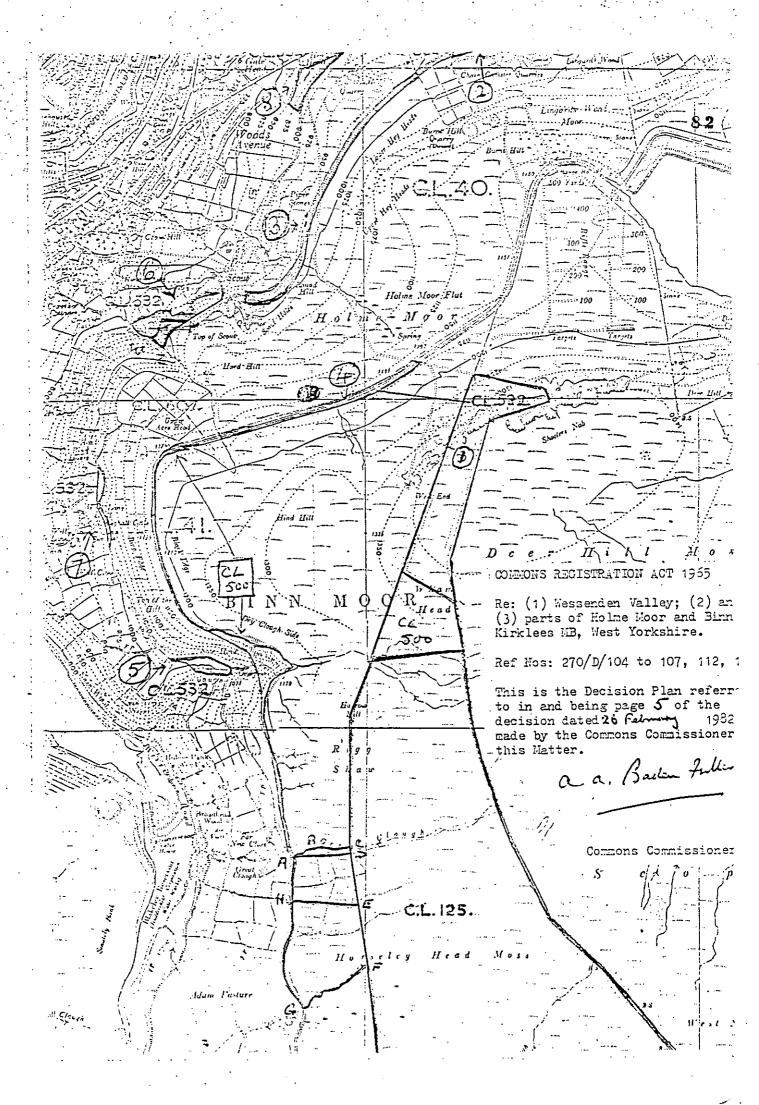
Accordingly my decision on this part of the case is that the Objections of the Club at least as regards CL 125 Objection Part, the CL 500 Wham Head Part, and the CL 532 No. 1 Part wholly succeed.

The grounds of the CL 500 and CL 532 Objections are expressed generally so as to be applicable to all the CL 500 and CL 532 Lands. Under regulation 23(5) of the Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971 I thought fit to hear the evidence of Mr Simpson about these Lands. Notwithstanding that Mr Briggs on behalf of the Club limited their Objections to the parts of these lands with which the Club was concerned, in these proceeds the propriety of the registrations of every part of these lands is in question; see the High Court decision in re Sutton Common reported in The Times Newspaper on 1 December 1981. So I now consider the claims made by Mr Simpson on behalf of the Yorkshire Water Authority.

The 1889 deed poll (RJS/1) was made pursuant to the Huddersfield Water Act 1869, the Huddersfield Waterworks Act 1871 and the Huddersfield Corporation Act 1882 and by it, it was declared that all the rights of common over the lands therewing described and coloured green on the plan annexed were extinguished. The lands so described included the CL 500 Catchwater Part and the parts of the CL 532 Land specified in the Second Schedule hereto as claimed by TWA. Mr H W Sykes was questioned about these parts by Mr Simpson, and he accepted his suggestion that they were culverts or catchments not properly registrable as common land. Nobody at the hearing contending the contrary, my decision is that I ought to give effect to the claims made by Mr Simpson on behalf of the Yorkshire Water Authority.

There was no discussion, or at least no detailed discussion at the hearing as to how I should modify the registrations if my decisions were as above recorded. I consider first the CL 125 registrations.

The position of the CL 125 Land is confused. The Club having objected to the Rights Section registrations but not to the Land Section registration; sa there having been no objections to it, the Land Section registration is now final p. Decause I am proceeding under section 6 of the 1965 Act I have no jurisdiction in these proceedings to consider whether or not the trustees of the Club could be registered in the bunership & Section as owners of the CL 125 Objection Part, and about this there will have to be a further hearing under section 8 of the Act. Further the Rights Section registrations are not as they now stand, uniform, in that all except one are of rights exercisable over part only (and not in all cases the same part) of the CL 125 Land, and in some cases the relevant part is in the Rights Section defined by the expression "edged red on the register map", a definition which on the maps supplied to me by the County Council identifies for each registration not always the same part of the CL 125 Land. The plan ("the Decision Plan") being page 5 of this decision is based on a combination of the CL 125 and CL 532 Register maps supplied by the County Council for my use; on this plan I have outlined with black lines marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, the relevant parts of the CL 125 West Part. For the registrations at Entry Nos 2, 3 and 8, the part "edged red" comprises no land outside the CL 125 Objection Part and for the registrations at Entry Nos 10 and 11 it is expressly limited to land north of Great Clough (also not land outside the CL 125 Objection Part); so in view of the Club's success in their Objections, I conclude that these registrations should be avoided altogether. For registrations at Entry Nos 4, 6, 7, 9 and 15 (replacing 5) "edged red", apart from some or all of the CL 125 Objection Part comprises the two areas on the Decision Plan marked ABCDA and EFCHE. During the



- 6 -

hearing I was told that the lands adjoining the north-west side and the south-west side of the CL 125 Objection Part belongs to the National Trust and that these lands have under other Register Unit Hos been registered as common land. Except that it appears on the Register map that the area ADEM is enclosed, I know nothing about the CL 125 West Part. With this little information I infer from the references in the registration to other Register Units that the area ABCDA and the area EFGME could sensibly be grazed with the adjoining land to the north and to the south, and conclude accordingly that these registrations should stand as regards these two areas. There remains the registration at Entry No. 13 (replacing 1 of a right exercisable over the whole of the CL 125 land; because this registration of a real situation of the area ADEM is unique, I consider that it is as regards such area mistaken, and that to produce consistency in all the now remaining registrations it ought to be modified so as to be in effect the same as the registrations at Entry Nos 4, 6, 7 and 11.

For the above reasons I refuse to confirm the CL 125 Rights Section Registrations at Entry No. 2 (Mr S Bentley), No. 3 (Mrs S M Waterhouse), No. 8 (Mr P Sykes and Mrs A Dixon), and Nos 10 and 11 (Mr J Hall). I confirm the registrations at CL 125 Rights Section Entry Nos 4, 6 and 15 (replacing 5) (Mr H W Sykes), No. 9 (Mr P Sykes) with the modification in each case for words "that part of the land comprised in this register unit as is shown edged red on the register map" there be substituted "the commonable part as in this Section defined", and with the further modification that there be an entry in the Rights Section in such words and with such map as to the West Yorkshire County Council as registration authority considers appropriate defining the expression "commonable part" as meaning the two areas on the Decision Plan marked ABCDA and EFCHE. I confirm the CL 125 Rights Section registration at Entry No. 13 (replacing 1) (Mr S Mosley) with the modification that for the words in column 4 "the whole of the land comprised in this register unit" there be substituted "the commonable part as in this Section defined" and with the further modification that there be an entry in the Rights Section applicable to this registration defining "the commonable part" as hereinbefore set out.

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As regards the CL 500 Land: The Objection is to the Land Section, and it is therefore by section 5(7) of the 1965 Act treated as an objection to all the Rights Section registrations. As a consequence of my decisions above recorded relating to the CL 500 Wham Head Part and the CL 500 Catchwater Part, none of the CL 500 registrations can stand. Accordingly I refuse to confirm the CL 500 Land Section registration at Entry No. 1 and I refuse to confirm CL 500 Rights Section registrations at Entry Nos 1 to 8 inclusive.

As regards the parts of the CL 532 Land in the Second Schedule thereto numbered 6, 7 and 8 I had (except as to the part numbered 6 claimed by Yorkshire Water Authority) no evidence at all. However I understood that these parts adjoin or are near to other Register Units over which rights of common had been registered. It may be in the public interest that the part number 8 near to the Meltham Road should remain on the Register. The registrations at Rights Section Entry Nos 1, 2 and 3 are over the whole of the CL 532 land; at Entry No. 4 over the CL 532 No. 1 Part and at Entry Nos 5 and 6 "the three most southerly pieces". Because as a result of the Club Objection CL 532 No. 1 land will be excluded, registration at Entry No. 4 should be avoided. Because pursuant to the claim made by the Yorkshire Water Authority two of these southerly pieces will be excluded, the registrations at Entry Nos 5 and 6 will require a special modification. On the above consideration



-7-

I confirm the CL 532 Land Section registration with the modification that there be removed from the Register the parts in the Second Schedule hereto numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (they are on the Decision Plan so numbered) and that there also be removed from the Register that part of the part in such Schedule numbered 6 as is the area on the Decision Plan within the lines WXTZ; I refuse to confirm the CL 532 Rights Section registration at Entry No. 4 (P Sykes and A Dixon); and I confirm the CL 532 Rights Section registrations at Entry Nos 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 with the modifications necessarily consequential on the removal of the said land from the Register and as regards the registration at Entry Nos 5 and 6 with the further modification that in column 4 for the words "the three most southerly pieces" there be substituted "the most southerly piece".

Because much of this decision is complicated and I may have made a nistake in giving effect to my intentions as above set out, I give to any person who attended the hearing or who had a right to be heard at his liberty within 42 days of the day on which this decision is sent to him or to his solicitors, liberty to apply for me to correct any error I may have made (such application should be made in the first instance by letter to the Clerk of the Commons Commissioners).

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.

#### FIRST SCHEDULE

# (Rights Section Registrations)

			, ,		
CL 125 Entry	CL 500 Entry		Applicant and attached land (if any)	Right	Representation
2	1	<del>-</del>	Mr Sam Bentley. Binn Lodge Farm Owner	Turbary Craze 4 head of cattle over part of CL 125 edged red on Register map and whole of CL 500 (also part of CL 41)	Mr S Bentley is now deceased. Mrs S W Waterhouse his executrix and daughter was represented by Mr Broadbent Note: Land edged red is all north of Great Clough
3	2	<del></del>	Mrs Shirley Walton Waterhouse. Birn Edge Farm Owner	Graze 1 head of cattle (1 beast gait) over part of CL 125 edged red on Register Map and whole of CL 500	Mrs S W Waterhouse was represented as above stated by Mr Broadbent Note: The edged red land is all north of Great Clough



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4	3	1	Mr Hilton Whitehead Sykes NOT attached to land	Graze 42 sheep (42 sheepgait) from a part of CL 125 land edged red, over whole CL 500 and CL 532 (also whole of CL 40 and part of CL 37, CL 39, CL 41 and CL 124)	Mr H W Sykes was represented by Mr Senior Note: The edged red land comprised all the CL 125 land except the area on the Decision Map marked ADEMA
	5	3	Mr Hilton Whitehead Sykes NOT attached to any land	Graze 350 sheep and 10 cows over part of CL 125 land edged red, whole of CL 500 and CL 532 land (also part of CL 37, CL 39, CL 41 CL 124 and whole of CL 40)	Mr H W Sykes was as above stated represented by Mr Senior Note: Edged red land comprised all CL 125 land except the area on the Decision Map marked ADEHA
7		-	Mr Peter Sykes and Mrs Alma Dixon NOT attached to any land	Graze 500 sheep with followers being one fourth part of a pasture over part of CL 125 land edged red (also parts of CL 37, CL 39 and CL 124)	Mr P Sykes attended in person on his own behalf and as representing Mrs A Dixon Note: The edged red land comprised the part of the CL 125 land south of Great Clough except the area on the Decision Plan marked ADEHA
8	6	4	Mr Peter Sykes and Mrs Alma Dixon NOT attached to any land	Graze 1 beast being an undivided morety 1 equal half part of a beast gait over part of CL 125 edged red, part of CL 500 edged red part of CL 532 edged red (also part of CL 41)	above stated) attended in person on his own behalf and as representing Mrs A Dixon



Mr P Sykes (as Graze 40 sheep Mr Peter Sykes above stated with followers Little Fall Farm attended in person (20 sheepgaits) (Owner) Note: Edged red land part of CL 125 land included all the edged red (also CL 125 land south parts of CL 37, of a line a little OL 39, OL 41 and OL 124) to the north of Great Clough except the two areas on the Decision Plan marked ABCDA and ADEHA Mr James Hall Turbary Mr James Hall 5 10 attended in person Graze 5 beasts Well Lane Farm over part of (Owner) CL 125 land north of Great Clough, whole CL 500 and 3 most southerly pieces of CL 532 land (also whole of CL 41) Mr James Hall Mr James Hall Turbary 11 as above stated Graze 5 beasts over Well Close Farm part of CL 125 land attended in person (Owmer) north of Great Clough, whole of CL 500 land and 3 most southerly pieces of CL 532 land (also whole of CL 41) Mrs S Mosley was Graze 94 sheep Mr Stanley Mosley 13

Gateshead Farm

(replac<del>a)</del>6 1)

(being 94 sheep- represents gaits) the whole of Mr Senior CL 125 land (also whole of CL 124, and CL 126 and parts of CL 37, CL 39 and CL 41)

represented by



- 10

(replacing

Mr Hilton Whitehead Sykes NOT attached to any land

Take turves and bedding. Graze 7元 cattle to the extent of 75. Cow- Mr Senior gaits over part of CL 125 edged red, whole of CL 500 whole of CL 532 (also parts of CL 37, CL 39, CL 41, CL 124 and whole of CL 40

Mr H W Sykes (as above stated) represented by Note: CL edged red land comprised all except the area on the Decision Plan marked ADEMA.

## SECOND SCHEDULE (Parts of CL 532)

Description by reference to Register Map

Description in 1888 deed poll and the map (at one time) attached Claims at hearing

1. Piece about 800 yards (not mentioned) long from north to south and having an average width of about 200 yards

All claimed by LR and P Club

2. Long narrow strip extending westwards from Badger Bridge

Lingard's Wood Moor Lower Catchwater Nos 166 and 167: Waste Land or Common 2a Or 25p

All claimed by YHA ·

3. Long narrow strip extending northeastwards from a point a little to the north of Scout Quarries

Holme Moor Lower Catchwater 169 Waste Land or Common 2a 2r 6p

All claimed by

4. Long narrow strip extending westwards from a point south of Waste Land or Common the "N" of "Holme Moor" to a point south-east of Upper Acre Head

Holme Moor. Upper Catchwater. No. 187: 4a 3r 38p (part of No. 187)

All claimed by YHA

5. Piece south of Soar Head

Binn Moor. Lower Catchwater. No. 330 Waste Land or Common 0a 3r 17p

All claimed by AKY



**- 11 -**

6. Irregularly shaped piece north-west of Top of Scout

Holme Moor. Lower Catchwater No. 172 Waste Land or Common Oa 1r 36p (and so described being south part of this piece on the Decision Plan marked WXYZ

Part south of the line WXY claimed by YWA Remainder MOT claimed

long from north to south and nowhere more than about 100 yards wide, on the Register map over written "Well Lane Head"

7. Piece about 300 yards The south part of this piece adjoins but is not included in Binn Moor. Lower Catchwater No. 262 1a Or 24p

NOT claimed

. 8. Piece a short distance (Not mentioned) south of the Melthan Road and west of Hey Heads Quarry

NOT claimed

## THIRD SCHEDULE (Documents produced at the hearing)

#### PART I - Mr Carpenter

JRC/1	May 1976	Letter from Mr N Woodcock of Cx House Farm
JRC/2	21 April 1914	Receipt signed by J W Pinder, J W Armitage, J W Flint and S Firth being the surviving members of a committee appointed at a meeting held on 15 July 1913 of all the parties entitled to commonable rights over Wessenden Moor, Binn Moor, Holme Moor and Lingards Wood Moor and other land proposed to be taken by Territorial Associations for the West Riding under the Deer Hill Rifle Range Order 1912 acknowledging receipt of £1,000 for such rights
JRC/3	30 December 1918	Copy conveyance by Sir Joseph Edward Radcliffe Baronet with the concurrence of his trustees and by the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Huddersfield as to their estate and interest if any conveyed to the Territorial Association of West Riding the lands delineated in the First Part of the Schedule and delineated on the plan
JRC/4	31 December 1918	Deed of enfranchisement by Sir J E Radoliffe for the benefit of the said Association



- 12 -

	2.00	
JRC/4/2		Copy Deed Poll by said Association after reciting (among other things) in some detail the commonable rights claimed, pursuant to the Lands Clauses Act discharged the said lands comprised in their conveyance of 30 December 1918 from all commonable and other rights.
JRC/5	23 July 1970	Conveyance by the said Association after reciting the approval of the Defence Council to Messrs R Beard, K Rathbone, E L Plumer, and B Perry of the lands comprised in the conveyance specified (including the said conveyance of 31 December 1918) known as Deer Hill Rifle Range upon trust for the Lydgate Rifle and Pistol Club.
<del>-</del>	13 April 1977	Template showing danger areas in relation to the said Range
		PART II - Mr H W Sykes
_	24 December 1963	Conveyance by Grace Flint to Hilton Whitehead Sykes of lands therein described together with (1) one beast gait on Holme Moor, (2) three cowgates or pasturages on Holme Moor and right of common on Wessenden Moor comprised in the conveyance of 20 October 1921 and (3) cowgates
		PART III - Mr R J Simpson
RJS/1	1 Hay 1838	Deed Poll by the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Huddersfield
<del></del>	1973	Order (SI: 1861); vesting property in Yorkshire Water Authority
Dated	726 1C	day of February 1982

Commons Commissioner

a.a. Bade Tuller