

I, Matthew Bartlett of The Ferns, Marls Road, Botley Hants SO30 2EY do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-

1. I purchased the land known as The Ferns, Marls Road, Botley, Hants in September 2016.
2. I purchased the land from Mr Kenneth Frank Page of 52, Winchester Street, Botley, Hants, SO30 2AA.
3. Mr Page has been known to me for many years due to our mutual interest in horses.
4. We have both been involved in many deals between ourselves and others.
5. Mr Page indicated that he was going to cut back with his involvement with horses and was going to sell the land above.
6. I agreed to purchase it.
7. I purchased the land in September 2016.
8. New fencing was erected and shortly afterwards a field shelter and outbuilding (2 stables) were also erected on the site.
9. I also had a container for storage of my horse equipment and feed.
10. I found great difficulties in understanding how the Council interpreted equestrian land and agricultural land.
11. I always considered the stables I had at 52, Winchester Street, Botley, Hants SO32 2AA, where I kept my stallions and competition horses, as equestrian property and when I had horses turned out at grass that was agricultural.
12. Many times the Council Officers insisted that the way the horses were in the fields and the long periods of time they were there for was considered an equestrian use not agricultural.
13. The mere fact that the horses were tacked up and driven around the local roads from the field, just did not seem to me to be equestrian.
14. Mares were brought to the field to foal while other horses sometimes were sold from the field.
15. I did not understand that just because the horses were not trained or ridden in the field it did not mean it was an equestrian use.
16. I have continued to use the field in this way until the present day.
17. In the spring of 2017, I transferred my breeding business, as I did not have the use of the stables at Winchester Street as the Council had evicted me.
18. In September 2017 I added a further 2 stables.

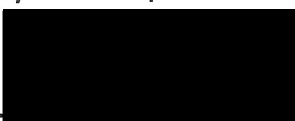
19. In light of the explanation from the Council (appendix A), it is my honest belief that Frank Page, myself and others have used the field for equestrian purposes and not agriculture.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the statutory declaration Act 1835.

Eric Robinson Solicitors
Vanbrugh House
Botleigh Grange
SO30 2AF

Declared at:-

In the county of Hampshire

..........Matthew Bartlett

This²⁵.....day of May 2022.

Before.....^{ELIZABETH EASTLEY}
Solicitor/~~Commissioner for Oaths~~