



In the Matter of Coveney Common Wash,  
Coveney, Cambridgeshire

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DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Coveney Common Wash, Coveney, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 71 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Cambridgeshire County Council of which no person is registered under section 4 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 as the owner.

Following upon the public notice of this reference Mr A J Brignell claimed to be the freehold owner of part of the land in question and no other person 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 Cambridge on 2 May 1983.

At the hearing Mr Brignell was represented by his wife, the Cambridgeshire County Council by Mr J M Farrar, the County Archivist, and the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalist Trust by Miss J Greenall, its Secretary.

The position with regard to the ownership of this land is most obscure. In the tithe apportionment of 1840 it is stated to be in the ownership of eighteen named persons. The Land Values Duties register gives the names of thirteen owners, but there is no evidence linking any of these owners to either Mr Brignell or the Naturalist Trust.

Mr Brignell purchased 4.143 ac. of the land from a Mr Nix, who claimed to have only a possessory title, but there was no evidence to show where this area is situated. Miss Greenall said that the Naturalist Trust had acquired the rest of the land from various owners, but she also was unable to identify the 4.143 ac. which she agreed belonged to Mr Brignell. The Naturalist Trust lets the grazing between May and October in each year.

On this vague evidence I am unable to say that I am satisfied that any person is the owner of any identifiable part of the land, and it will therefore remain subject to protection under section 9 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

7<sup>th</sup>

day of

July

1983

Chief Commons Commissioner