



In the Matter of Bramdean Common,  
Bramdean, Winchester C

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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.117 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Hampshire 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 the reference Magdalen College, Oxford claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question ("the unit land").

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the land at Winchester on 29 January 1985. At the hearing the College was represented by Mr J V Lee, Surveyor and Land Agent. There was no other claimant present.

The College's connection with Bramdean goes back to the 15th century. Following the demise of Selborne Priory, the Priory and its properties were appropriated to and by the College in 1484: (see the article on Selborne Priory in Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society 1973, at pp 67-68). Mr Lee produced photo-copies of documents in the College's Archives, including the manor court rolls of 1490 and 1600, relating to "Bramdene", and leases of the common granted by the College towards the end of the 17th century. The common was also shown in the College terriers and plans of 1892 and 1913. More recently in 1900 a Deed of Covenant between the College and the Forestry Commissioners, relating to the unit land, recited the fee simple ownership of the College and made provision for the management and development of the unit land for the growing of timber.

On this evidence I am satisfied that Magdalen College is the owner of the unit land, and I shall accordingly direct the Hampshire County Council, as registration authority, to register the College as the owner 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

6<sup>th</sup> March

1985

COMMONS COMMISSIONER