



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.33/U/14

In the Matter of Castle Ring,
Cannock, Staffordshire

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Castle Ring, situate off Holly Hill Road, Cannock Wood, Cannock Urban District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.CL.24 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Staffordshire 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 Cannock Urban District Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and Mr. B. Richards wrote a letter dated 7 December 1972 in which he said (among other things) that he knew that the land belonged to the Urban District Council. 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 Stafford on 22 May 1973. The hearing was attended by Cannock Urban District Council who were represented by Mr. E. Lomax, their Engineer and Surveyor.

Mr. Lomax who has been employed by the Council since 1939 in the course of his evidence produced from the custody of the Council (1) a conveyance dated 23 March 1933 by which the Most Hon. C. H. A. (6th) Marquess of Anglesey with the concurrence of his Trustees and by the direction of Mr. S. Rushton as purchaser conveyed to the Council as sub-purchaser, the land containing 18A. 2r. 16p. known as Castle Ring and situate upon Castle Hill and being Lot 10 at the sale of the Vendor's Beau Desert Estate on 13 October 1932; and (2) an abstract dated 1931 of the title by the Vendor to the Anglesey Settled Estates.

Mr. Lomax identified the land so conveyed with that comprised in this Register Unit. He said:- The land is an ancient British earth work, listed under the Ancient Monuments Acts. The Council had been in possession so he believed since the conveyance and as he knew since 1939; they have tried to prevent the work from being altered or destroyed. He understood that the building marked on the 1/2500 O.S. map as "Hall (remains of)" was a mediaeval hunting lodge; now there is only a slight trace of it.

On the evidence above summarised, I am satisfied that the Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Staffordshire County Council, as registration authority, to register Cannock Urban District Council 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 6th day of June 1973.

a. a. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner