



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 31/U/19

In the Matter of ~~The~~ ^{the} Bradling Stone,
Norton-in-Hales, North Shropshire D.,
Salop

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as ^{the} Bradling Stone containing about 180 square yards, Norton-in-Hales, North Shropshire District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG.8 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Salop 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 Shrewsbury on 19 February 1975. At the hearing Norton-in-Hales Parish Council were represented by Mr. N.S. Brook, their clerk.

Mr. Brook, who has lived in the Village for 20 years, said (in effect) :- The land comprised in this Register Unit is a triangular piece of grass land at a junction of roads in the middle of the Village; on it there is a very large stone weighing 2 tons or more, and a wooden seat. He understood the word "Bradling" meant whipping; the local tradition is that it was formerly used to punish offenders. The Parish Council could offer no evidence of ownership.

After the hearing, I inspected the land. The large stone is supported on two smaller ones, and its shape is such that it is easy to imagine a man being stretched out over it for the purpose described by Mr. Brook. The word "Bradle" is mentioned in Wright's Dialect Dictionary, 1898, as meaning in Shropshire "beat".

In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Salop County Council, as registration authority, to register Norton-in-Hales 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 25th —

day of February 1975

a. a. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner