



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 204/U/111

In the Matter of part of Blackstone  
Leys, Huntingdon D

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DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land described above being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 58 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Cambridgeshire 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 the Duke of Manchester claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question ("the Unit land") and information as to its ownership was furnished by Messrs Greenwoods, Solicitors, who act for the Trustees of Huntingdon Commons for Freeman's Widows.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Cambridge on 10 March 1983.

At the hearing Mr Peter J Green, Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Claimant.

A Vesting Deed dated 3 December 1954 comprising the Duchy of Manchester's Settled Estates was made in favour of the then Duke of Manchester as tenant for life, and the property described in the Schedule to the Deed included Blackstone Leys. A subsequent Vesting Deed dated 14 December 1973 in favour of the Claimant did not in the description of the Settled Estates specifically include Blackstone Leys, but did contain in the description general words to cover all other lands in England.

In an affidavit sworn on 9 March 1983 Mr Richard G Simmonds states that he has inspected records of the District Valuer at Peterborough, which included the plan prepared by the Inland Revenue in or about 1910 for the purposes of the Finance (1909-10) Act 1910, and this showed the Unit land as being in the ownership of the Duke of Manchester. Mr Joseph M Johnson, Chartered Surveyor, in an affidavit sworn on 8 March 1983 says that he has managed the Freeman Estates which include part of Blackstone Leys, and lammas rights over the Unit land. Blackstone Leys has been let for grazing or mowing and as regards the Unit land the income from the net rents has for upwards of 24 years been divided, 2/5ths being paid to the Freeman Estates as owners of the Lammas rights and 3/5ths to the Duke of Manchester as estate owner of the Unit land.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Claimant, the 11th Duke of Manchester, is the owner of the Unit land, and I shall accordingly direct the Cambridgeshire County Council, as registration authority, to register him as owner under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.



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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

13<sup>th</sup> day of June

1983

*L. J. Morris Smith*

Commons Commissioner