



Mulberry
Mill Lane
Langstone
Havant
PO9 1RX

7th August 2021

Mr Adrian Ellis
Case Officer
Planning Services
Public Services Plaza
Havant
PO9 2AX

Dear Mr Ellis

APPLICATION No APP/21/00647 Outline application for 65 dwellings on land south of The Mallards and West of Langstone Road, Havant

I wish to register an objection to the above scheme submitted by Persimmon Homes South Coast and validated on the 9 June 2021.

1. Major Michael Stratton Clarke's legal agreement with HBC dated 20th March 1980 not to develop Southmere Field MUST be honoured on principle.
2. Development of Southmere Field will change the nature of the conservation areas of Mill Lane and Langstone Village, which border and abut Southmere Field. These were established to maintain and preserve many special architectural and historic interests within the areas. Careful planning regulation enforcement, and also review of the validity of the conservation areas per se from time to time, have kept a focus on their soundness. The Southmere Field is so important in many ways when recognising the historic importance of this rural area, once part of Langstone Village and now Langstone's rural heritage.
3. The qualities of Southmere Field are many. It is the largest remaining enclosed unploughed pasture land from a much larger area of similar rural land, the rest having been forfeited for development. The long-time organic soil, entirely without pesticides or phosphates, still produces quality animal feed for a local farm which in turn has lost grazing land to development. Southmere is both Grade 1 agricultural land and designated Ancient Meadow. Ancient Meadows are all too often lost to development, their properties will never be built back - please have a care with Southmere!

4. Like others, no doubt, I would mourn the loss of Southmere in terms of the wildlife species which use it. Many and varied bird species can be seen at all times of the year. Dipping Swallows catching insects, little Terns and bats can be seen in summer, and families of Pheasants use the habitat at the field edges. Owls make their presence known regularly. Foxes, squirrels and water voles all use the area. It provides much needed habitat for bees, butterflies and insects. Wading birds such as little Egrets gather in number on the mid-Western side of the field when it floods in the autumn and winter, along with other coastal birds.
5. Southmere hangs on to excess water in winter for many days it is not free-draining. This fact raises the question of additional pressure put on the Langbrook Stream along the western edge from tidal sea flooding. The neglect of the landowner in allowing the sea wall to breach, and the incapacity of either the local or county council to challenge the situation has allowed the salt marsh to flood deeply and regularly onto Southmoor. The breach will become much wider which could increase the depth of flooding and in turn endanger other neglected bunds, walls, and also the stream banks alongside Southmere field. Development on Southmere will only exacerbate the area's existing flooding alarm.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hazel Lewis