



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No 27/U/4

In the Matter of Elsdon Village  
Green, Elsdon, Alnwick District,  
Northumberland

---

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land in eight pieces known as Elsdon Village Green, Elsdon, Alnwick District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No VG. 31 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Northumberland 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 and no 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 Alnwick on 21 June 1977. At the hearing Elsdon Parish Council were represented by Mr C Armstrong their chairman and Mr G Arthur their treasurer.

There was some discussion as to whether any useful purpose would be served by the Parish Council offering any evidence of ownership because, although if I was satisfied by such evidence of their ownership, I would under subsection (2) of section 8 of the 1965 Act have to direct their registration as owners, I *would*, if I was not so satisfied, under subsection (3) of the said section have nevertheless to direct their registration as owners.

After this discussion, Mr Armstrong said he did not wish to call evidence on behalf of his Council, although he described to me the land and gave me some information about the Church of St Cuthbert in the middle.

After the hearing, I walked over the land. The eight pieces (including the Church) cover an area about 350 yards long and in places about 150 yards wide. It is intersected by a road, and the houses of the Village surround it. All the pieces are grassland and their general appearance is very attractive. In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct Northumberland County Council as registration authority to register Elsdon Parish Council as the owner of the land under section 8(3) 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of June —

1977

a. a. Baker J. L. L.