



In the Matter of Salgasson Meadows (Lammas Land) (Part),
Godalming, Surrey

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Salgasson Meadows (Lammas Land) (part), Godalming, being the part of the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 380 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Surrey 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 Thames Water Authority and the Governing Body of Charterhouse School claimed to be the freehold owners 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 Golden Cross House, London W.C.2 on 5 November 1980.

At the hearing the Thames Water Authority was represented by Mr D J Webster, solicitor, the Governing Body of Charterhouse School by Mr M R Goodridge, solicitor, and the Godalming Town Council by Mr C H Bates, the Town Clerk.

Most of the land comprised in the Register Unit is registered under the Land Registration Acts, and the land the subject of the reference consists of three comparatively small areas. It will be convenient to deal with these small areas in a clock-wise direction.

The first area to be considered lies at the western extremity of the land comprised in the Register Unit. This area was acquired by the Governing Body of Charterhouse School in two parts. The part to the north-west was conveyed to the Governors by an indenture made 10 February 1896 between (1) Rev. Canon William Haig Brown, headmaster of Charterhouse School, and Thomas Ethelbert Page, assistant master at Charterhouse School, (2) The Governing Body of Charterhouse School. This land was conveyed to Canon Haig Brown and Mr Page on 8 July 1895 by the Rev. Charles Hampton Weekes, who had acquired it by an indenture made 14 November 1883 between (1) The British Land Company Ltd (2) Charles Hampton Weekes. The remainder of the first area was conveyed to the Governing Body by an indenture made 5 December 1890 between (1) Rev William Haig Brown (2) The Governors of Sutton's Hospital in Charterhouse, having been conveyed to Mr Haig Brown by an indenture made 31 October 1874 between (1) Thomas Simpson and John Thompson Pagan (2) Frederick Madeley (3) William Haig Brown.

The second area is a detached plot of land to the north of the Register Unit, fronting onto Peperharrow Road. This area was acquired by the former Godalming Corporation by a conveyance made 16 April 1948 between (1) Montague John Honnywill (2) The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Godalming and, being land held for the purpose of allotment gardens, was transferred to the Godalming Town Council by virtue of Sched. 2 to the Local Authorities (England) (Property etc.) Order 1973 (S.I. 1973 No. 1861).



The remaining area is also detached from the main part of the land comprised in the Register Unit and lies to the east of it. It was held by the former Godalming Corporation for the purposes of its water undertaking, having been acquired by an indenture made 24 March 1900 between (1) The Frith Hill, Godalming, and Farmcombe Water Co Ltd (2) The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Godalming. The land was transferred by art. 21 of the Guildford Godalming and District Water Board Order 1952 (S.I. 1952, No. 1703) to the Guildford Godalming and District Water Board, the name of which was changed to the West Surrey Water Board by art. 5(1) of the West Surrey Water Board Order 1956 (S.I. 1956, No. 538). Finally, the land was transferred to the Thames Water Authority by art. 16 of and Part II of Schedule 4 to the Order of 1973 previously mentioned.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Governing Body of Charterhouse School, the Godalming Town Council and the Thames Water Authority are the owners of parts of the land. I shall accordingly direct the Surrey County Council, as registration authority to register them as the owners of their respective parts 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

24th

day of

November

1980

CHIEF COMMONS COMMISSIONER