



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

5 June 1984

Dear Lord Cockfield

mbpm
amb
9/6

BOOKLET ON UK ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 31 May. - See Pt 1

I take your point. But there are in fact references to the countryside and wildlife scattered throughout the booklet; the final version will contain quite a few illustrations of the countryside and wildlife; and I suspect that had we tried to make more of our record in this area, we would have been more likely to provoke controversy than put it to rest.

As you know, we are currently reviewing certain aspects of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the related financial arrangements and I shall shortly be in touch with colleagues about this. In the meantime I would prefer that we did not highlight the subject in the booklet.

It is now in any case too late to change the booklet if we are to have copies ready by the London Economic Summit. I hope that your evident fears about the reception which the booklet will receive will prove unfounded.

I am copying as before.

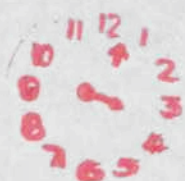
Yours sincerely,

Andrew Murray (Private Secretary)

fw PATRICK JENKIN - agreed by the Secretary of State, and signed in his absence.

ENV^U ARRIVAL: Bird Rain
PK2

05 JUN 1984





2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

18 June 1984

*nbpm
DMS
19/6*

Dear Nick,

with BB

Thank you for your letter of 6 June about the booklet on Environmental Achievements. This has now been published, and so there is no possibility of adding to it. You do however raise the interesting question whether we should undertake in the EC an initiative to take large areas of farmland out of intensive agricultural use and conserve them as "natural" countryside.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act does of course provide in this country a framework for action by the Nature Conservancy Council and local authorities to conserve particular areas of countryside and in pursuance of a remit from the Prime Minister I shall be consulting colleagues shortly on possible ways of strengthening the Act and modifying the related compensation arrangements. Officials are currently engaged in preparatory work. I think however that in this exercise we shall be primarily considering measures which are within our national discretion.

As you imply, a successful initiative to reduce agricultural surpluses by taking land out of intensive agricultural use would depend upon the cooperation of other EC countries. I have no doubt that would be hard to obtain, and would in any event take a long time to negotiate, but it seems worth considering. I suggest therefore, subject to Michael Jopling's views, that officials examine this possibility and report on it as a further stage to the work currently in train on measures to strengthen the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

✓ I am copying this letter to Michael Jopling and to the other recipients of your letter (other members of the Cabinet, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong).

*Yours ever
Patrick*

PATRICK JENKIN

ENV AFFAIRS: Acid Rain
Pt 2



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

pa
Dus
7/6

CE/DF
Prime Minister²

Mr Ridley suggests an initiative in the Community to take land out of agriculture. Await colleagues?
6 June 1984

Dus
6/6

ms

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
Room N16/05
2 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 3EB

Dear Patrick

UK ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

PA 315.84

I agree with Arthur Cockfield's comments on the booklet on Environmental achievements, and share his concern about the public perception of our farming policy. The protection of the countryside and of wildlife is rightly of great and growing public concern, and we ought to have a better tale to tell.

I have just read Kenneth Carlisle's excellent CPC booklet "Conserving the Countryside", which makes alarming reading. It confirms, to my mind, the need for us to give a stronger lead.

My view is that the issue of protecting the natural countryside and wildlife habitats is inextricably bound up with farming policy, and that is bound up with the Common Agricultural Policy. To make progress I believe we ought to plan an initiative within Europe, expressed in terms of a deliberate policy of taking land out of intensive agricultural production across the Community in order to preserve and extend natural countryside areas. The Americans have succeeded in setting aside something like 50 million acres. I see no reason why the EEC Member States cannot agree to a set aside policy too. This would make a sizeable contribution to reducing surpluses.

I think this issue is of great political importance and I therefore suggest it would be a good idea to establish a working party to formulate a policy designed to reverse the process of despoilation of the countryside. If we can persuade Europe to adopt such a policy we would achieve two of our objectives - ~~protecting~~ important sites and reducing European farm production.

I am copying this letter to recipients of your Private Secretary's letter.

Nicholas Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

Env Affairs. Acid Rain Pt 2

JN 1984





2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434
My ref:

Your ref:

JMS
4/6

4th June 1984

Dear David

We have just received the attached copy of our booklet on environmental protection, which you may want to show to the Prime Minister.

I should stress that it is a "paste-up" rather than the final production; the end copies which are being produced during the week will be on more normal paper!

Yours ever,

Andrew

A C ALLBERRY
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq