



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No 238/U/16

In the Matter of Washington Common,
Washington, Horsham District,
West Sussex

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Washington Common (adjacent to Georges Lane), Washington, Horsham District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No CL. 258 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. At the hearing The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty were represented by Mr D J Carter who does voluntary work at their Regional Office at Polesden Lacey, near Dorking.

Mr Carter in the course of his evidence produced an assent dated 24 June 1942 by which Mr W B Lock and Mr H C Leopard as personal representatives of Mrs A B Lloyd (she died 9 December 1940) assented to the vesting in The National Trust of all her freehold property situate in Washington (except as therein mentioned) which property was described in the First Schedule thereto and was delineated on the plan annexed upon trust that the Estate should be permanently preserved as therein mentioned. The Schedule is a description of a little more than 246 acres of land including "162 (No on Plan), Rough Land and part of Georges Lane (Description), 4.3.26 (Acreage A.R.P.)". The plan shows the land comprised in this Register Unit as part of plot 162, being with much other surrounding land thereon coloured brown.

Mr Carter said that the Estate given to the National Trust by Mrs Lloyd is a very large woodland area, held by them open to the public as she in her will provided.

On the evidence set out above I am satisfied that The National Trust are the owners of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the West Sussex County Council, as registration authority, to register The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty of 42 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 as the owners 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 20th day of April — 1978

a a. Boston Fuller
Commons Commissioner