



## COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 225/U/188

In the Matter of The Recreational Allotment,  
Docking, West Norfolk District, Norfolk

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as the Recreational Allotment, Docking, West Norfolk District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG.130 in the Register of Town or Village Greens 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 no person claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question, but Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, (on whose application the registration was made), wrote saying that the land was allotted to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish for exercise and recreation in an Inclosure Award relating to the inclosure of Docking Common dated 13 January 1863, Public Record Office search numbers MAP 1.1120 (for the Award) and MR 806 (for the map). 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 Kings Lynn on 25 November 1975. At the hearing Docking Parish Council were represented by Mrs E.M. Wells their chairman and Mr S. Firth their clerk.

Mr Firth produced the Docking Inclosure Award dated 13 January 1863 and now held by the Parish Council. It contains an allotment "... unto the churchwardens and overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Docking All that Piece or Parcel of Land numbered 405 on the said map containing four acres to be held by them and their successors in Trust as a place for exercise and recreation for the inhabitants of the said Parish and neighbourhood".

Mr Firth said (in effect):- The map originally with the Parish Council copy of the Award has been lost; however from his recollection of it, and from what he had been told of the map attached to the County Council copy, he was able to identify plot no. 405 mentioned in the Award with the land comprised in this Register Unit. The land (it is on the northeast side of the road, B.1454, which runs southeast out of Docking towards Sakenham) is separated from the road by a high hedge; it cannot be seen from the road unless you know where it is; it is now scrubland with gorse and brambles. It is open for anybody to walk on, but is not used for recreational purposes except a few people take their dogs down there for a walk.



On this evidence I am satisfied that the Parish Council as the successors of the churchwardens and overseers of the Poor are the owners of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Norfolk County Council, as registration authority, to register Docketing Parish Council as the owners 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 3rd day of December 1975

*a. a. Bastin Fuller*

Commons Commissioner