

"Southmere Farm" - proposed
development at "The Mallards"
[Notes on the back of photos]

3, The Mallards,^①
Langstone,
Havant.



P09/SS

Mr. D. Eaves (Case Officer)
Public Service Plaza,
 Civic Centre Road,
 Havant PO9 2AX



18th May, 2018.

Dear Mr. Eaves,

In practical terms, the farmer uses
machinery to spread manure, cut, turn and bale
the hay. A tractor is the farm work-horse. The
barns house machinery, hay and, doubtless,
cattle in really bitter weather. Barns and older
properties have roosting places inside or eaves
to accommodate bird life. Modern houses have
plastic soffits preventing this, and little in
the way of out-houses.

Farm buildings are an integral part

of the eco-system of the farmyard in the countryside. The owl, swallows, sparrows, wood pigeons, collared doves, pheasants and magpies, and other wild-life, all frequent Southmere and visit our gardens. Many over-winter or shelter there. It's their habitat. ②

Sadly, we have lost the Thicket in Southbrook House (north of us), to housing which means the Mallards are trying to care for those birds & animals seeking safe haven here. Did we object as NIMBYs? Not so far as I am concerned.

Now, here we are again. I am amazed to learn that a working farmyard is to be destroyed in this day and age, in order to build homes in a flood zone of all places. This is the countryside. Already, the water meadows, part of the River Lavant's flood

plain; have been covered with carparkes and^③ buildings by the Technology Park. Broadmarsh was covered with ash from the incinerator I am told. Acres of marshland was 'reclaimed' with builders rubble at North Hayling at a time when certain materials were not considered as 'unsafe'. Chalk from Portsdown Hill covered it up. So much for the inter-tidal habitat. The harbour water is unsafe to swim in courtesy of Sewer Water — what more can go wrong? Oh yes, we sell houses built in 'The Mallards' flood zone to the unwary — what a record. This is our local environment. Would it happen around Chichester Harbour?

When I heard about the suggested destruction of the farm buildings, it brought to mind a scene on a sandy beach. The eight-year-old child has been told he is too young to have

a surf-board. His younger brother has been ⑥ taken to the water by his father to have a paddle. The eight-year-old, being the eldest, is used to getting his own way and glowers, full of resentment at the laughing boy, paddling. He rests his gaze of spite upon the castle, built by the little boy with his father's help. In a fit of temper, he kicks and tramples the castle into the ground.

Sadly, around here, it is not the little boy but people and wild life on the receiving end.

You can understand how frustrating it must be to be running a Technology Park during the banking crisis, and now during the economic uncertainty created by Brexit. Nothing seems to go right. Venting your frustration on farm buildings gives a fleeting pleasure - it doesn't solve Brexit.

Let's look for a resolution. Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]



This is the northern end of the Haying Oyster field, known as 'Top Field'. All the land from North Haying Halt (near the Esso Station), on the west side of The Billy Trade was marshland, which absorbed flood water during spring tides. In the late 1960's, a stream of lorries (one every 20 minutes) sped by, full of builders rubble - the marshland was smothered - ~~acres~~ acres of it destroyed. Then a covering of Portdown Hill chalk hid it all from view. Today it spills out onto the shore - builders rubble. Would this be allowed in Bucklebury Harbour? So much for intertidal habitat.



(2) In practical terms the farmer uses the barns for machinery to spread manure, cut, turn, and bale the hay.

Hay has to be stored, cows need shelter.

A tractor is essential - you cannot leave expensive machinery outside to rust.









Cattle chewing the cud
in winter

Pile of manure in background
used to improve the pasture.

This is a working area not a pretty winter
scene.



① and ② make I scene (overlap)

This is the eco system / habitat
for the owl, shallows head pigeons,
collared doves, pheasants etc.
The barns next to the farmhouse
provide, shelter, nesting and
roosting places.

Modern houses do not provide
eaves and few have outhouses
Shallows swoop to and fro here
prior to setting off for Africa.
This is the hunting ground for
the owl.