

To Whom It May Concern:-

Land to the rear of No.5 Hillside, Curdridge

1. My name is Kathleen Annie Allen and I live at No.14 Poplar Way, Hedge End. The above land ("the land") was in my ownership until 2010 when it was sold to Mr & Mrs Atkinson.

2. The land originally formed part of one acre of ground which fronted Lockhams Road and backed on to Nos. 5 and 6 Hillside, being purchased by my Grandfather, James Short, in 1922. He then built a single detached house on the plot being the family home.

3. This house was then extended and sub-divided in the early 1950's into a pair of semi-detached houses. The ground was likewise split so that each house fronted Lockhams Road and had a garden running down to the rear of Nos 5 and 6, Hillside.

4. My Parents, James Henry Herbert and Ida Lillian Short, lived in the house known as Holmcott (now Hazel Mount) and my Husband, Richard George Allen, and I in Riceen (now Fieldfare). Whilst there was a boundary fence between the two houses immediately to the rear of the building, such that each house had its own private garden area, the lower part of the garden (including the land now owned by Mr & Mrs Atkinson) was open ie. not separately fenced and effectively treated as the garden for the extended family.

5. I was born in 1929 and I grew up in Holmcott and subsequently lived in Riceen so can confirm the following from my own knowledge and family records:-

- During and after the Second World War, the land was cultivated by my Grandfather, Father and Husband for vegetables, including fruit, for consumption by the family. I would suggest this followed the usual practice for many years after WW2 when the "father" of the household would grow vegetables etc for the family. The attached photographs show:-

- Photo 1 – shows my Father and my youngest son, David John Allen, in the mid 1960's with his crop of potatoes, onions and runner beans etc.

- Photo 2 – shows the "split" of the garden with my part on the left and my Father's part on the right. Nos. 5 and 6 Hillside are in the middle of the picture. Again, an abundance of vegetables are to be seen. This photo would have been taken in the mid 1970's as my Father died in 1982 and my Husband then took over cultivating the whole plot.

- Photo 3 – shows my Husband in the mid 1980's on the neighbours land ie. my family's land is behind the hedge shown to the left of the photograph where numerous runner bean canes can be seen running down to immediately behind Nos. 5 and 6, Hillside.

- Photo 4 – shows my Husband in 1993 when his health was declining and much of the land had been left fallow/had reverted to grass.

- Photo 5 – shows the land in question again in 1993 being entirely laid to grass with one of the neighbour's horses on it, where she was sometimes kept.

- Photo 6 – shows the land in 2002 having become far more overgrown and “mature” following my Husband passing away in 2000.

6. The land was always treated as part of the family's domestic garden. As my Husband's health declined in the 1990's and the land became too much for him to maintain, we allowed the occupier of No.6 Hillside to keep a pony on part of the land, although the agreement with them also permitted them to cultivate the land. In effect, the domestic garden use of the land continued, it was maintained and took on the appearance of both neighbours land ie. what had once been cultivated became fallow with ponies being kept on the ground but not all year round.

7. The agreement with the occupier of No.6 Hillside could have been terminated at any time such that the land could have been cultivated or used in a different way. I and my family had access to the land at all times, the agreement was effectively one of convenience my neighbour and I.

8. I consider that point to be particularly relevant in that the use of the land to the rear of Viewlands and Lockhams View in Lockhams Road have followed a similar pattern of use to the land in question. After WW2 all of this land was cultivated and covered in vegetables etc. As that generation of owners/gardeners basically passed away, this ground has become fallow/laid to grass and has frequently been used for horses/ponies to graze upon whilst remaining part of the domestic gardens of the respective properties.

9. As this shows and as I would confirm this land had always been used as a domestic garden by my family. When the land was sold to Mr and Mrs Atkinson in 2010, the land looks as it does now ie. primarily laid to grass with some fruit and other trees, and with the stable/shed buildings to the rear of No.6, Hillside.

10. I trust the foregoing confirms the historical use and position regarding the land although I can provide further details if required.

*K. A. Allen*

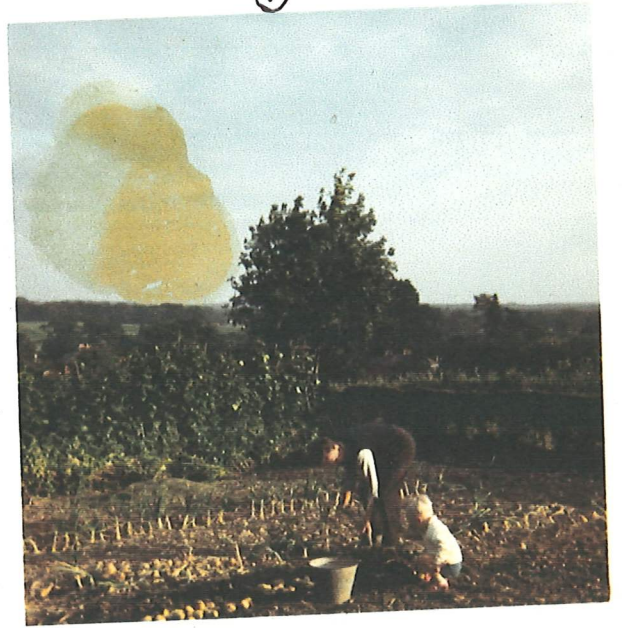
Mrs K. A. Allen

*rsa* September 2019

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