

October 1st, 1934.

Dear Sir,

Faringdon Folly or Cromwells Battery.

The above consists of a clump of trees on a high altitude in Faringdon, well-known as an historical landmark, and from which glorious views for many miles can be obtained. The Folly belongs to Lord Berners, and there are public footpaths around and through the trees maintained by the Local Authorities, and no part of the interior of the Folly is fenced off from the public footpath running through it. The area of the Folly is about 2½ acres, and from time immemorial, the public have had the free use of the Folly for general enjoyment without any interference or interruption by the owner, and at no time has the interior of the Folly been fenced off from the public footpath even for one day in a year. The owner has made an application to the Council to erect a tower in the centre of the Folly to rise just above the trees, so that he can obtain better views of the countryside. The Council, however, wish to preserve the Folly in its original historical state, and are of the opinion that the tower is unnecessary, will not give better views, and eventually will fall into disrepair and detract from the existing pleasures and beauty of the Folly. They have therefore refused the development under the Town and Country Planning (General Interim Development) Order, 1933, against which Lord Berners has appealed to the Ministry and the Inquiry by the Ministry of Health is being held on Wednesday morning next.

Would you kindly let me know whether in your opinion the owner has dedicated the Folly to the general use of the public, in view of the fact that he has allowed them to use it from time immemorial without interruption, and if you agree with this contention, whether Lord Berners has the right to erect the tower, which would obstruct the free use of the Folly to the public, which they have enjoyed for so many years.

I should be glad if you could kindly let me hear from you by return of post in time for the Inquiry on Wednesday, and if necessary, quote any cases to support it.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk.

The Secretary,

Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society,

71, Eccleston Square,

Victoria,

LONDON, S.W. 1.