



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 203/U/90

In the Matter of Whiteleaf Cross,
Princes Risborough, Wycombe District,
Buckinghamshire

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land containing about 0.67 of an acre known as Whiteleaf Cross, Princes Risborough, Wycombe District, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG104 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Buckinghamshire 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 Buckinghamshire County Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and 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 Aylesbury on 23 January 1979. At the hearing Buckinghamshire County Council were represented by Mr N H Fritchard legal executive in their County Secretary and Solicitor's Department.

Mr Fritchard produced: (1) a conveyance dated 9 December 1970 by which Mr J Cole and Mr R Parker-Jervis conveyed to the County Council about 27 acres of land known as Whiteleaf Hill or Whiteleaf Cross, and on the plan annexed edged red, and (2) an examined abstract dated 1970 of the title of Messrs Cole and Parker-Jervis.

Mr C D Durrant of the County Secretary and Solicitor's Department said that the land is a monument or landmark well known in the County, being a cross cut into the side of a chalk hill. The Ridgway Walk runs by it. Its outline forms part of *the County coat of arms.*

The land in this Register Unit is part of that comprised in the 1970 conveyance. By the abstract the title of the vendors is regularly deduced from a vesting deed dated 31 January 1927 by which it was declared that extensive lands, including the 27 acres conveyed, were vested in the Rt Hon S C H-H-M-H Seventh Earl of Buckingham.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the County Council are the owners of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Buckinghamshire County Council, as registration authority, to register themselves Buckinghamshire County 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 12th day of February 1979.

A. A. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner