

To All Commoners and Freeholders concerned

Dorney Court
Dorney
Windsor

15th Dec., 1966.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Commons Registration Act, 1965.

1. Under this Act common rights, if they are not to be lost, have to be registered starting from 2nd Jan 1967. The following paras. give my suggestions for registration and I hope will be found helpful as a basis for discussion.

2. I enclose a paper on the history of common rights in this Manor, which I hope will be both interesting and useful, as showing the reasoning behind my suggestions. Its preparation has involved a great deal of hard work and the task is not the sort of thing that one would wish to inflict on others in the future. So if you think it good enough, I would suggest that this also is registered to provide a permanent historical record.

3. My first suggestion is that each man's stint should be tested against the 1637 scale, which I estimate may result in a surplus of rights as follows:

(a) The number of cottages without land to which rights are attached has been reduced to about 18 as a result of the demolition of 4 such cottages. This has made 8 cow commons surplus.

(b) A number of such cottages were, stinted in 1948 as though they had some land or some particular circumstance or merely retained a stint awarded to several adjoining cottages prior to conversion into one. When all these cases are tested against the 1637 scale I think that some 6 cow and 4 horse rights may be found to be surplus.

(c) The acreage of commonable land has shrunk to an estimated 1136 acres due to the loss of land to building and to new and wider roads. There have been a considerable number of changes in the size of holdings but I have not yet received full particulars, I think that all these changes, when the 1637 scale as modified in 1948 is applied, may show a surplus of 20 cow and 5 horse rights.

(d) On the above calculations I would expect approx. the following number of rights to be surplus:-

Lord of the Manor's "left overs"	7 cow	4 horse	
Demolished cottages	8		
Wrongly stinted cottages	6	4	
Surplus on present holdings of land	20	5	
	41 cow	13 horse	Total 54. \

4. My second suggestion is that the fairest basis for registration would be the 1637 scale of stints so far as it will stretch and that the limitations) agreed at the 1948 Court should be eased so as to use up the above surplus.

Thus :

For cows - the full 1637 stint for up to 50 acres. Thereafter for every 10 acres add 1 cow or bullock.

For horses - the full 1637 stint up to 400 acres. Thereafter for every 20 acres 1 horse.

I calculate that the effect of this may be that the Lord of the Manor's "left overs" will be reduced to 4 cow and 3 horse rights. However as I have not yet got full particulars of holdings or agreement on stints, this result can only be a guess.

I attach a table reflecting this suggestion, from which you can calculate your own stint for cows and horses. I also enclose suggested scales of stints for sheep, hogs and geese.

5. My third suggestion is that, after individuals have informed me of the size of their commonable acreage and whether or not they can agree their suggested stints, there should be discussions on the preparation of a complete schedule of stints and other matters.

6. My last suggestion is that I should hold a Manor Court early in 1967 at which the Steward can be instructed to register Dorney and Lake End Commons and all the common rights on behalf of all concerned. I think that this would be the most convenient method of registration since the Statutory Instrument 1966 No 1471 "The Commons Registration (General) Regulations 1966" made on 23rd Nov. 1966 has 85 pages. There are other regulations as well.

One of the questions to be answered is a "description of the right of common". I am particularly anxious to have this drafted by the Steward in as comprehensive a manner as possible, because in the future this could affect compensation payable for disturbance and the like.

I think also that a Court could provide a good opportunity to revise our Rules for the use of the Commons.

Yours sincerely,

P.D.S PALMER

Table for Calculating Stints

based on the 1637 scale in full up to 50 acres & with suggested limitations thereafter

<u>Scale</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cottage without land	-	2	-	2
Message with 3 acres	3	3	-	3
Message with 5 acres	5	3	1	4
For every 5 acres up to & including 50 acres add 1 cow or bullock	10	4	1	5
For every 15 acres up to & including 400 acres add 1 horse	15	5	1	6
	20	6	2	8
	25	7	2	9
	30	8	2	10
	35	9	3	12
	40	10	3	15
	45	11	3	14
	50	12	4	16
For every 10 acres over a total of 50 acres add 1 cow or bullock	55	12	4	16
	60	13	4	17
	65	13	5	18
	70	14	5	19
	75	14	5	19
	80	15	6	21
	85	15	6	21
	90	16	6	22
	95	16	7	23
	100	17	7	24
	105	17	7	24
	110	18	8	26
	115	18	8	26
	120	19	8	27
	125	19	9	28
	130	20	9	29
	135	20	9	29
	140	21	10	31
	145	21	10	31
	150	22	10	32
	155	22	11	33
	160	23	11	34
	165	23	11	34
	170	24	12	36
	175	24	12	36
	180	25	12	37
	185	25	13	38
	190	26	13	39
	195	26	13	39
	200	27	14	41

and so on

For every 20 acres over a total of 400 acres add 1 horse

SHEEP

The 1637 scale confirmed at subsequent Courts.

1 ewe and 1 Lamb per acre

OR

3 dry sheep per 2 acres.

HOGS

1719 scale.

We order that henceforth noone shall put into the Common more hogs than double the stint of his neat beasts which he might put in and all pigs shall be deemed as hogs which shall be pigged before May Day but all pigged after that day shall not be accounted hogs till the 25 September following.

GEESE

1637 scale.

Each Commoner - one goose and one gander and no more.