



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.25/U/12

In the Matter of Roughton Common,Roughton, NorfolkDECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Roughton Common, Roughton, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.C.L.86 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Norfolk 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 Roughton Parish 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 Norwich on 5th July 1972.

At the hearing the Parish Council was represented by Mr. Keysell, one of its members.

The land in question was allotted to Lord Suffield by the inclosure award, dated 26th August 1869 authorised by the Act 28 & 29 Vict, c.39. Evidence was given by Mr. V.L.Fox, now aged 74, who has lived in Roughton for 50 years, whose father was born there. Mr.Fox has never known a Lord Suffield or any member of his family exercise any rights over the land, although Roughton Hall has remained in the possession of the family and, so far as Mr.Fox knew, it was parish land. On the other hand, the Parish Council has repaired the bridge over the stream and has cut back the brushwood and cleared the track across the land, while a few years ago it gave permission to a contractor to spread on the land the soil from sewer trenches.

On this evidence I have come to the conclusion that the Parish Council has been in uninterrupted possession of the land in circumstances which justify me in finding that the Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Norfolk County Council, as registration authority, to register the Roughton Parish Council as the owner of the land.

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 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 1972

Chief Commons Commissioner