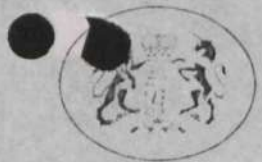


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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 3EB

26th July 1988

Dear Niddy,

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ORDERS

hap.

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 27 June to Peter Walker.

I agree entirely with your arguments against introducing LCOs. I agree also that these provide sufficient reason to shelve the idea. Given the response to the consultation exercise, my own strong preference would be now to avoid giving a specific commitment to keeping the matter under review. This is because I fear that the latter course will on the one hand give the conservation bodies an opening to keep up their pressure on us which they will not hesitate to exploit; and on the other, will do little to allay the fears of the farming industry who will suspect that the introduction of LCOs has merely been postponed. You may care to reflect further on this point.

I am content to leave the judgement of when and where to make the announcement to you. I assume you have considered the case for reporting the decision to Parliament instead of to National Parks Officers, who are only one of the many interests concerned.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Peter Walker, Malcolm Rifkind, John Major and other members of H Committee.

Yours ever,

JOHN MacGREGOR

ENV. AFFAIRS: Royal Comm'n On
Env Affairs Pts

