



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 268/U/273

In the Matter of Village Green,
Langcliffe, Craven D

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. VG 157 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the North Yorkshire 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 Langcliffe Parish Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question ("the Unit Land") and Mr G Massey claimed ownership of a small piece of land.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the Unit land at Skipton on 20 October 1982.

At the hearing the Parish Council was represented by its Chairman, Mr J Glover, and Mr Massey appeared in person.

The Unit land consists of a number of small distinct areas in Langcliffe: Mr Massey's claim is to one such area, coloured red on the attached map which I will refer to as the M area.

From documents in the Public Record Office and the County Archives, it appears that in the 16th century the Green was acquired by the Landowners of Langcliffe and that in the 19th Century there were meetings of the landowners to deal with various matters, including encroachments, concerning the Green. In 1897 rules for the village green were adopted by the Parish Council, and its minute book shows that resolutions were passed for repairs to the Green in 1900 and 1930. Mr Glover told me that the Green had been regularly tended and maintained by the Parish Council.

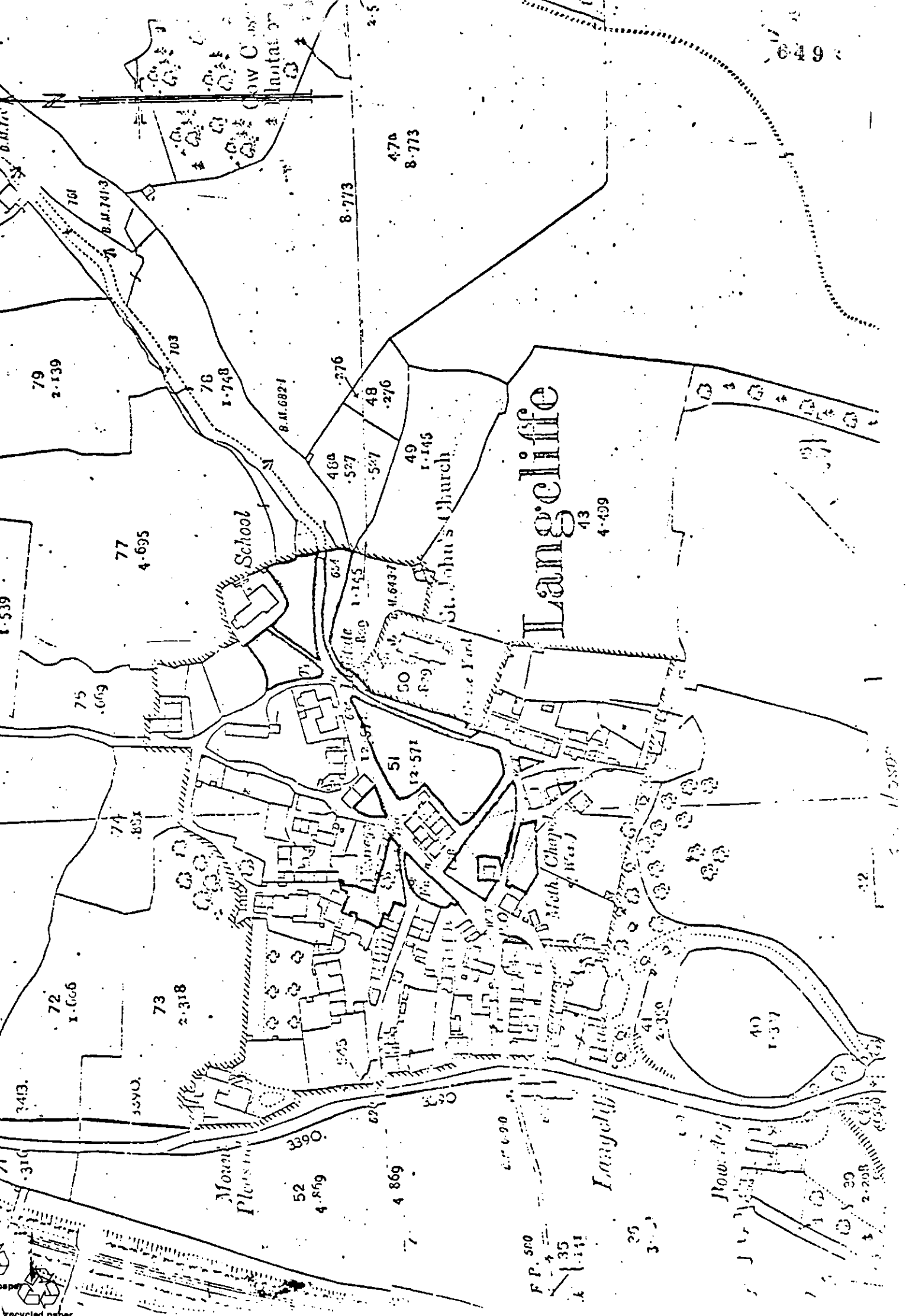
As regards the M area, Mr Massey in evidence said that this adjoins a house he purchased about 1964. The area, which is a narrow strip, lies between the end of his garden and the roadway: there is no physical division between his garden and the area, which he has maintained and in which the drains of his house and an inspection manhole are situated.

The Parish Council did not oppose Mr Massey's claim, and on the evidence I am satisfied that he is the owner of the M area and that the Parish Council owns the remainder of the Unit land. I shall accordingly direct the North Yorkshire County Council, as registration authority, to register them respectively as such owners.

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 December 1982

L. J. Morris Smith
Commons Commissioner



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