

APP/17/00007

Objection:

Mrs C.Barratt, 53 St.Marys Road

Nature Conservation: Adverse Impact

We have been living on St.Marys Road, backing onto the proposed development for 17 years. Since 2011 we have been taking where possible, pictures and videos of the Brent geese using this field.

Havant Borough Council's Winter Bird survey of 2012-15, shows the data of only 2 years/seasons (11/12 and 13/14) of study that have taken place on this site and the survey time was less than 2hrs (times 5-15min. each) in total for all 10 visits to the site over 9 winter months. Given the short amount of site time a total of 2 geese were seen during those 10 surveys...

The applicant, Gladman Developments, refer to this research , dismissing the significance of Brent geese on this site. However, this survey does not comply with Planning Policy DM23, which requires up to three years survey data to be submitted alongside any application with potential to impact (alone or in combination) any Solent Waders and Brent geese sites.

Furthermore, please find table below with our photographic evidence of the popularity of this site for Branta Bernicla (Brent Geese).



Taken 27 January 2017



Taken 27 January 2017



Taken 21 January 2017



Taken 20 January 2017



Taken 19 January 2017



Taken 18 January 2017



Taken 5 January 2017

LOG OF BRENT GEESE SIGHTINGS ON ROOK FARM UE77 HAYLING ISLAND

Please note: This evidence cannot be ignored/discredited, however it is not a full record of migrant bird use of UE77).

{photos being taken when need/time/opportunity arose ONLY}

Table of Photographs and Videos							
Year	Month	Date	# Movie	# Photo	Total	Ann T Days	Cumulative Days
2011	January	10		4	4		
	January	13		4	4		
	January	17		2	2		
	January	25	1	2	3		
	February	10	1	1	2		
Year End 11			2	13	15	5	5
2012	None Taken *						
2013	None Taken *						
2014	November	19		2	2		
	December	2		7	7		
	December	4		2	2		
Year End 14			11	11	3	8	
2015	Council Considered Hayling Unsuitable for large farmland development no photos taken						
2016	December	6		4	4		
	December	7		5	5		
	December	13		2	2		
	December	20	1		1		
	December	29	1	3	4		
	December	30		5	5		
Year End 16			2	19	21	6	14
2017	January	5	2	8	10		
	January	6	3		3		
	January	18		9	9		
	January	19	4	3	7		
	January	20	5	13	18		
	January	21	3	3	6		
	January	27		12	12		
Year To-date (Jan31/17)			17	48	112	7	21

* This Year we experienced extreme surface water flooding to gardens and field.

We were either concerned about the flooding and didn't note bird presence or Birds likely unable to land/feed?

Brent geese prefer large open sites where they have clear sight-lines and short, lush grass for grazing. They are long-lived animals with a life expectancy of up to 30 years. The Brent goose population is afforded full legal protection under national legislation (the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act).

We respectfully remind you of the comments made in previous reports that the council has acknowledged.

'we can not argue that the land proposed is 'of the highest protection.' However again the council has study evidence that confirms. 'Area C has by far the most sightings of the target birds. Flocks of around 2000 brent geese were noted in some fields. There are positive sightings of brent geese in H34c, H46b...'

'It can be seen from these results that the most important area for the target birds is Area C. The sites along the Hayling Billy and the neighbouring fields, including H46b' [Rook Farm] 'are an important resource. This is due to their size, interconnectedness, management, proximity to coast and relatively low disturbance.'

'Further development of these sites will reduce the size of this network as well as potentially affect the value of neighbouring sites.'

H46b is another large field of winter wheat. Though the site is less close to the sea and almost surrounded by development it does possess a good site suitability for foraging and roosting due to its size, open nature, arable management and minimal disturbance. Brent geese were spotted here in the 2012-13 season.

The aim of the survey was to reduce the level of uncertainty regarding the value of the Solent Strategy sites in the three main areas. This survey has achieved this, but it should be noted that the conclusions drawn in this report are not scientifically conclusive. The amount of survey time allotted to each Solent Strategy site is arguably too low to provide ample evidence to properly assess their value to the target birds. At best, the methodology meant a site was visited fifteen times over three years for five to fifteen minutes each time. This is not enough to provisionally rule the majority of the sites out of the Solent Strategy.

These sites are adjacent to each other and in the same ownership. The Council acknowledges that it had earlier supported the allocation of UE35, but justifies its omission from the Plan on the grounds it would lead to the delivery of too much housing on Hayling Island as well as their classification as being "uncertain" for Brent Geese and waders through Policy DM23. Would need to be addressed through further study and potentially through mitigation in any future plans for development.'

The above are all sourced from HBC commission reports, Havant Borough Council - An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities

and Local Government Report, 7th July 2014 clause 74 & 75 and the survey already acknowledged.

We still believe, that Hayling Borough Council's previous decision to remove this site from its Local Plan was the correct one. Indeed, we believe that with the development on field land on Hayling Island already completed or in present construction, further areas of potential resting and foraging have been/are being removed as we are writing. Therefore this site has become an even more important resource for these internationally protected and valued birds.

We note that the Southsea Solent wheel in Portsmouth has been removed owing to interference with these birds and Pompey v Farlington Playing Fields with plans for a new football stadium were scuppered on environmental grounds due to the Brent Geese. Portsmouth City Council take their environmental responsibilities serious.

Please Havant do the same and support the habitats of these magnificent creatures, keep our Island a place for Wildlife to thrive. We all owe it to Nature, look after it or lose it. This Island would be a very sad place without its wildlife and green spaces.

Mrs Claudia Barratt

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