



In the Matter of the land known as Castleditch
in the parish of Staunton (Coleford) in the
County of Gloucester

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Castleditch in the parish of Staunton (Coleford) being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 297 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Gloucestershire 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 Forestry Commission claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Gloucester on 9 December 1980.

The hearing was attended by Mr M Thomas, Solicitor, representing the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and the Forestry Commission, and Mrs Childs, Chairman of Staunton (Coleford) Parish Council. With the agreement of all concerned, I heard this reference together with Reference Nos. 213/U/115 and 213/U/106 as in each case title to the land depended on the same documents.

Mr Thomas informed me that the land formed part of the Manors of Staunton and Bicknor which had been purchased by the Crown in 1823 from the then owner Viscount Gage pursuant to an Act of Parliament 57 Geo III c. 97 passed in July 1817. The land was now vested in the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and was managed on behalf of the Minister by the Forestry Commission.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Gloucestershire 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

5th

day of

February

1981

George Harker
Commons Commissioner