



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 32/U/91

In the Matter of Shortwood Common,
Hinton Blewitt, Avon

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of the land known as Shortwood Common, Hinton Blewitt, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 5 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the former Somerset 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 Bath on 14 July 1978.

At the hearing Mr W Rees-Mogg was represented by Mr J C K Weeks, his agent.

By an indenture made 1 May 1884 between (1) Arthur Francis Bingham Wright and Leonora Sophia Storry (2) William Wooldridge Rees-Mogg there was conveyed to Mr Rees-Mogg the manor, royalty or lordship or reputed manor, royalty or lordship of Hinton Blewitt. By virtue of Section 6(3) of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1881, this conveyance was deemed to include and convey with the manor, all commons to the manor appertaining or reputed to appertain. During the whole of the memory of Mr F W Diamond, who was born in 1904 at Shortwood Common Cottage, Shortwood Common has been reputed to appertain to the manor of Hinton Blewitt, and I infer that this was the position at the time of the conveyance to Mr Rees-Mogg, who did not die until 1913.

The manor devolved in the Rees-Mogg family until by a vesting assent made 6 March 1966 Mr Rees-Mogg, Mr C Croxton-Smith and Mr M G Meade-King assented to its vesting in Mr W Rees-Mogg subject to the trusts of the will of the late Edmund Fletcher Rees-Mogg.

Since the hearing, by a conveyance made 28 September 1978 between (1) William Rees-Mogg Claude Croxton-Smith, and Maurice George Meade-King (2) W Rees-Mogg the manor has been conveyed to Mr W Rees-Mogg.

On this evidence I am satisfied that Mr W Rees-Mogg is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Avon County Council, as registration authority, to register him 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

14th

day of

November

1978

Chief Commons Commissioner