



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.27/U/2

In the Matter of West Green,  
Corbridge, Northumberland

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as West Green, Corbridge, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.VG.34 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 one claimed to have information as to its ownership.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the land at Hexham, on 17th July 1973.

At the hearing the Corbridge Parish Council was represented by its Clerk, Mr. F. G. Newman.

The manor of Corbridge was inclosed under the Act 16 Geo. III c.106 (private). The Commissioners by their Award dated 13th September 1779, left the land the subject of this reference unallotted, the effect of which seems to have been that the soil remained in the Lord of the Manor, the Duke of Northumberland. However, the land has been used as a recreation ground for many years and the Parish Council has acted as if it were the owner. The Council has planted trees, put in posts to prevent the parking of vehicles, has given permission for the use of the land for village functions, such as fetes and bonfires. In addition the Council has granted various electricity wayleaves and have collected the annual payments and has granted permission to the Hexham Rural District Council for the laying of a sewer, which work is at present in progress. These acts are inconsistent with the continued ownership of the land by the Lord of the Manor.

For these reasons I am satisfied that the Corbridge Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Northumberland 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 1973.

Chief Commons Commissioner