



In the Matter of Alnmouth Common, Alnmouth,
Northumberland

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Alnmouth Common, Alnmouth, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL 12 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the former Northumberland 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 Duke of Northumberland 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 Alnwick on 22 June 1982.

At the hearing the Duke of Northumberland was represented by Mr W Wraith, his land agent, and the Alnmouth Parish Council by Mrs C Stoker, Solicitor.

Most of the land the subject of the reference was included in the parcels of a vesting deed made 15 June 1926 between (1) Edward George Percy, Baron Hatherton, Charles William Sydney, Earl Manvers, and Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin (2) Alan Ian, 8th Duke of Northumberland. The whole of the land the subject of this vesting deed was vested in the present Duke of Northumberland by a vesting deed made 1 April 1950 between (1) Helen Magdalen, Duchess of Northumberland, the widow of Alan Ian, 8th Duke of Northumberland, Eustace Sutherland Campbell Percy (commonly called Lord Eustace Percy), and Frederick Lindley, Earl of Halifax (2) Hugh Algernon, 10th Duke of Northumberland.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Duke of Northumberland is the owner of most of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Northumberland County Council, as registration authority, to register him as the owner of that part under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.

In the absence of any evidence I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the small remaining part of the land, which 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

22nd

day of

July

1982


Chief Commons Commissioner