



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.1/U/38

In the Matter of Studham Common,
Studham, Bedfordshire.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Studham Common, Studham, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.C.L.18 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Bedfordshire 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 Bedford on 13th February 1974.

At the hearing Mr. G. Williams, of the Clerk's Department, appeared for the Luton Rural District Council, and Mr. S.T. Morris, the Assistant Secretary of the Bedfordshire Association of Parish Councils, appeared for the Studham Parish Council.

There was no contest between Mr. Williams and Mr. Morris. Most of the land in question was conveyed to the Rural District Council by a conveyance made 17th October 1956 between (1) The Public Trustee (as executor of the will of Sir Giles Edward Saunders Sebright, deceased) (2) the Rural District Council. The land the subject of the conveyance comprised Ordnance Survey Nos. 148 (pt), 212, 240, and 244.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Rural District Council is the owner of Ordnance Survey Nos.148 (pt) 212, 240, 244, and I shall accordingly direct the Bedfordshire County Council, as registration authority, to register the Rural District Council as the owner of that land under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.

In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the remainder of the land comprised in the Register Unit. This consists of some very small areas lying to the north-west of Church Road and to the north-west of the School. These areas 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 5th day of March 1974


Chief Commons Commissioner