



In the Matter of Little Hill, Stiffkey, Norfolk

DECISION

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This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Little Hill, Stiffkey, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No CL 428 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Norfolk 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 Stiffkey and Morston Parish Council claimed to be the freehold owner 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 Norwich on 15 March 1978.

At the hearing the Parish Council was represented by Mr P Schwabe, its Chairman.

The land in question was used for casual grazing until a year or two before 1968. By 1968 it had become overgrown, and in that year the Parish Council paid for mowing it, and the Council has since kept it tidy. This, in my view, is insufficient to give the Council a possessory title to the land.

In the absence of any other 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 21st day of April 1978

CHIEF COMMONS COMMISSIONER