



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 32/U/56

In the Matter of Sampford Common,
Sampford Arundel, Taunton Deane District
Somerset.

DECISION.

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Sampford Common, Sampford Arundel, Taunton Deane District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL.149 in the register of Common Land maintained by the Somerset 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 Mr. D.H. Govier claimed to be the Lord of the Manor of Sampford Arundel under a conveyance which included all interest and rights appurtenant thereto in Sampford Common together with the quarry thereon and all other if any of the waste land in the said Manor.

No other person claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question or 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 Taunton on 3 June 1975. At the hearing Mr Govier was represented by Mr. D.S. Rowell of Counsel instructed by Broomhead & Saul Solicitors of Taunton, and Sampford Arundel Parish Council were represented by Dr. L.R. Bromwich their chairman.

The land ("the Unit Land) comprised in this Register Unit is at the west end of the Blackdown Hills and contains (according to the Register Map) 36.91 acres.

Mr. Govier in the course of his evidence produced conveyances dated 23 ^{August} 1938 and 12 June 1954 by which the Manor of Sampford Arundel was conveyed as above stated, in 1938 to Mr. I.W. Govier, (he died on 15 August 1951) and in 1954 by his personal representatives to Mr. Govier (the Claimant), copy conveyances dated 5 August 1920 and 11 November 1920 by which the said Manor, similarly described was with other lands conveyed to predecessors in title of Mr. I.W. Govier and two statutory declarations made on 17 August 1938. Mr. Govier said (in effect) The Unit Land is scrub, heather and gorse, and on it there is an old quarry. He is (like his father Mr. W.I. Govier was) a sand and gravel merchant. His father bought the Unit Land to get the stone. As long as he could remember the quarry had been in existence. There is a small but regular local demand for the flintstone which can be got there. There was never sufficient grass on the Unit Land to be worth grazing.

Dr. Bromwich said that the Parish Council did not oppose Mr. Govier's claim.

On the evidence outlined above I am satisfied that Mr. Govier is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Somerset County Council as registration authority, to register Mr. Denis Herbert Govier of Fair View,



Blagdon Hill, Taunton 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 19th — day of June 1975

a. a. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner.