.155

COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965   Reference No. 227/U/56.

In the Matter of land between Eland Hall
and Mill Farm, Ponteland, Northumberland

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land between
Eland Hall and Mill Farm, being the land comprised in the Land Section of
Register Unit No. CL 16 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the
Northumberland 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 R G Meek claimed to be
the freehold owner of the land in question, and Mr and Mrs T C Braithwaite
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 Morpeth on 24 June 1982.

There was no appearance at the hearing. After the hearing a letter was
received from a firm of Solicitors suggesting that Mr R G Meek might be the
owner of an undivided moiety or possible the whole of the land in question.
On 7 October 1982 the solicitors wrote to the Clerk of the Commons Commissioners
stating that an affidavit with exhibits would be prepared in support of
Mr Meek's claim. This affidavit has not been forthcoming despite reminders
dated 10 November and 7 December 1982 and 10 January and 18 February 1983, the
last stating that unless the affidavit and exhibits were received by 25 March 1983,
I would proceed with my decision.

In these circumstances I am not satisfied that any person is the owner 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   13th   day of   April   1983

Chief Commons Commissioner