



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No 238/U/21

In the Matter of Dog Lane,  
Steyning, Horsham District,  
West Sussex

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DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Dog Lane which adjoins Newham House, Steyning, Horsham District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No CL. 279 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the West Sussex 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 Chichester on 13 April 1978. The hearing was attended by (1) Sir Olaf Caroe of Newam House, Steyning, and (2) Mr Harry Leslie Ford of The Forge, Church Street, Steyning.

Sir Olaf Caroe said (in effect):- The land (a strip) is about a quarter of an acre, adjoining his house. He and his neighbour Mr Bellamy had kept it tidy, eg by removing the leaves; at times this took about 1 hour a week.

Mr Ford, who is chairman of the Steyning Society (a local amenity society), described the land; it is in a Conservation Area.

There was some discussion as to how the land could best be dealt with. I explained that I have no jurisdiction to deal with any such question, and was not authorised to offer advice. In these proceedings I am concerned only to consider the ownership of the land.

In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the land, and it will therefore remain subject to protection under section 9 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1978

*a. a. Baden Fuller*

Commons Commissioner