



In the Matter of The Village Chalkpit,  
Snettisham, Norfolk.

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DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as The Village Chalkpit, Snettisham, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 396 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the former 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 Snettisham 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 King's Lynn on 29 June 1977.

At the hearing the Parish Council was represented by Mr P H Rippon, solicitor.

It was provided by the Snettisham Inclosure Act of 1762 (2 Geo. III, c.27, private) that it should be lawful for the inhabitants of the parish of Snettisham to take stone and stone rubbish from the Town Chalk Pit for their own several and respective necessary use in Snettisham and for making and repairing roads and highways in Snettisham. By the award made under the Act on 8 April 1766 land having an area of 6 a. Or. 18p. was allotted to the Churchwardens for the Town Chalk Pit. The land so allotted was exchanged for other land having an area of 6 a. Or. 11p. by an indenture made 24 November 1795 between (1) Henry Styleman (2) James Lay and others, the Churchwardens and Overseers of Snettisham. The land the subject of this reference is a part of the land received by the Churchwardens and Overseers under the indenture. It does not appear why the Overseers were added to the Churchwardens, but whatever the reason may have been, the ownership of the land comprised in the Register Unit is now rooted in the indenture of exchange. By sections 6(1)(c) (iii) and 67 of the Local Government Act 1894 allotments held by the churchwardens and overseers for the benefit of the inhabitants of a parish were vested in the newly-created parish council.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Snettisham Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Norfolk County Council, as registration authority, to register the Parish Council 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 1977

*E. D. Lamb*