



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.29/U/12

In the Matter of Chalk Pits,
Watlington, Oxfordshire.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Chalk Pits, Watlington, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.C.L.32 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Oxfordshire 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 Bullington Rural District 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 Oxford on 20th November 1973.

At the hearing the Rural District Council was represented by Mr. T.D. Symmons, its Deputy Clerk.

The land the subject of this reference was allotted by the Inclosure Award, dated 22nd April 1815, made under the Watlington Inclosure Act of 1808 (48 Geo.III, c.cxxviii) to the Surveyors of the Highways of the Parish of Watlington for the purpose of getting chalk or other materials to be used for repairing all the public and such of the private roads, highways and footpaths as were set out in the Award.

The land passed to the Watlington Highway Board by virtue of section 11 of the Highway Act 1862. It then passed to the Henley Rural District Council by virtue of section 25(1) of the Local Government Act 1894. The highway functions of that Council were transferred to the Oxfordshire County Council by the Local Government Act 1929, but quarries were excepted from the transfer by section 118 of that Act unless the Rural District Council desired the County Council to take them over. Finally, the Parish of Watlington was transferred to the new Rural District of Bullington by section 24(3) of and the Third Schedule to the Oxfordshire Review Order 1932. There was no evidence that either the Henley Rural District Council or the Bullington Rural District Council has ever expressed any desire for this land to be taken over by the County Council.

For these reasons I am satisfied that the Bullington Rural District Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Oxfordshire County Council, as registration authority, to register the Bullington Rural District Council as the owner of the land 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



-2-

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 19th day of December 1973

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. L. Quill", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Commons Commissioner