



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference Nos.13/U/9
13/U/10
13/U/11
13/U/12

In the Matters of Back Ends Green,
the site of the Old Stocks, Old
Mill Lane, and the Duck Paddle all
in Blockley, North Cotswold R.D.,
Gloucestershire

DECISION

These references relate to the question of the ownership of land known as (reference U/9) Back Ends Green, (reference U/10) site of the Old Stocks, (reference U/11) Old Mill Lane, and (reference U/12) the Duck Paddle, all in Blockley, North Cotswold Rural District being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit Nos. C.L.117, C.L.118, C.L.119 and C.L.120 respectively in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Gloucestershire 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 these references no person claimed to be the owner of the freehold 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 Gloucester on 22 November 1972. The hearing was attended by the Blockley Parish Council who were represented by Mr. W. Conrad Warner.

Mr. Warner who is 64 years of age, has lived in the Village all his life, and is now and has been since 1946 clerk of the Council, gave evidence. He produced a conveyance dated 2 September 1960 and now held by him on behalf of the Council. By this conveyance after reciting (among other things) that the Church Commissioners for England were seised of the land thereafter described for an estate in fee simple in possession, it was witnessed that the said Commissioners did convey all the land described in the Schedule to the Council in fee simple "as and for an Open Space for the enjoyment of the public..." The Schedule is as follows:- "ALL THOSE open spaces in the Parish of Blockley in the County of Gloucester known or described respectively as (a) a space opposite the Back Ends (b) The site of the old Stocks (c) a piece of waste land near the Corn Mill (d) a piece of land called The Duck Puddle on the South side of Bourton Road ALL WHICH said for open spaces are delineated on the plan annexed hereto and thereon coloured pink". These Units are the open spaces so described and delineated.

When Mr. Warner first became clerk and, so he understood, for many years previously, all these Units had been let to the Council by the Church Commissioners at a nominal rent.

All these Units are now grass land. Unit U/9 has an area of 0.17 of an acre has been used on very rare occasions for a local visiting fair; there was, so Mr. Warner understood, on some adjoining land an old silk mill which went completely into disuse at the end of the nineteenth century; on such land there is now a Cotswold Water Board Pumping Station. Unit U/10 has an area of 0.02 of an acre; Mr. Warner cannot remember ever having seen stocks there, but it has always been



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known as "The site of the Old Stocks". Unit U/11 has an area of 0.02 of an acre; when registering it, the Council wished to prevent it being as used for depositing rubbish or as a car park or becoming appropriated by usage to some private owner. Unit U/12 has an area of about 0.1 of an acre and is an embankment sloping down to the road; Mr. Warner has always known it as Duck Paddle, in the conveyance mistakenly written "Puddle".

On the above evidence, I am satisfied that the Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Gloucestershire County Council as registration authority to register Blockley Parish Council as the owner of the land under section 8(2) of the Act.

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 1st day of December 1972.

a. a. Baden Fuller

Commons Commissioner