

The Crown Estate Disclosure Log

Case no: 1154
Date received: 2 December 2019
Subject: Lawns Farm Bungalow, Corfe, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7BY
Request response
<p><b>Your information request (1154)</b></p> <p>I am writing further to your email of 2 December 2019 in which you made a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).</p> <p>Specifically, you asked for the original plans for a property which was built around 1949 on land acquired by the Crown Estate from the Portman Estate in Somerset with the address Lawns Farm Bungalow, Corfe, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7BY. You asked if there was any information available on the original acreage and which fields went with the farm.</p> <p>Our researcher has reviewed your request and has advised that the original of the purchase document for the Taunton Estate is now held at The National Archives. The purchase document should contain schedules detailing the acreage of each farm within the purchase. I have attached an extract from our record map which shows The Crown Estate's land highlighted in pink.</p> <p>The building of a bungalow on land adjoining a farm would likely require planning permission from the Local Authority. It is the usual practice of The Crown Estate to put the onus on the tenant/occupier for getting planning permission in such a case, so it is unlikely that we would hold plans for the building of the bungalow and, even if we did, they would now also be at The National Archives. The original of the Conveyance from The Portman Estate to The Crown Estate dated 22/12/1944 is at The National Archives, but there is also a copy lodged at the <a href="#">Land Registry</a> under Leasehold Title ST324956. Information on how to contact The National Archives is available online at the following link: <a href="https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact-us/make-a-records-and-research-enquiry/">https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact-us/make-a-records-and-research-enquiry/</a> Where information is reasonably available by another means, section 21 FOIA allows public authorities to redirect requestors as appropriate.</p> <p>Our researcher has also responded to your comment that the property may have been built for the Forestry Commission, as there has been a lot of tree felling and there is a sawmill in the vicinity. He believes this is not the case, as the woodland surrounding the farm and property in question is all in the ownership of The Crown Estate and was actively managed by us until the late 1980s, but is presently leased to The Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (whose Department manages the Forestry Commission). The Crown Estate, in general, owns large extents of woodland, much of which is actively worked by us or on lease to other bodies, such as the Forestry Commission or the National Trust.</p>

We hold copies of deeds of sale of Staple Lawns Farm (ASB070-101, from 1991) and the land adjoining it (ASB091-449, from 2004). I have attached extracts of the plans from these documents to this email.

Finally, although not directly relevant to your request, we do hold title research in relation to the Taunton Estate, which I have attached in case it is of interest to you.

I hope that this response is helpful. However, if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your information request, you may appeal our decision which will then be investigated through an internal review. If you are not content with the outcome of that, you have the right to refer any complaint directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) (contact details are available at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). The ICO will usually expect you to have first exhausted our own complaints procedure before raising any concerns with them.