

ORIGINAL IN ARCHIVES.  
(TEMP)

SGA/FAU/1#19

SG/26/1

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VOL 1

27/10/82.

REINDEER etc.

**ARCHIVE**

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DO 5 26/5.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01- 233 3551

S H Smith Esq  
23 Lon Gwyndaf  
Caud-y-Craig  
Prestatyn  
CLWYD  
Wales

Your reference

Our reference

Date 12 October 1982

*Dear Mr Smith,*

Your recent letter concerning your desire to establish a reindeer farm on South Georgia has been passed to me for reply.

Your proposal is an interesting one, and I believe that Dr Laws of the British Antarctic Survey has already indicated to you some of the areas where you may encounter problems. There is at present no housing at the whaling station at Grytviken and Huvik. There are no refrigeration facilities on the Island. Apart from a small scientific station operated by the British Antarctic Survey and a military detachment, there is no permanent population on the Island. There is no commercial transport service to and from the Island, and you would not be able to use BAS ships or military supply vessels.

Although the recently published Shackleton Report stresses the desirability of the diversification of agriculture, the report is aimed principally at the Falkland Islands themselves, and development potential of the Dependencies (South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands) is thought to be in the field of off-shore and deep water fisheries. The responsibility for the administration of South Georgia rests with the Civil Commissioner in Port Stanley, who will be able to advise you on questions such as the purchase or lease of property on South Georgia, the question of conservation regulations which may affect the viability of your project, and the possibility of your formal emigration to the Island.

I would therefore advise you that, if you have not already done so, you write in the first instance to the Chief Secretary of the Falkland Islands Government, giving as much detail as possible of your proposal, and seeking his advice as to how you should proceed. The address of the Chief Secretary is as follows:

F E Baker Esq OBE  
Chief Secretary  
Falkland Islands Government  
Government House  
Port Stanley  
Falkland Islands.

*Yours faithfully,  
R A Rayner*

R A Rayner  
Falkland Islands Department

Draft  
Mr R. [unclear] (aw 87)

CRUD-Y-CRAIG,  
PRESTATYN,  
ELWYD,

AR 1401
REC'D
10 OCT 1951
40
45

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on the advice of Dr R.M. Laws F.R.S. of the British Antarctic Survey, and also of the Falkland Islands Research and Development Association Ltd.

I wrote to both of these associations concerning the possibility of myself, family and up to three other families settling on South Georgia. The proposition I put to them was that these families could possibly start a reindeer farm and after two years a small kelp and salmon farming industry with possibly a small milk farm using reindeer offal as food. While both associations agree that a crop of deer could certainly be taken from the Berff peninsula herd and also from the smaller Royal Bay herd, but they both say that it is up to your office to make

decisions about the development of South Georgia  
My main proposals would be to take from  
400 to 600 stags from the various herds in the  
first two seasons while at the same time  
introducing fresh blood into the smaller Bowen  
Point herd which would then be farmed on a  
more commercial basis. The culling of the other  
herds would then be gradually reduced in  
succeeding years, as the Bowen herd increases to  
commercial size. To facilitate this several  
buildings in either Stromness or Husvik would  
have to be purchased or leased from Salvasons  
to house the families and also to make a  
small refrigeration plant as well as a kelp  
drying shed and to store the deer hides. A  
mink farm is not absolutely necessary especially  
if it is not allowed on conservation grounds, but  
the importation of six reindeer stags to bring  
in fresh blood and certain domestic animals  
would be necessary in establishing a thriving  
community. The Shackleton report states  
that the long term development of the

Falkland colonies and their dependencies should be encouraged and any diversification of the economy must be to the good. A civilian population on the islands would also show that Britain is in effective occupation of the islands and of the new Shackleton reports findings are taken up would ensure that Britain could claim a 1200 mile limit for fishing etc around the islands

I hope that you find these proposals acceptable and decide that you will allow these small plans for the development for South Georgia.

Yours faithfully  
S.H. SMITH.

S  
4  
+  
R  
7  
5  
9  
at

17 December 1982

2

The Argyll Mink Farm Limited

Appin Argyll Scotland  
Postal code PA38 4BN  
Telephone (Appin) 063 173 261

*Directors*  
M. S. Burberry CHAIRMAN  
T. R. N. Burberry MANAGING  
L. M. Burberry SECRETARY

Ministry for Overseas Development  
Room 613  
Eland House  
Stag Place  
LONDON  
S W 1



For the attention of Mr R Longstaff

Dear Sir

I enclose a copy of a letter written to Mr John Reid on 17 August last and who I understood was collating ideas for future viable activities in the Falkland Islands. Unfortunately I have not had the favour of a reply from Mr Reid's office to what I considered, and still consider, a realistic and potentially profitable enterprise.

It may be of interest to you that last week our fox farm was visited by the Rt. Hon Duncan MacIntyre, Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand who clearly will investigate potentially and enviromentaly the possibilities of fox farming in New Zealand.

It is difficult to think of an enterprise more suitable for the Falkland Islands and I do hope someone may find time to discuss this potential future.

Yours faithfully

T R N Burberry

Reply on FIS/1/1. Aw do 3/II

Encl.

Reg office no. 635 316  
35 New Broad Street  
London EC2M 1PP  
VAT Reg no. 265 4063 65

17 August 1982

The Argyll Mink Farm Limited

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Postal code PA38 4BN  
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*Directors*

M. S. Burberry Chairman  
T. R. N. Burberry Managing Director  
L. M. Burberry Secretary

John Reid Esq  
Industrial Developments  
Borders Regional Council  
Regional Headquarters  
Newtown St Boswells  
PD6 OSA



Dear Mr Reid

I received a visit last week from Mr Stephen Whitley, presently the only veterinary surgeon in the Falkland Islands who was on leave in this area at the time.

Mr Whitley called on us in the company of our local veterinary surgeon specifically to learn more about mink farming as a possible industry for the Falklands. In fact, I knew something of an earlier pioneer venture which never really got off the ground, and due to the rather difficult nutritional requirements of mink I am not very optimistic that such a venture is suitable for the Falklands. I expressed this view to Mr Whitley. However, in contrast to this, I was enthusiastic about the possibilities of farming the arctic blue fox.

I will be as brief as possible in the letter, but I feel I must acquaint you with a few facts about this species.

Approximately 3 million blue fox skins are produced annually, mainly from Finland. They fetch under present market conditions about £35-£40 per skin at a cost approximately £28-£30.

Such a margin has resulted in increased production, particularly Finland, and consequently a dangerous shortage of food. The cost of the food alone is 60% + of the total pelt.

Almost certainly we shall see a drop in prices in the near or relatively near future and the Finns in great trouble.

The arctic blue fox, latin *Alopex Lagopus* is a different species to the wild red fox, *vulpes vulpes*, and its mutant cousins. It is also a different species to the grey fox of which a Patagonian type, I understand, was earlier imported into the Falklands. I mention these facts because an obvious stumbling block to the acceptance of blue foxes in the Falklands would be any danger to lambs. The blue fox is not a risk to local wild-life or domestic animals.

Mr John Reid

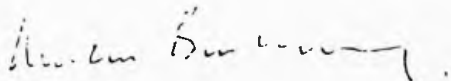
The nutritional requirement of the blue fox is not complicated and at present hundreds of tonnes of food, eminently suitable for fox farming, is dumped annually in the Falklands. There must be a real and viable possibility for its success and I would value very much a few moments of your time to expand on the subject, and I would be happy to travel down to your offices in Newtown St Boswells. Alternatively, if you have the time, you would be most welcome to visit our farms here in Argyll.

My company has a separate unit devoted to blue foxes and it is probably the most modern fox farm in the world. We raise up to 4,000 fox pelts annually as well as some 25,000 mink and fitch. You may take a reference if required from Hudson's Bay London, 67 Upper Thames Street, London or from our bankers, Royal Bank of Scotland, George Street Branch, Oban.

We have been established since 1959 and currently we are designing and helping to establish a blue fox farm in Northern China, and supplying the original breeding stock. We are also currently establishing a major fitch farm in New Zealand and exporting 2,500 breeding stock to them in November.

We know the fur market internationally and our reputation as producers of top quality pelts and animals is equally known. I hope you may find my proposal interesting and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Newman Burberry  
Director



21/2



21st December 1982

Weybridge  
Surrey  
England

AD  
cc. PS/Mr. Onslow  
for defn reply for  
Mr. Onslow for  
Chris

Mr. Cranley Onslow,  
Minister of State,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
King Charles Street,  
London, S.W.1.

Dear Minister,

COALITE GROUP PLC

I am enclosing a letter which you will find self-explanatory.

We would be glad to show you the show farm here at Hamm Court, should you be able to spare the time.

I trust you will find this interesting.

Yours sincerely,

*B. Louis Jankel*

*for*

B. Louis Jankel.



21st December 1982

Weybridge  
Surrey  
England

Mr. Needham,  
Group Chairman,  
Coalite Group PLC,  
P.O. Box 21,  
Bolsover,  
Chesterfield.

500  
1. cc Mr Patterson,  
as well as Sir R.  
Hunt.

✓ 2. Mr Hope  
1. How will the  
crop be in the  
Falklands? Can  
it be common?  
3-7-82

ENTERED FOR INFO

Dear Mr. Needham,

Having spoken to Mr. Dunworth, I am writing to you at his behest, to investigate the possibility of supplementing the sheep/wool crop in the Falklands.

During discussions with the Department of Overseas Development, the idea of stocking the Falklands with Prize British Red Deer was floated, and it was left to ourselves to discuss with possibility with your Company.

To save your valuable time I shall itemise some of the advantages that it was felt make this train of thought particularly pertinent to your situation :-

1. Red deer need little if any annual care and in winter survive quite adequately in the Highlands of Scotland.
2. Following from 1, they are hardy.
3. Annual income is available from the cropping of the antler velvet, being much in demand in the Far East.
4. The meat venison is one of the most efficient proteins available, having a cholesterol content one tenth of beef, and a calorific value of one half of beef.
5. A carcass can fetch up to £200 on the London market.
6. The deer do not damage the grazing land and are totally compatible with sheep.

Continued .....

7. Each farm can support a herd of deer without requiring extra manpower that exists for the sheep and produce substantial extra income, therefore profit by greater utilisation of the land.

The aspect of this proposal that my organisation would be able to participate in, is consultancy on the best methods and areas of introducing substantial herds, and the supply of breeding stock. Obviously it would be a long term development, but one that you would call an appreciating asset in the truest sense.

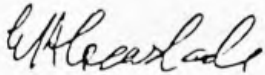
As Mr. Cranley Onslow has been given the brief of Falklands Development and as he is also a local M.P., I have passed a copy of this letter through to him, so that he may visit our show farm here, to establish any further information he may think relevant.

In the meantime should you, Mr. Dunworth or Mr. David Britten want any further information, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

One member of our Group whom I represent, Mr. Peter Gladstone, has considerable knowledge of the Falkland Islands and his name will be familiar to some of your farm managers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



PP B. Louis Jankel,  
for Anglo-Scottish Deer Farms Ltd.

Copies to : Mr. Dunworth  
Mr. David Britten, Chief Executive, Falkland Islands Company  
Mr. Cranley Onslow



RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
10 JAN 1983		
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 January 1983

*Dear Mr Jankel*

In Mr Onslow's absence abroad, I am writing to thank you for your letter and enclosure of 21 December about the possibility of supplementing the sheep economy of the Falklands with red deer.

This would seem to be a worthwhile venture if it makes economic sense to the Falkland Islands Company and to other farm owners who may also be interested. The Minister expressed the view before he left that the Civil Commissioner should also be brought into the picture, and we have copied the correspondence to Port Stanley, where it will certainly be passed to the recently appointed Development Officer.

We shall be interested to learn how your ideas are progressing. Mr Onslow's programme is very full for the coming months and I think it may be somewhat difficult for him to find the time to pay a visit to Hamm Court, interesting though this would be.

*Yours sincerely,  
Sylvia Bailey*

S F Bailey (Miss)  
Assistant Private Secretary  
to Mr Cranley Onslow MP

*copies sent to  
Mr Hawden  
FID, ODA  
& PA*

B Louis Jankel Esq  
Hamm Court Farm  
WEYBRIDGE  
Surrey

*SFB  
a/i*

5



**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**  
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01- 233 3776

John Reid Esq  
Development Officer  
PORT STANLEY  
Falkland Islands

Your reference

Our reference

Date 9 May 1983

*Dear John,*

RED DEER IN THE FALKLANDS

1. You may have seen copies of correspondence between Mr Louis Jankel and the Minister of State's office concerning the former's proposal to establish a red deer herd in the Falklands. For ease of reference, I enclose further copies.

2. Mr Jankel has now contacted the Minister's office again because he has not received substantive comment on his proposal and this has upset him. He has asked for an interview with the Minister. We have arranged for an interim reply to be sent to him.

3. We should be grateful if you would let us have comments on his proposal as soon as possible.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Reena.*

C B Dowds (Miss)  
Falkland Islands Department

OUR REF:

THE SECRETARIAT,

It is requested that the number and date should be quoted.

STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS. (4)

SOUTH ATLANTIC.

YOUR REF:

20th May 1983

Miss C D Dowds  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Falkland Islands Department  
London SW1A 2AH

Dear Miss Dowds

I was not aware of the previous correspondence about red deer in the Falklands, copies of which you sent to me on 9th May. Papers which go to Government House do not necessarily find their way to me. Had they done so I should have given Mr Jankel precise the same advice as was given by the Minister.

If what he says about the viability of red deer is accurate then he should be able to sell the idea to FIC. Only they have large enough holdings and both the resources and organisational and logistic infrastructure to embark on a new export industry.

Mr Jankel does not give any indication of Ted Needham's response to his approach. If it is being investigated further David Britton will certainly have consulted Brook Hardcastle, the Company's Farm Manager on the Islands, who is at present on leave in UK. Should you wish to have a more up to date picture to present to the Minister your best course would be to speak to David Britton.

You will have gathered from the above that I do not see a place for Government (or FID Corp) initiative here, except insofar as participation in such a scheme by independent farmers and section holders would not be possible in the absence of new killing, freezing and Cold-storage facilities. We are pursuing this in relation to meat supplies for the garrison and are meanwhile awaiting the appointment of a meat technology consultant, terms of reference for whom I agreed with Pattison at the end of January.

Yours sincerely



John Reid  
Development Officer

LC

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 1985

SG/28/1

63. SOUTH GEORGIA REINDEER

Council approved a contribution of £6,200 to BAS from FID funds to assist Dr Nigel Williams towards the costs of printing and publication of a report on the reindeer in South Georgia.

The Chairman said that the project had the support of the Scott Polar Research Institute and that BAS had agreed to provide Dr Williams with office services free of charge.

CLERK OF COUNCIL