



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 222/U/9

In the Matter of Sloothby Low Lane, Willoughby
with Sloothby, Lincolnshire

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Sloothby Low Lane, Willoughby with Sloothby, Lincolnshire being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL.1 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Lincolnshire 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. The Association of Commoners, Sloothby, and Mr John G Dowlman 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 Lincoln on 29 November 1978.

Mr Moran, solicitor, represented the Association of Commoners at the hearing. The Association, which is unincorporated, has existed in one form or another since at least 1852 and its Minute Book shows that it has continuously organised the management of the land, over which farmers in the neighbourhood grazed their stock on the basis of a specific number of *runs* allocated to each farm. The evidence indicated the ~~evidence~~ ^{existence} of commoners rights but not of ownership of the land, and it appeared to be the general view that the land "belonged to the village".

On this evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the land, and it will therefore remain ~~the~~ 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 12th day of February 1979

L. J. Morris Smith
Commons Commissioner