In the Matter of Stanley Common Quarry, Wear Valley, Co. Durham.

## DECISION '

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Stanley Common Quarry, Wear Valley, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 71 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Durham 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 one 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 Durham on 15 March 1982.

At the hearing the Wear Valley District Council was represented by Mr N L McNamee, solicitor.

Since 1972 the land in question has been maintained by the District Council and its predecessor the former Crook and Willington Urban District Council, the grass being cut every 14 days during the growing year. Also since 1972 a part has been used as a car park, being surfaced with whinstone chippings and marked by wooden posts.

I cannot say on this evidence that there has been adverse possession for a sufficient length of time for a possessory title to have been acquired by the District Council.

In the absence of any further 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

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Chief Commons Commissioner