

38 Langstone Road
Langstone
Havant
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4 August 2021



The Chief Planning Officer,
Havant Borough Council

Dear Sir,

Re: Planning Application APP/21/00647: Southmere Field

I wish to register the strongest possible objections to the proposals contained in this application. The case against any development here was made to, and accepted by, Havant Borough Council a year or two ago, and the objections still stand, and indeed are if anything even stronger. The principal aspects are as follows.

1. The traffic implications. Previous surveys have shown that the road, the only access to Hayling Island, is already over capacity, and adding yet more traffic can only worsen the situation. The traffic is frequently at a standstill, not only at normal rush-hour times, but during much of the day during fine weather.
2. This field is a vital high-tide refuge for wading species from Langstone Harbour, including the nationally threatened Curlew. No "mitigating area" is available, as flying significant distances during the winter has a serious impact on such species.
3. The field provides a vital green link between South Moor and the fields to the east. Mammal species as well as birds use it, e.g. bats.
4. Developing this field will have a major detrimental impact on the setting of the Langstone Conservation areas, effectively negating the purposes for which they were designated.
5. The field provides significant winter fodder for a local farm which maintains a milk delivery service.

I wish to make absolutely clear that this is not just "any old field" and the objections to its development are not mere "nimbyism". I urge you to reject this application and to uphold the covenant entered into by the local council.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Chapman'.

Dr John Chapman

Formerly Principal Lecturer in Geography

University of Portsmouth

And long-term species counter for the British Trust for Ornithology surveys