

In the Matter of Land to the North of Haynes Farm, Copthorne, Worth, West Sussex.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land to the north of Haynes Farm, Copthorne, Worth, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 328 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 Mr J M H Thornewill claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and the former East Sussex County Council 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 Lewes on 17 December 1976.

At the hearing Mr J Matthews, solicitor, appeared on behalf of Mr and Mrs D H Rayment, who claimed to be the successors in title of Mr Thornewill, and the Worth Parish Council was represented by Mrs A Corbett-Jones, its Clerk.

The land in question was conveyed to Mr Thornewill by a conveyance made 12 January 1934 between (1) William Thomas Lawrence (2) John Frederick Cleeves, James Felix McColm, Herbert Edward Nix and William Oliver Luscombe (3) Miles Thornewill With other land it was conveyed to Mr and Mrs Rayment by a conveyance made 9 January 1974 between John Miles Hammond Thornewill (otherwise known as Miles Thornewill) (2) David Harold Rayment and Margaret Rayment, his wife.

evidence I am satisfied that Mr and Mrs Rayment are the owners of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the West Sussex County Council, as registration authority, to register them 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 14th day of Soman 1977

Chief Commons Commissioner