



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.25/U/97

In the Matter of Hanworth Common,  
Hanworth, Norfolk.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Hanworth Common, Hanworth, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.CL.23 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the former Norfolk 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 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 Norwich on 25th June 1974.

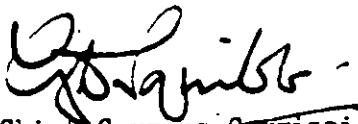
At the hearing Mr.C.M.Brown, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Hanworth Commons Committee.

The Hanworth Commons Committee has been elected annually by the persons believed to be entitled to rights of common. The Committee has been in existence since at least as early as 2nd May 1910, when the earliest surviving minute book begins. During World War II the Common was ploughed up and sown by a farmer by order of the War Agricultural Executive Committee. When the land was given up at the end of the war the Committee let the land to a farmer instead of reverting to the former practice of regulating its use by the right-holders. There have been further lettings until the present time and the Committee has received the rent without any adverse claim. In 1963 the land was let for a term of 10 years at a nominal rent to a farmer who defrayed the capital cost of installing cattle grids at each of the highway entrances. The Committee has maintained the cattle grids and has paid the owner's and tenant's drainage rates.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the rights of any former owner of the land have been extinguished and that the Committee has acquired a possessory title, and I shall accordingly direct the Norfolk County Council, as registration authority, to register four members of the Committee as the owners 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 15th day of July 1974

  
Chief Commons Commissioner