



In the Matter of Appleford Recreational Allotment (part),  
Appleford, Oxfordshire.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Appleford Recreational Allotment (part), Appleford, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG 88 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the former Berkshire 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 Appleford 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 Oxford on 26 November 1976.

At the hearing the Appleford Parish Council was represented by Mrs D M Newton, its Clerk.

Although described as a recreational allotment, the land in question had become allotment gardens by 1895, for in the minutes of the Parish Council dated 24 July 1895 it is stated:-

"In consequence of the smallness of the Recreation Ground, its distance from the village and its general unsuitability for the purposes of a recreation ground it is allowed to remain divided into plots as at present and that notice be given to the present occupiers that the sum of 6d. per plot per annum will be charged as rent".

In 1962 a small plot at the north-west corner was sold to the former Abingdon Rural District Council for the site of a pump house. Thereafter the Parish Council collected the rents. By 1964 the allotments had been uncultivated for some time and the land was in a derelict condition, so it was decided to let the land to a farmer at an annual rent of £4. This rent has since been received by the Parish Council.

Whatever the position may have been before 1895, I am satisfied that the Parish Council has now acquired a possessory title to the land and I shall accordingly direct the Oxfordshire County Council, as registration authority, to register the Appleford 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1976

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. S. Lytton".

Chief Commons Commissioner