

Letter from Hugh Grierson, Commissioner, to the Clerk of the Committee, dated 3 May 2018

In preparing the revised Land Plans Savills have relied on overlaying maps to establish more accurately where the limits of the benefited area are.

There were several instances where mapping alone were not enough to prepare the Land Plans and Jonny Willett required the Commissioners to give him guidance.

In this letter I would like to explain to the Committee the decisions made and their effect on potential heritors.

1. Land at Millhills. The 1850 Plan shows a field marked no 267 In the Book of Reference it states that field 267 is benefited but 1/267 is not. However, the plans show two parcels identified as '267' and none identified as '1/267'. The Commissioners tried dividing the land parcel by various methods but none seemed sensible. They also tried subtracting arbitrary areas to leave the right area benefited but this could have implications for future development. Eventually they instructed Savills to mark all the land in the land parcel as benefited, as shown in the 1850 Plan.
2. Land at Dollerie. Savills had determined the area of benefited land on what was Dollerie Estate. This land had been marked as benefited in the 1850 Plan but has never paid an Assessment. It was not included in the previous schedule supplied to Parliament. Savills needed to know whether the Commission wished to include them in the revised payment schedule.

The Commissioners had previously wished to follow the 1846 Act and exclude this land from payment. However when the Commissioners saw where the parcels were they changed their minds. The Commissioners had been persuaded by the argument that the lands benefited very little from the Pow as they were below the Dollerie bridge. In fact some of the land was found to be above the bridge. The Commissioners decided to propose that the land at Dollerie is assessed for payment.

3. Houses at Nethermains of Gorthy. Savills' mapping showed that three houses at Nethermains of Gorthy had been built on benefited land however they were not included in the plans previously submitted to Parliament. The 1850 plan shows that the field below the houses is benefited and shows one house over the fence is not on benefited land. However there are now 4 houses in a cluster with a fence around. In the plans previously submitted to parliament we drew the benefited land up to the edge of the field and excluded the cluster of houses. Overlaying the maps showed that the fence line has moved. The old fence used to run between the old house and the three new houses therefore the new houses were built on what used to be the

field and are on benefitted land. The Commissioners instructed Savills to mark the new houses as on benefited land and include them in the payment schedule.

4. The Old Crossings House at Balgowan. This was included in the plans submitted to Parliament. The 1850 Plan shows a small area of field as benefited and an area of woodland that is not. However the woodland and fence that marked the boundary have gone. Several other features have changed and it is hard to determine the old boundary on the ground. In the plan previously submitted to parliament it was assumed that the boundary would be just behind the house as the house is at a similar level to the benefited land around it. However the map overlay determined that the house is built on land just outside the benefited area. The Commissioners instructed Savills to show the house as not on benefited land and remove it from the Schedule.
5. Pumping Station. The pumping station at Williamstone had previously been shown as agricultural land but is in fact an industrial site. The Commissioners instructed Savills to alter the payment schedule so that they paid the commercial rate.