



COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No.29/U/7

In the Matter of The Ponds,  
Greenmore, Woodcote, Oxfordshire.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as The Ponds, Greenmore, Woodcote, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No.C.L.15 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 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 Oxford on 21st November 1973.

At the hearing the Woodcote Parish Council was represented by its Clerk, Miss J. Goodway.

The land the subject of the reference was set out and appointed as a public pond and watering place by the Inclosure Award dated 28th June 1853, made under the Acts for the Inclosure, Exchange, and Improvement of Land, where it is numbered 166 and described on the annexed map as "Sheep Wash Ponds".

Since 1965 the Parish Council has been receiving a wayleave rent of 40p a year from the Southern Electricity Board for a line across the land in question. There was an earlier wayleave at a lower rent granted by the Parish Council about 1960. More recently the Parish Council has taken charge of the land, clearing the undergrowth and trimming the hedges.

This evidence is minimal, but in the absence of any other claimant to a better title I am satisfied that the Parish Council is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Oxfordshire County Council, as registration authority, to register the Woodcote Parish 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 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 19~~th~~ day of December 1973

  
Chief Commons Commissioner