

CC GOVT MACH
Major Public
Inquiries May 86

PRIME MINISTER

H COMMITTEE: MONDAY 19 MAY

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Landscape Conservation Orders

H agreed that the Environment Secretary should publish a Consultation Paper proposing that National Parks and the Broads Authority should have the power to impose Land Conservation Orders where valuable landscape was endangered and where the normal voluntary procedures had failed. The power would only be used in a handful of cases every year and as a last resort.

Major Public Inquiries

H agreed that a number of further changes to the procedures should be introduced to reduce delays and disruption at major public inquiries. A number of such changes are now being implemented by administrative means, though some will be effected by a statutory instrument to be laid later in the session. The new proposals emphasised giving precise and limited terms of reference to the inquiry, setting out a clear and detailed timetable for each stage of the process, and the inspector producing at the beginning of the inquiry a clear timetable for the giving of evidence. Greater use of written representations would also be sought and the possibility of appointing more than one inspector would be considered.

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DUTY CLERK
ff. Mark Addison

21 May 1986

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