

AGR/31/1

SECRETARIAT

(Formerly)

0797/W

VOL 1

Archived 16/8/85

0797/W
16/8/85

AGR/31/1

AGRIC DEPT.

G E E S E
PAYMENT FOR BEAKS.

ARCHIVE

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PA		

1
O.I/c., Ag. Dept.

(177) for your comments pl.

(Intld) DRM 29/8

2

DCS.

(177) Mr. Spayll has certainly a problem with the geese eating the young grass in his paddocks and feel we should do everything possible to help him but the problem is how and what. We could agree to his suggestion of laying narcotic bait but I'm afraid I do not know anything about this. Could an overdose be given and thereby kill other birds? I would certainly not recommend Mr Spayll's second suggestion of Government selling the paddocks to him.

The only suggestion I can make is for Mr. Spayll to use "bird scarers". I am told these are used very effectively at airports.

*f. O.I/c. Ag. Dept.
2/9*

3

C.S.

under licence
I am aware of the controversy geese v grass but I like to see upland geese coming back to this area. If geese are becoming a problem then how about a controlled killing by skilled shots with due notice given so that there is no danger to the public?

DRM. 2/9

4

*DCS
(177) Pl. ask Harrodine's advice.*

5 *B 2/9*

CS

Pl see (184). Harrodine suggests kill by shooting. Section 8 of the

Wild Animals and ~~DRM 6.9.75~~ Birds Protection Ordinance (p. 195 of 1964 Gazette) gives the necessary authority to grant a licence to kill

DRM 6.9.75

6

CS.

6

Mr Spall has replied to your (32) with a plea to kill based on the grounds of less grass, less milk, higher price.

21/19/9

7

R.O.

Will you pl. acknowledge (34) & refer to Mr. Barnardine & Mr. Kew. I think you should also go with Spall and see his paddocks. It would be helpful, too, if you could form an opinion whether there is substance in his arguments.

23/9

8

CS.

34 ack'd 26/9. I referred to Mr Kew as suggested and accompanied by Mr Spall, we had a look at the paddocks concerned. There is certainly evidence of geese in these paddocks and I am of the opinion there is substance in Mr Spall's arguments. Mr Kew agrees with this and is writing to you more fully.

Please also see (34) (35) + (36).

9.

for
O.I.C Ag Dept
29/10/5

9
H.E. the Governor

Spall's Dairy - Effect of Geese on Pasture

Mr Spall, who runs the Stanley Dairy, has complained that the geese, which have been coming back to the common during the past year, are so denuding his pasture for his cattle that his dairy is in jeopardy.

2. Both Mr Campbell Kerr and Mr Harradine have been consulted about this and both recommend that the geese should be controlled by shooting. They suggest "controlled" shooting but, as Y.E. knows, this matter is fraught with problems. It is difficult to control a shoot: we have no evidence that geese shot out will not be immediately replaced from nearby pastures: nor that we should not have to revert to the complete eradication of geese on the common in order to ensure that Spall's pastures are protected.

3. The complete extermination of the geese on the common might, in fact, be the answer, but a very carefully conducted public relations exercise would be necessary as there is a great affection for the geese on the common by the public generally, and also undoubtedly considerable resistance to people shooting on the common which could actually endanger life.

4. There is also the important aspect that geese now constitute a not insignificant tourist attraction.

5. I find it exceedingly difficult to advise Y.E. about this and propose that you may consider it suitable for it to be ventilated at ExCo on 17 October.

BM

CS
9.10.75

10

CS

As you have remarked, arguments abound on both sides.

2. However, after a careful reading of the papers I have little doubt that the case for controlling geese by organised shooting is a strong one and should carry the day. I am particularly impressed by Mr Campbell Kerr's exposition of the geese's vastly greater ability to crop closely as compared with cattle.

3. I propose therefore that a shoot should be organised soon. This should preferably be commanded by Major Rowland, and all participants would have to accept his orders unquestioningly. The shoot would need careful planning and should be preceded by a reconnaissance of the area, in which you and I and perhaps one or two other officials might join. Shotguns only should be used (no rifles) and the exercise would require publicising, and control over access to the area while firing was actually taking place.

4. I do not think that an operation of this kind would justify granting permission to farmers throughout the Colony to control geese by shooting in protected areas. The problem on Stanley common is sui generis in that it involves the Colony's only/...

oCRM L

only urban concentration. It has been demonstrated satisfactorily that geese are competing with dairy cattle on which the town is dependent for its milk supply. These conditions do not apply elsewhere.

5. I agree that this should be put to Exco on 17 October. May I please see a succinct memorandum in draft which should end with a firm recommendation for an organised shoot as outlined above before the end of this month.

N.B. that according to (36) the
"problem" is confined to only 1.3% of
the area of the Common.
N.A.I. French

10 October 1975

N A I French

11

Agricultural Officer

Please see H.E.'s minute about controlling the geese at Spall's dairy. Will you please consult with RSC and CPO about the legal requirements of shooting over the common, and then liaise with OCRM about the details.

CS
13.10.75

12

72/ Draft: Also paper at centre many
wins?

13 13/10.

6.5 Thank you B. Amended
9. Think. 13/10

14

14.

O.i.c. Agric.

As at minute 11 please.

I shall require this file back by 0915 tomorrow for Ex.Co.

(Intld) R.B.
for C.S.
15.10.75

15.

C.S.

I consulted RSC and the CPO as requested and they both state that before an organised shoot could take place on the Common the law would need amending. They draw attention to the following sections of the law: -

Section 8 of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance, 1964, allows the Governor to issue a licence subject to such conditions and purpose as he thinks fit, to kill any wild animal or bird as specified in the licence, but

Section 18 of the Firearms Ordinance, 1965, prohibits anyone from discharging any Firearm on Stanley Common or in a public place.

for
O.i.c Agric.

16

C.S.

To see minute 15 above, which is now somewhat academic following the decision taken in Exco yesterday not to proceed with the specialise.

[Signature]
17.10.75

17

for Th. n.

[Signature]
5/11

18

66/11 March,

63. 1

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that it is proposed to discontinue the payments made by Government in respect of beaks taken from birds of prey. The amount involved is less than \$50 per annum spread over all the farms and it is mainly a question of whether the administrative machinery employed for making such payments is worth maintaining and whether it would not be advisable to leave it to the farms as in the case of geese.

2. I should be pleased to receive your views in due course.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) H. L. Bound. JR

for COLONIAL SECRETARY

The Secretary,
Sheep Owners' Association,
STANLEY.

HNB/FH

XIV/27

No.

It is requested that, in any reference to this memorandum, the above number and date should be quoted.



MEMORANDUM

21st, May, 1963.

From: O. I. C. Agric Dept.

To: The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

STANLEY.

SUBJECT:-

PAYMENT FOR BEAKS.

The destruction of certain birds of prey has for many years been encouraged by Government and this Department has supervised the collection of beaks and arranged payment. The Treasury now enquire on what authority such payments are made and I regret that the practice has continued for so long that I am now unable to trace its origin.

In the circumstances I would be grateful if you would authorise the continuation of the following payments:-

TURKEY VULTURES
CARANCHO

6d per beak.
6d " "

A. A. S. Stewart

O i/c Agric dept.

5.

Payment as recommended in 2
afforded

for

3.1.5/63.

O/c Agric: 4

/10 note pl.

1.6.63.

Recalled for folio 5.

7

PUBLIC NOTICE

Payment for destruction of birds of prey

It is hereby notified for general information that with effect from 1st September, 1963, Government will discontinue the practice of reimbursing farms for the destruction of the Turkey Vulture and Carancho.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

30th July, 1963.

Ref: 0797/W

HLB/LH

Copies to all Farm Managers & O/c Agric ,

KIV 4
7A
O/c adms 20/8/63
L.S.

Distributed to the Managers of -

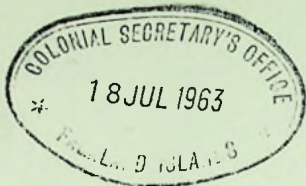
SALVADOR
BLEAKER ISLAND.
LIVELY ISLAND
SPEEDWELL ISLAND.
FOX BAY EAST
FOX BAY WEST.
PORT STEPHENS
WEDDELL ISLAND.
NEW ISLAND
WEST POINT ISLAND.
FITZROY
DARWIN.
NORTH ARM
SAN CARLOS.
PORT SAN CARLOS
PORT LOUIS.
JOHNSONS HARBOUR
RINCON GRANDE.
DOUGLAS STATION
TEAL INLET.
SAUNDERS ISLAND
PEBBLE ISLAND.
HILL COVE
ROY COVE.
CHARTRES
PORT HOWARD.
BLUFF COVE
SPARROW COVE.
MULLET CREEK
MOODY VALLEY.
BEAVER ISLAND
CARCASS ISLAND.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

23
~~46~~
BU 7.8.63 to show o/c agn
4 and 7

See 7A

✓
Pa



The Falkland Islands Sheepowners Association,
(LOCAL COMMITTEE)
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

17th July, 1963.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1099/II dated 14th March, 1963 regarding the proposed discontinuance of payment by Government for beaks taken from birds of prey, the Association is in agreement with your suggestion to do so.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

H. C. Harding

Deputy Chairman.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

Ack'd
JH
18/7/63

ACS.

Public Announcement
advising discontinuance
w.e.f. 31st August. This
should enable all beak
less to be paid for. 6'c
Appl should be advised. L.C.
23.7.63

LIV 4.

6/10 8

Dear Sir,
I draw your attention to the enclosed article with the thought that it might, with some minor changes, be applied to the geese problem. Some experimentation might be necessary to find a suitable bait (oats, brown, pollard, maize?) to carry the dope and it is possible that the geese might have to be pre-fed to get a large enough number together in order to get a large kill when the dope is fed but these are comparatively minor problems.

Of course this method

See 9

of control is only
necessary on oat fields
and grass hay fields
and possibly settlement
greens

(Shall Teal Sweet)

8a



Mr. Sid Sheppard, Mr. Woodward's gamekeeper, puts down beans . . .

Dope KOs pigeons on bait trial sites

BEDFORDSHIRE farmers were this week collecting the first pigeons "trapped" on their land with doped bait. Early indications were that the series of trials now in progress in parts of the county could at last produce an effective control.

Mr. Arthur Woodward, Maulden, one of the prime movers behind the pressure to get Ministry permission for the trials, said that one of his sites had already produced a kill of 50 birds.

"The sites are only 120ft x 12ft but we have already killed a lot of pigeons on ours and I hear that other people have also been successful," he said.

"Fifty pigeons may not sound much, but if this were done over a wide area I believe it would cut them down."

Mr. Woodward has seven sites scattered over the 1,600 acres which he farms.

"We have about 600 acres of brassica and last year it cost me £600 for cartridges and gas guns. Even then I reckon we lost the last pick over our brussels."

"With this bait I reckon you could protect the average size farm for around £50 a year."

His keeper, Mr. Sid Sheppard, who has been laying the bait and collecting the birds, says that he has not so

far found any game or song birds affected by the bait.

"The best time to go out is about 7 am, after they have been feeding for a couple of hours. You have to be pretty quick because they recover within a few hours," he said.

The speed at which a pigeon can feed is illustrated by the bird which was found with 26 doped tic beans in its crop. It had been able to get them down before the narcotic took effect.

Forty farmers are taking part in the trial. Each has a permit and is keeping a close record of the kill.

If the results are good the NFU may ask for legislation to permit farmers to use narcotic baits under Ministry supervision.



. . . and picks up pigeons.



Mr. R. Cutler

of winter feeding is more important than the barley supplement.

"This time, we unfortunately ran out of silage when some of the cattle were only $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt off finishing.

"But though we gradually switched over to complete barley, this did not maintain the rate of gain. Some of the beasts lost 30lb in a week."

12-month test with 36 head

MR. ROBERT CUTLER, HARLAND Hill, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough, finishes about 100 cattle, mainly Friesians, at the 18-20-month stage on his 140-acre farm, but he plans to try the barley-beef system this year with 36 head.

"I never thought barley-beef would have turned out so popular in Yorkshire," he said. "I can see the attraction in quicker turnover and a shortage of land for grazing also tempted me to have a try.

"There are points for and against both systems. With the longer feeding period, you lose on time but gain on weight and save on concentrates, particularly the expensive protein fraction.

"I manage to carry up to five beasts an acre till the end of June on land which gets up to 240 units of nitrogen with balancing phosphates and potash.

"The older cattle get barley to supplement silage which works up from 6lb to 12lb a day.

"I hesitate to use more barley than this in case a higher amount leads to deficiency in protein in the diet."



Mr. W. Turnbull

All barley diet in second winter

THERE IS LITTLE TO CHOOSE between the intensive 12-month and 18-month systems, says Mr. W. Turnbull, of 600-acre Break House Farm, Eryholme, Darlington.

He turns out about 80 beasts finished to 18 months and 40 at the 12-month stage.

"We tend to be unusual in carefully switching animals in their second winter over to an all-barley diet," he said. "This can be done without losses given good stockmanship and commonsense.

"The advantage is that we then get barley-beef condition and price for older and much heavier animals.

"A split feeding pattern allows us to take in calves over a longer period which can still be fed to advantage.

"Autumn calves are taken to the 18-month stage, the spring calves being finished more intensively and we get a good spread of labour requirement this way."



Mr. J. A. Hibberd

Hills turn to fattening

26th September,

68.

Dear Mr Spall,

8a

Thank you very much for your interesting cutting on doping pigeons.

I am circulating the cutting to interested people but, as you know, not everyone regards the goose as a danger and concentrates of the bird vary considerably throughout the Colony.

Once again, thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,

(W.H. THOMPSON)
COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr Spall,
Teal Inlet.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

15148-821 585968/704663 500 pads 9/69 Grp.782

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
	STANLEY			2.10.70
To	LIF PETER SCOTT WORLD WILD LIFE NEW GROUNDS SLIMBRIDGE GLOUCESTERSHIRE			10 a/c

Yourtel of 28th October stop Upland and Brent Geese
stop There is currently no information in hands of this
administration of moves you mention stop Your concern
is noted and your promised letter awaited

ACTING GOVERNOR

Time

JE

15

797/w
120



Colonial Secretary
Colonial Secretary's Office
Stanley.

Mrs K Bertrand
Carcass Island
4th October 1970

Dear Sir,

We have just received our copy of the Minutes of the Falkland Island Sheep Owners Association ~~and General Meeting~~ Meetings which took place during August 1970.

On page 9 of these Minutes there is a paragraph which reads -

'Reduction of Upland Geese

Only one Member of the Meeting disagreed that the numbers of Upland Geese would have to be deduced drastically in the not too distant future as these birds were detrimental to the sheep farming industry. It was the opinion of the Meeting that any method used to achieve this aim would have to be carefully controlled'

The Member who disagreed with this view (and who incidently was really a Sheep Owner as distinct from a mere farm Manager) has told me that it was suggested at the Meeting that the Geese should be poisoned with a stupifying drug. I was under the impression that according to the Wildlife Ordinance of 1964 that any form of poisoning was prohibited.

I would be grateful if you could advise me what drug these gentlemen propose to use and whether, in the event of a bird recovering the drug would have any detrimental effect on the breeding capacity of the bird and whether its flesh or eggs would be safe for human consumption.

During the course of the heated argument on the ~~matter~~ matter Carcass Island was given as an example for a high carrying capacity of sheep pluss a vast number of Upland Geese. One Member then said that if we killed our geese we would carry 4000 sheep instead of the present 2200. This is not correct, we could carry over 3000 now during the summer but not during the winter because it is the tussac paddocks which enable us to carry 2200, most of them being wintered in tussac.- I have lived my life on small island farms and I have yet to see geese eating tussac.

In my opinion, before any wild creature is 'drastically reduced' the entire population of the Falkland Islands should know about it and have a chance to voice an opinion. - The wildlife surely belongs to the Falkland Islands and therefore the Falkland Islanders as a whole, not to a handful of farm managers. Further more I consider that considerable research by experts should be carried out to find out whether geese do more harm than good. Quite apart from the Conservationists standpoint, geese are excellent food, why not merely shoot some of the geese which are congregating too heavily on newly sown grass and send the carcasses to Stanley to be sold for the table. I believe Stanley has had a shortage of mutton quite recently, geese would have probably been very welcome to many during that time.

In conclusion I would inform you that on this farm alone the majority do not agree with the views on this matter expressed by the majority of farm managers at the above mentioned S.O.A. Meeting.

Yours faithfully

Kitty Bertrand.

DECODE.

10

TELEGRAM.

From PETER SCOTT WORLD WILD LIFE

To COLONIAL SECRETARY STANLEY

Despatched : 28th October 1970 Time : 1708

Received : 28th October 1970 Time : 1600

110
Sir we understand that moves may be made to reduce Upland and Brent Geese. As long term ecological aspects have not been fully assessed we request that no legislation be altered which could indanger geese until a full study has been made by Zoologist. More aspects of the case for conservation follow in letter.

PETER SCOTT WORLD WILD LIFE

PL: JE

Reply etc

12

R.B. Napier.

West Point Island.

Falkland Islands.

31st October 1970



Colonial Secretary

Port Stanley.

Dear Sir.

During the meetings of the Sheep Owners Association in Stanley August it was suggested that the Upland geese could be greatly ^{Reduced} if poison or stupefying bait were laid on the pastures where the geese graze. I objected strongly to the proposal, and it was agreed that it would be better to wait until the report of the Agricultural Team was published, however it was obvious that some farmers intended to use stupefying bait if they could obtain permission to do so.

I have written to the World Life and to Peter Scott on the ~~XXXX~~ subject they are of course greatly concerned about it. I hope ~~that~~ that you will find it possible to withhold permission for any plan that involves killing geese by poison or stupefying bait.

Yours sincerely,

CS Napier

Ack'd. *[initials]*

7. 11. 70.

(Section 6 of Wild Animals
& Birds Protection Ordinance
1964 refers)

Reply at 13

A.C.S. No plan has been proposed, so far as we know.

2 Please reply to Mr Napier saying that the situation is being watched but that so far as we know at present there is no plan of the kind to which he refers in his letter.

[Signature] 11/11

797/W

13

15th November 70

Dear Sir,

12

Thank you for your letter of 31st October 1970 regarding the proposed use of poisoned or stupefying bait in a scheme to reduce the number of upland geese in the colony.

I am to assure you that the situation is being watched, but so far as this administration is aware at present there is no plan of the kind to which you refer in your letter.

Yours faithfully,

(H.L. Bond)
For COLONIAL SECRETARY

Mr R.B. Napier,
West Point Island.

5



From: Peter Scott C.B.E., D.S.C., LL.D. 1st Vice President and Chairman

THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND



At: THE WILDFOWL TRUST, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BT, England
Telephone: Cambridge (Glos) 333

The Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley
Falkland Islands
South Atlantic



16th November 1970.

Dear Sir,

We understand that some members of the British Government Agricultural Advisory team advocated the reduction of the number of Upland and Brent Geese in the Falkland Islands. The economic and political situation in the islands is clearly understood by World Wildlife, and we have sympathy with the farmers and their needs; but we urge most strongly that any decision to use poisonous bait as a means of reducing the goose population should be considered carefully.

At the present time when there is great emphasis on conservation and a strong movement against pollution of the environment, we need only point out a few cases where the use of chemicals has altered the natural balance. As you know, DDT is spreading world-wide with disastrous effects on some birds. Insecticides have been shown to concentrate in animal food chains, so much so that some individuals become unable to reproduce.

So far it seems that the precise part the geese play in the Falkland Island ecology has not been studied, and it could be that they are important in keeping the pasture in good condition in spite of arguments to the contrary.

A research project to explore this subject would need to cover several years and different types of land, as well as the results from control experiments when the geese were absent. Naturally such data could not have been available for the use of the Advisory Team, and a sweeping condemnation of the geese, though seen by some farmers as a positive step towards higher yield, might well have the reverse effect.

The wool returns published annually indicate that some of the smaller islands produce very high yields, and yet the geese remain undisturbed. It is accepted that the pasture varies from island to island, and that there is a distinct difference between the farming methods used on the small islands and

reply 17

- 2 -

Lafonia or the mainland of West Falkland. However, we feel that the good results help to prove that man and wildlife can exist together if enough effort is made.

Perhaps there is no immediate danger that legislation affecting the use of poisonous bait will be altered, but if there is a movement to bring about a change in the law, we appeal to you and the Islands Legislative Council to consider the matter carefully. We would appreciate a delayed decision until a research student can be assigned to a field project to assess the problem from an ecological viewpoint.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Scott.

XXX

INTERNATIONAL WILDFOWL RESEARCH BUREAU

BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHES SUR LA SAUVAGINE

SLIMBRIDGE (Glos.)
GL2 7BX
ENGLAND

Tel. Cambridge (Glos.) 333 ext. 34



GVTM/LVR

30th November, 1970

The Colonial Secretary
Port Stanley
Falkland Islands
South Atlantic



Dear Sir,

You will have received a letter from the World Wildlife Fund ^{18.6.15} urging caution in the matter of control of geese by poison.

The International Wildfowl Research Bureau is supported by WWF as the international technical organisation concerned with conservation of and research on ducks, geese, swans and waders, together with their associated habitats. As such, we have on call the advice of many experts in these fields and if we can be of service in this matter we are at your disposal.

If you do not already know, a distinguished American wildfowl ecologist, Professor Milton Weller of Iowa State College, Ames, will be visiting the Falklands shortly. He would be willing, I am sure, to make an on the spot appreciation of the goose situation and its interaction with sheep farming.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. G. V. T. Matthews
Director

C.S.

mail from f. 14 pl.

19.1.71.

reply 18

Stanley.
Falkland Islands.

January 20th 1971

J.A.Jones Esq.
Colonial Secretary.
Secretariat.
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I wish to make reference to a letter which was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands Government by the chairman of the IUCN, Survival Service Commission, a copy of which I also received.

As I am actively associated with the work of the IUCN and the WWLF it might have, very naturally, been thought that I was responsible in an indirect way for this letter being sent.

I did learn of the facts relating to a discussion on wild geese held at a Sheep Owners Association meeting on the 14th August 1970, and ^{was} concerned about some things mentioned, but my main concern was more for the manner in which the matter was brought up. Besides which, the subject of wild geese destruction was not on the agenda, nor could the results of this discussion and vote be taken as official in any way.

However, the feelings of the farmers in general towards the destruction of wild geese was indicated, as also was the general thought towards the use of some chemical for the eradication of geese.

These indications were forwarded to the IUCN Survival Service Commission and to the Secretary General of the WWLF. In my report the facts relating to the meeting were given, it was also stressed that the whole matter was "only an indication". The main emphasis of the report was on the need for trials to be carried out on Upland geese, something which I feel is far more important.

Although I am well aware of the dangers of this case from a conservationists point of view, I feel perhaps the matter has been placed out of proportion slightly by other reports. The matter has not been raised with a view to removing any stain from my report, but felt it should be brought up to place things in a better perspective.

Yours faithfully,

I.J.Strange.

Ack'd
Chideford
8-2-71.

1/1 Sent a routine ack.
M.A.N.
1/23/1

28th January

71

Dear Mr. Scott,

14 *Pest Control-cum-Conservation*

I have to refer to your letter of 16th November 1970 and to say that the Agricultural Advisory Team has worded its recommendation regarding Upland Geese with scrupulous care. In summary, the recommendation is that a pasture control-cum conservationist specialist should be invited to advise on the control of the Upland Goose. The Falkland Islands Government, which is well seized of the merits of conservation, will be considering this balanced recommendation and you can rest assured that the question will be approached with all due care. But as far as I am aware, no specific suggestion to use poisonous bait has been made. There is certainly no suggestion currently on the carpet for the enactment of Legislation to this end; and if there were, I can assure you that it would receive most careful evaluation from the Legislature.

Your suggestion regarding the provision of a research student to study the problems involved is appreciated. However, as you will have gathered from the previous paragraph of this letter this Government's consideration of the matter has not yet reached the stage where there is a firm commitment to any particular course. The offer will, however, most certainly be kept very much in mind.

Yours sincerely,

(J. A. Jones)
Colonial Secretary

Mr. P. Scott, C.B.E., D.S.C., LL.D.,
The Wildfowl Trust,
Slimbridge,
Gloucester,
GL2 7BT
ENGLAND

JB

Cdy: I. Stange

28th January

71

Dear Sir,

16
Thank you for your letter reference GVTM/LVR of 30th November 1970.

I attach a copy of my reply to Mr. Peter Scott's letter of the 16th of November, from which you will see that we are very much in the preliminary stages of considering this matter and have no commitment in any particular direction as yet.

We have greatly enjoyed Professor Milton Weller's visit. Unfortunately, it terminated just at the time when the report of the Agricultural Advisory Team was about to be received and Professor Weller and his wife sailed for Montevideo on the "Darwin" which left here on the 15th of January. He and I will be in touch, however, and are likely to meet again when he passes through Stanley on one of the Royal Research ships en route for South Georgia next season. By that time consideration of this matter locally can be expected to be more advanced and I shall certainly take the opportunity of enlisting Professor Weller's help in any way that may benefit us.

Yours faithfully,

(J. A. Jones)
Colonial Secretary

Professor G.V.T. Matthews,
International Wildfowl Research Bureau,
Slimbridge,
Gloucester,
GL2 7BX
ENGLAND

19



Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1

Telephone 01-



20

0297/w

J A Jones Esq OBE
Colonial Secretary
PORT STANLEY
Falkland Islands

J/ks

Your reference

Our reference

ALW 4/2

Date

13 April 1971

Dear Jones

22

1. I enclose a copy of a letter of 5 April received from the Guildford Wildlife Supporters Group about a proposal to reduce the numbers of upland geese in the Islands by laying stupefying bait.

22

2. An interim reply has been sent to the Group (copy enclosed) and I should be grateful if you would let me have details to enable me to reply to the Group.

Reply at 23 *yours sincerely*

G F Kinnear
for *G F Kinnear*

21

Enc

*1/2 F & R in file in which I wrote
on this subject to Peter Best.*

see 18

J/ks

R C Lister Esq
Chairman
Guildford World Wildlife Supporters
Group

ALW 4/2

Chinthurst Road
Wokingham
Nr GUILDFORD Surrey

13 April 1971

Thank you for your letter of 5 April about reduction
of upland geese in the Falkland Islands.

We are referring to the Falkland Islands Government
in regard to this matter and will write to you again
when we receive their reply.

C F Kinncar
Atlantic and Indian Ocean Department



2 Callaghan Road
Port Stanley
28th August 1975

24

177

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on a matter of some urgency. As you know some 3 or 4 years back Stanley Common was declared a wildlife preserve (mainly I think for safety reasons, some people narrowly escaped being shot) as a result geese started to come back on the common but it is only this spring that they have started to appear in large numbers. I would not be concerned about this, Stanley Common is big enough for horses cattle & geese, if it were not for the fact that they have discovered that my paddocks afford the best grazing and they are beginning to congregate in them in large numbers. (My neighbour recently counted 43 in one paddock and this is just the first year I have been working to improve these paddocks by a system of

Ack'd
28/8

rotational grazing (plus a little artificial fertiliser and peat mould) but if the geese are going to graze ahead of my cows (as seems likely, for that is where the good grazing will be) then all my work has gone for nothing and the dairy cows will have to be hand fed with expensive imported cattle feed during summer as well as winter which will mean a hefty increase in the price of milk.

This is an entirely new problem for Stanley as geese have always been eagerly hunted by Stanley residents. I do not blame government for the protection of wildlife, no one could have foreseen the present problem; nor do I believe shooting should be allowed on the Common again, it is just too dangerous. What I am proposing is this, in order to stop the price of milk from rising until only the rich can afford it, that arrangements be

made to make it possible for me

to cull the geese in my paddocks

(about 50 acres) the geese are welcome

to the other 3,450 acres of the Common

I do not want to shoot them, except

so a last resort, I think it safer

instead to use a narcotic bait

which puts the geese to sleep

during which they can be dropped

of (if we fall on numbers the

the bait they soon wake up and are

wake the same)

As I wrote at the beginning of

my letter this matter is urgent,

the grass is beginning to grow and

I normally start grazing these paddocks

at the end of September, however

unless something is done quickly I am

afraid that there may be little or

nothing for the second group at that

date. I realize that to gain permission to

cull the geese is not simple, a letter

has been passed and must be signed,

and simple written permission from your

office is not possible.

I can suggest a way out of this difficulty but I am hesitant to present it because it seems such a lot to ask. However as it will solve this as well as other lesser problems, I will continue; it is simply this, that the government sell the paddocks to me. The law would then no longer apply as the paddocks would have become private ground. I would of course have to enter into agreement with government to use these paddocks for their intended purpose i.e. to help supply fresh milk for Stanley and give whatever other guarantees government sees fit in order to ensure Stanley residents do not suffer by my use of the land. There are other facts bearing on this subject which I could write of but I believe it better to write no more until you have digested this problem and proposal.

Sir in view of the urgency of this problem, would it be possible to have an early reply
yours sincerely CRSpall (Chairman)

Carcass Island
Agricultural Department,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,



2nd Sepr. 19 75

Dear Mr Monk,

In response to a letter from Mr C.R. Spall concerning the increasing numbers of geese on his cattle paddocks on Stanley Common and his suggested means of dealing with the problem, I enclose a first reply to him and a copy of it to you. If you approve it I would be grateful if the reply could be forwarded to him.

Yours sincerely

John Hammond



Carcass Island
Agricultural Department,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,

2nd Sept 1975

23

25

Dear Mr Spall,

Thank you for your letter and the details of the problem you have with the geese.

I have not had time to go into all the aspects of the problem but I will do so and will be in touch at the first opportunity.

However, at this stage I think I should make clear the legal position, of which, apparently, you are not fully aware.

Section 6, sub-section 1a of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance, 1964, states:

"If, save as may be authorised by a licence granted under this Ordinance, any person —

- (a) sets in position any of the following articles, being an article which is of such a nature and is so placed as to be calculated to cause bodily injury to any wild animal or bird coming in contact therewith, that is

to say, any springs, trap, gin snare, hook and line, poisoned or stupefying bait, or container holding explosives

....

shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds."

This section clearly restricts considerably methods which can be used to kill or take birds, and unless specifically exempted your suggested use of narcotic baits would be made very difficult.

Yours sincerely

John Harradine

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE
FALKLAND ISLANDS

25

178

SENT

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

3.9.75

To

HARRADINE CARCASS

26

HAVE SEEN YOUR LETTER TO SPALL SETTING OUT IDEAL
POSITION BUT WOULD LIKE YOUR PROFESSIONAL ADVICE
QUICKLY ON NARCOTIC BAIT OR ANY OTHER ADVICE TO
OVERCOME PROBLEM.

CHIEFSEC

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

RECEIVED

D665 54 987 250 pads 9/70 C.P. Ltd. Gp. 3631

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
32	CARGASS IS.	20	1145	4 9 75

To

ETAT CHIEF SECRETARY STANLEY

YOUR TELEGRAM 3RD. WILL WRITE FOR FIRST PLANE YOUR TELEGRAM 4TH. ITEM
RECEIVED END JULY

HARRADINE

Time



GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

29

~~182~~

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
--------	------------------	-------	--------------	------

4.9.75

To

HARRADINE CARCASS IS

25

~~173~~

FURTHER MY TEL RE GEBSE UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD YOU
RECOMMEND THE USE OF NARCOTIC BAIT.



CHIEFSEC

Reply at 184

Time

INT/10/1

5th September,

75.

Mr C. Spall,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a letter from Mr Harradine.

I am in touch with him regarding the use of narcotic
bait and await his recommendations.

Yours faithfully,



(D R Morrison)
for CHIEF SECRETARY

SC

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

RECEIVED

P1676 - 1/64

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed In at	Date
63	CARCASS IS.	220	1345	5 9 75
To ETAT CHIEF SECRETARY FALKLAND ISLANDS STANLEY				

181,182

YOUR TELEGRAM I CONSIDER IT MOST INAPPROPRIATE AND UNDESIRABLE AT THIS STAGE TO
MAKE PUBLIC A JUDGEMENT ON THE USE OF NARCOTIC BAITS TO CONTROL GEESE STOP IT IS
A HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT WHICH WILL BE EVALUATED AT THE END OF THE STUDY IN
THE LIGHT OF ALL ITS FINDINGS STOP ANYTHING I SAY NOW WILL MAKE MY JOB MORE
DIFFICULT IT IS FOR THESE REASONS I SAID I WOULD ANSWER YOUR TELEGRAM BY LETTER
STOP IT IS ONE OF THE MAIN ASPECTS TO BE RESEARCHED ON LEAVE IN BRITAIN AS LITTLE

Time

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

RECEIVED

P1676 P44 /64

Number

Office of Origin

Words

Handed In at

Date



To

2.

INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE HERE STOP WHILE ATTRACTIVE IN ~~IN~~ THEORY THE EFFECTIVENESS
AND SAFETY OF THE USE OF NARCOTICS IN PRACTICE TO PEOPLE DOMESTIC AND WILD ANIMALS
SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED STOP ACCORDING TO THE WAY THE LAW STANDS AT PRESENT A
SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION TO CONTROL GEESE WITH NARCOTICS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STANLEY
DAIRY BUSINESS WOULD CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR THE FARMERS WHO FEEL THEIR CASE IS
SIMILAR OR STRONGER FOR THE SHEEP INDUSTRY STOP I FEEL UNABLE THEREFORE TO MAKE ANY
SUCH RECOMENDATION AT PRESENT STOP TO HELP ALEVIAE THE PROBLEM ON THE FIFTY ACRES
Time

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

RECEIVED

P1676 P4 164

CHIEF SECRETARY
Number 5 SEP 1975 Office of Origin

Words

Handed in at

Date

To

3.

I SUGGEST RESPONSIBLE PERSONS PERHAPS EQUIPPED WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHTS BE LIENCED
TO REDUCE NUMBERS BY SHOOTING AND DISTURBANCE TO DISCOURAGE THE BIRDS BEFORE THEY
INCREASE MUCH MORE

HARRADINE

Time

REF:AGR/31/1

11 September 1975

C R Spall Esq
2 Callaghan Road
Stanley.

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 28 August 1975 about the inroads the upland geese are making into your pastures on Stanley Common.

You will have seen, I hope, the copies of the telegrams from the Upland Goose Study officer, Mr Harradine, but apart from these I wonder if you would be good enough to let me have your considered views, on reflection, whether you feel that the geese do harm the pasture. I have had represented to me (not by Harradine) that in fact geese, by punishing the crust, can actually improve the pasture.

You will appreciate that this is a very difficult matter to decide, as is any matter of conservation, and I shall be most grateful if you will please give this your very careful consideration before replying.

Yours sincerely,

A J P Monk
Chief Secretary

33

15th September, 1975

Our Ref: AGR/31/1

J. Harradine, Esq.,
Carcass Island,
Falkland Islands.

The exchange of correspondence between Spall and yourself has left me in somewhat of a quandary and I have been pushed further into it by discussion I have had with third parties.

It seems to be like all conservation matters, something which it is easy to muster a great body of opinion for a decision either way.

As I read your telegrams to Spall, you are reluctant to agree to the culling of geese by any method on the Common. I certainly appreciate that this could be taken as an anticipation of your Report although I have no doubt that this fear could be abated very considerably if it was handled correctly.

I am very concerned, in fact, about the possible solution of allowing Spall or a number of people loose on the Common with rifles to shoot the geese. I am given to understand that it was because of the danger caused to people previously by letting off guns on the Common that the practice was stopped. I should have very considerable reservations, therefore, about allowing this to take place.

In re-reading Spall's letter, I note that he says that the narcotic bait is not a lethal one, it merely dopes the geese and/or animal. He also proposes that it should be restricted to the 50 acres of his pasture. Would you advise that even in those circumstances it would be inadvisable to use the bait?

I realise, only too well, how difficult this decision will be because, for instance, I have heard some experienced people here say that the geese, in fact, improve the pasture on the Common.

In short I see no easy answer but perhaps you can help.

A.J.P. Monk
CHIEF SECRETARY

AGR/31/1

34



2 Callaghan Rd
Port Stanley
16th Sept '75

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 11th Sept and as you suggested thought carefully for several days before replying.

The matter basically is very simple.

Cows eat grass.

Geese eat grass.

Geese graze the grass so short that where they have been cows get little or nothing.

Cows produce the most milk from the short green grass (such as grows in my paddocks) but this is the grass the geese live on. If the geese are allowed to graze this better grass the cows will be forced to eat the coarser grass and milk production will fall - drastically

I have found that there is a limit to the number of cows I can milk each day and still do my other work and I have already realised

(2)

that limit so there is no question of simply milking more cows to make up for the fall in milk production. Fortunately this number of cows if they are well fed can just produce enough milk to supply my customers needs.

In summer that good feeding comes from my paddocks and it is in summer that I make the money to pay my bills both for feed and other necessities. If the cows are denied this summer feed I have a choice:

① I can buy feed for the summer months as well as the winter but only by raising the price of milk

② I can accept the lower yields per cow and dump 30% to 50% of my delivery list (55 to 85 customers) (Total customers list as of today 170)

However my costs will still be the same although production will have fallen. So to stay in business I will have to raise the price of milk. Either course of action will result in fresh milk being beyond the pocket of the ordinary working man.

Sir I am afraid a decision must be made; one the geese to be controlled and fresh milk provided at a reasonable price ~~and~~ one they to be uncontrolled and fresh milk be only available to the well off people of Stanley?

Sir I respectfully put it to you that it makes no sense not to use what limited resources we do have to the best advantage, and that the geese are in no danger of extinction if controlled on my 50 acres of paddocks and allowed free range on the other 3,950 acres of Stanley Common.

A further point. It has been my policy to improve the grazing on these paddocks (to the best of my ability) by the use of rotational grazing, rest hold, granular fertilizer and electric fencing but if the result of my efforts is to produce more grass only to have it eaten by the geese what is the point? Surely it is not government policy to discourage grassland improvement even on my small scale?

In respect of your point that geese can

(4)

improve the pasture, this is debatable, but even if they do, what good will that improvement be if the extra grass produced is eaten by the geese, which is what will happen if there is no control.

I have seen Mr Horroldine's telegram and in view of the necessity to research more thoroughly the narcotic bait suggestion I concur with his idea of control by shooting with the added suggestion that it be done by myself and if at all possible at first light (4 or 5 a.m.) when no one will be about.

Finally Sir I emphasise again that this matter is urgent, the grass has begun to grow and the geese are there grazing. I have already lost feed for my cows and will continue to lose more each day. I do not hurry you, the steadily improving weather is hurrying both of us

yours

sincerely

cdgall

Ref. AGR/31/19/10/7

acknowledged



Carcass Island
Agricultural Department,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,

(36)

27th Sept.

1975

(33)

Dear Mr Monk,

Thank you for your letter concerning the goose problem on Stanley Common. I welcome the chance to discuss the problem privately as I intended to do originally.

I do not understand, however, your third paragraph: I have sent no 'telegrams' to Mr Spall - the only correspondence I have had with him is my reply of 2nd September to his request for advice, which I sent through your office. Similarly, I cannot understand how I am 'reluctant to agree to the culling of geese by any method on the Common. Neither have I said this nor, to my mind, even suggested this in my letter to Mr Spall or my telegram (of 5th Sept.) to you. My opposition to date from me has been to the requirement to advise publicly on the use of narcotic baits.

I present the following facts and considerations to help formulate the decision on how to alleviate the goose problem on the Common.

Shooting

I realise the risks involved in allowing the free use of guns on the Common, including especially their use by irresponsible people.

The problem, as I understand it, is confined to 1.3% of the area of the Common.

An experienced shot and responsible person aware of the problem should be able to kill a few dozen geese on the paddocks, occasionally as circumstances require, with little risk to others.

Hollow-nosed bullets might be better than solid bullets as their velocity is slightly lower and there is more chance of felling the target so fewer wounded birds escape.

For safety reasons and humane reasons a telescopic sight would improve accuracy.

A shotgun might be better as the risk is considerably lessened and it would help by scaring birds as well; however, its effective range

is much shorter than that of a rifle.

Possibly the Mariners could undertake the job periodically as directed by yourself (for example), on advice from Mr Spall. This would avoid creating the precedent of licensing a Stanley resident against the interests of the appropriate legislation covering the Common.

Baiting

Mr Spall is correct in saying the drug (I am assuming alphachloralose) anaesthetises rather than kills.

This sounds an attractive means of anaesthetising birds for the destruction of undesirable individuals with the subsequent recovery and release of non-pest species.

However, the dose ingested must be controlled carefully - if too high it kills, if too low partially anaesthetised birds can fly or walk away, when they become vulnerable to predators, hitting of obstacles, etc.

With the correct concentration there is the problem of birds incompletely sedated being scared off (by people, animals, vehicles, Beavers), making for waste and risking drowning.

Experiments would be needed, therefore, to determine the optimum drug concentration.

It cannot be assumed that effects on other species are equivalent as individual physiology and behaviour towards drugs varies considerably, certainly between species and often within species. A dose anaesthetising one species can kill another.

I do not know where the paddocks are but the species possibly at risk include: military starling, sparrows, ducks? and hares - the last two are repopulating the Common since shooting ended - and uncontrolled dogs and poultry.

While the loss of some of these species might not be considered too serious the main point is that the bait's possible effects are unknown.

Also unknown are the consequences of predatory and scavenging birds and animals, wild and domestic, eating sedated and dead geese, and the long-term effects on individuals and species surviving.

a dose of the compound.

Species unintentionally narcotised should be kept safely until full recovery before release.

Trials would be needed to assess how best to administer the narcotic in terms of the type of bait, its quantity and spatial distribution on the paddocks. Prebaiting with plain bait might be necessary to accustom the geese to feed adequately on the treated bait to ingest quantities of rapidly effective narcotic.

It could take some hours from the start of feeding for a bird to reach complete sedation, under undisturbed conditions.

Labour would be required more or less continuously to apply and maintain the baits, despatch narcotised geese, safeguard non-target victims and to remove all unused bait.

Ideally such a method should be conducted by a person familiar with the technique

There is unlikely to be opposition to the controlled shooting of the geese for this method is practised freely throughout the Islands. However, to the majority of farmers the Spall's claim of detrimental grazing of cattle pasture by geese warrants no more special consideration for solution with restricted methods than do their claims for sheep pastures. Authorisation for his use of narcotics will provoke opposition on the grounds that ^(the farmers) they are unlikely to obtain similar authorisation, that the case of goose grazing of pasture being detrimental is still to be demonstrated and cannot be so until the end of the present study, and that the full effects of such a bait are unknown.

Considering the scientific, technical, economic and inherent requirements of the two methods I would recommend control by shooting.

In the present circumstances I would be most reluctant to recommend the use of narcotic baits.

Yours sincerely

John Hannadine

AgR/311



THE SECRETARIAT,

STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

29 September 1975

Dear Mr. Nock

acknowledged
9/10/75

1. With Mr. Halliday Mr. Spall took me around his little paddocks on Friday 26 Sep 75 and we saw several geese, many goose droppings and evidence that short young grass had been grazed. May I therefore endorse Mr. Harrodine's suggestion that the geese troubling Mr. Spall should be carefully shot.

2. No matter how green the paddocks look, if the geese have kept the grass short the cows will starve to death.

This problem is brought about by the mechanical means for grazing the animals have at their disposal.

Geese have bills with which they clamp the grass and pull until it breaks (usually at the bill edge). They have no lips to inhibit short grazing.

Sheep have lower incisor teeth which trap the vegetation against a hard pad on their upper jaws. They then nod their heads and the grass is either cut where trapped or pulled up. They can cope with very short grass, but they do have lips.

Cows do not use their teeth for grazing but wrap their tongues around the grass and pull until it breaks.

As can be imagined the length of grass that cows can cope with is considerably longer than that required for either sheep or geese. I should think the minimum lengths would be in the order of

GOOSE	SHEEP	CATTLE
10 mm	15 mm	100 mm

Dairy farmers prefer to graze their paddocks when the grass is 200 - 250 mm in length

3. Observations suggest that sheep eat goose droppings. This could be for three reasons

(a) That the grass is so short that is all there is to eat

(b) The droppings are of nutritive value

(c) " " provide some chemical or nutrient that is not ordinarily available.

If one assumes (b) to be the reason - since droppings are waste material then that which was eaten must be (i) highly nutritious, and the sheep have therefore foregone this material or (ii) rather nutritious. If so, then little nutrient must be taken up by the goose which must imply that its intake (grass eaten) is enormous in relation to its bodyweight.

Reason (a) should not be dismissed lightly and reason (c) cannot be accepted unless one believes in low energy transmutation (alchemy!)

3.

4. Conservationists subscribe to the theory that the geese do more good than harm. This must mean that they benefit the grass. It is even suggested that the "good" grasses are there because of the geese. Such arguments can be disposed of rapidly.

(a) The geese are there because the grass is there (i.e. that they have put the cart before the horse)

(b) That if one decided to wipe out all the geese the task would be physically and financially impossible.

The 1971 Davies et al Report (p.87) states

" CHAPTER 8 - THE UPLAND GOOSE (*CHLOEPHAGA PICTA LEUCOPTERA*)

The Upland Goose is extremely numerous in the Falkland Islands. It competes directly with sheep for grass especially during winter. It grazes the best areas of natural grasslands and its depredations on newly re-seeded areas and arable fields is considerable. The Upland Goose is a major pest and increased efforts should be made to control it. The present system of paying a bounty for beaks is ineffective.

DAVIES TEAM RECOMMENDATION

4.

A pest control-cum-conservation specialist should be invited to the Falkland Islands to advise on the control of the Upland Goose.

The Goose Officer's remit is not the same, viz Study the habits of the Upland and Brent Geese with special reference to the effect they have on the sheep farming industry but bearing in mind conservationist factors and the value of the geese as a tourist attraction and source of food and sport.

The reason behind writing the latter part of this letter was to simplify, not complicate matters!

Kind regards

Campbell D. Kent.

(37)

CONFIDENTIAL

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NO. 66/75

SPALL'S DAIRY

Mr. Spall, who operates the Stanley Dairy, has written to the Chief Secretary claiming strongly that geese make such inroads into his pastures as to cause him real concern whether there will be enough natural feed available for his cows, even to the point that he may have to close the dairy.

2. The matter has been carefully considered by Mr. Kerr of the Grasslands Trials Unit, and Mr. Barradine who is studying the Upland Geese. They have considered many aspects of the problem and conclude that the only solution is to control the geese.

3. In the face of this specialist advice and after acknowledging that there is a substantial body of lay opinion to the contrary, Government is unable to avoid the conclusion that geese do compete detrimentally with the cattle and must, therefore, be controlled by a carefully organised shoot which it is proposed should be carried out under the operational control of the Officer Commanding, Royal Marines, acting on instructions from the Chief Secretary.

4. The shoot must be carefully planned in advance, after a thorough reconnaissance of the area, using shot guns only. The shoot would be preceded by adequate publicity and controls to prevent access by the general public to the area and generally to eliminate any risk of accident.

5. There should be no risk of this operation leading to a general demand for the control of geese in protected areas in advance of Mr. Barradine's Report. The particular problem of the pasture is one peculiar to the unique area in the urban environs where it has been clearly demonstrated that geese are in serious competition with dairy cattle on which Stanley depends for its milk supply.

The Secretariat,
Stanley.

Ref: AGR/31/1

14th October, 1975

R/31/1
M/29/3

8.1 Spall's dairy and the problem of Upland Geese (Mem. 66/75)

Consideration was given to the claim made by Mr. C. Spall, operator of the Stanley Dairy, that geese were making such inroads into his pastures as to cause him real concern that there would be insufficient natural feed for his cows, even to the point that he might have to close the dairy.

8.2 After full discussion the consensus was that the geese should be neither shot nor poisoned, particularly as "controlled" shooting on the Common could encourage "uncontrolled" shooting. The Common was made a bird sanctuary deliberately in the full knowledge that a situation such as that presently before Council could arise.

8.3 It was recognised that the question of controlling geese was a sensitive one and could possibly come before Council again in connection with the operation of the permanent airfield.

8.4 It was accepted that the advice given could possibly result in the closure of Stanley's only dairy.

Browning
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Ref: AGR/31/1

27 October

Mr C R Spall,
Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letters ending with that of 16 Sept

I have had this matter most exhaustively investigated and, as you are undoubtedly aware, a great wealth of opinion abounds for and against controlling the geese by one means or another.

I am now directed to advise you that, after most thorough investigation, Government has decided that it is unable to agree to granting exemption from control of the common and cannot, therefore, authorise the destruction of the geese on the common by any means whatsoever.

In coming to this decision I should like to assure you that Government has looked into all aspects of this matter and has discussed it at great length. Obviously the decision will be a disappointment for you but, equally, you should know that the reason for this decision is that Government considers that, as it has taken so long to restore the position, it would be disastrous to reverse its decision suddenly, with unforeseen consequences. Government also took into account the fact that it could be dangerous to allow shooting on the common, even in a controlled situation, and that there would be great public objection to this. It also considered the aspects of the wild life on the common, as a distinct ~~to its~~ attraction.

One important matter is, of course, that although the area of your pastures as a proportion of the common forms only a small percentage, it would be virtually impossible to restrict control of shooting to that area only if the control is to have any effect. Effective control of the geese, and any other wild life, could well lead to their extermination on the entire common.

27 October 1975

You will also appreciate that, although there are strong reasons that can be produced to make this a special case, it would be very difficult for Government to resist similar applications from other areas to control geese by shooting, and thus anticipate the findings of Mr Harradine's study.

I have gone into some detail in setting out some of the reasons considered by Government so that you will know that your case has not been dismissed lightly.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A J P Monk', written in a cursive style.

A J P Monk
Chief Secretary