



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference Nos. 69/U/5
69/U/12

In the Matters of (1) Novers Common and
(2) Bedminster Down, Bristol, Avon

DECISION

These references relate to the question of the ownership of lands known as (1) Novers Common containing about 5 acres and (2) Bedminster Down containing about 31.6 acres both in Bristol being the lands comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit (1) No. VG.7 in the Register of Town or Village Greens and (2) No. CL.4 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Avon County Council of which no person is registered under section 4 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 as the owner.

When making these references the Council of the City and County of Bristol claimed that there were conveyances showing that the Corporation owned both the lands in question. Following upon public notice of these references, Mrs. P.D. Lewis in a letter dated 16 October 1972 said that her mother is the owner of a piece of land at Bedminster Down included in or adjoining CL.4 and that more time is required to locate on the map the exact position of this land. No other person claimed to be the freehold owner of the lands in question or to have information as to their ownership.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Bristol on 19 March 1975. At the hearing, the City Council of Bristol were represented by Mr. A.B. Pitt, assistant solicitor in the City Clerks Department.

Mr. W.A. Knowles, who was born in Bristol 65 years ago, who has lived there all his life who is now Chief Conveyancing Clerk of the Council and who has been employed by them or their predecessors the Corporation of the City and County of Bristol, for the last 16 years, in the course of his evidence produced a conveyance dated 22 June 1908 by which a one third part of the lands therein described was conveyed to the Lord Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the City of Bristol and a conveyance dated 27 October 1908 by which the remaining two thirds parts of the same lands were similarly conveyed. Mr. Knowles identified the lands so conveyed with the lands No. VG.7 and No. CL.4 in question on these references.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the City Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Avon County Council, as registration authority, to register the City Council of Bristol as the owner of the lands 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 7th —

day of April —

1975

A.A. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner.