



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.41/U/26

In the Matter of Grovely Wood, Wilton,
Barford St Martin, Burcombe Without,
Dinton, Great Wishford, Steeple Langford,
and Wylve, Wiltshire.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Grovely Wood, Wilton, Barford St Martin, Burcombe Without, Dinton, Great Wishford, Steeple Langford, and Wylve, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.CL 27 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the former Wiltshire 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 Trustees of the Wilton Estate 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 Salisbury on 25th February 1975.

At the hearing the Trustees of the Wilton Estate were represented by Mr R.H.Mellish, their agent. Mr Mellish did not produce any documentary evidence as to the ownership of the land in question, but he gave evidence that he had acted as agent for the Trustees since 1961 and that during that time part of the land in question had been let to the Forestry Commission and that the remainder had been managed by him on behalf of the Trustees. The Trustees had received the rent paid by the Forestry Commission and there had been no adverse claim by anyone. It therefore appears that even if the Trustees have no documentary title, they have now acquired a possessory title to the land.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Trustees of the Wilton Estate are the owners of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Wiltshire County Council, as registration authority, to register them 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 21st day of March 1975

Chief Commons Commissioner