

Good afternoon,

I have been unable to locate on your website where to object to the above, Rook Farm Hayling Island, development application and was informed by your reception that all inquiries re planning must be emailed to this address. I also appreciate that you will still take note of any letters commenting on undecided Applications. Please add my comments to your files on APP/21/01434 for Rook Farm.

I understand that a decision has not yet been reached by the Council so I would like to add my objection here.

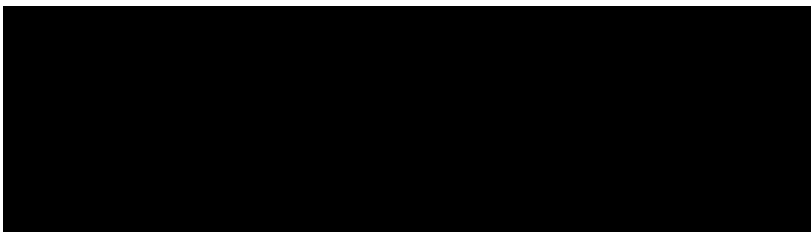
The site at Rook Farm has decades of Brent Goose sightings and feedings, as many as 300 in recent years despite minimal if any winter feed being sown. The Council's own 2025 Habitat Regulations publication references Brent Geese in 3.29 of its Qualifying Features for European Habitat and Species importance in our region's Langstone & Chichester RAMSAR sites. These migratory birds require over-wintering land feeding and Hayling Island's Rook Farm is one of the few such remaining sites. Havant's HRA Section 4 continues to explain the negative impact of all associated building and development on such RAMSAR species as the Brent Goose. Coastal Squeeze is widely recognised by our region's Coastal Partners engineers as damaging irreplaceable natural habitat and Hayling continues to suffer unmistakable and significant land loss as a direct result of Climate Change's rising sea levels. Therefore Rook Farm's geographic location less than a mile from our eroding south coast, makes its role as a primary over-wintering Brent Geese site crucial. For example of another primary site now developed, Sinah's fields, once a Brent Geese site, are now completely built over and the Geese's allocated 'mitigated' site which is only a short distance away, is certainly not proving to be to any extent an effective 'mitigation' site. If Rook Farm's wildlife habitat is allowed to be built on, how long will it be before the 'mitigation' site replacing its overwintering feeding role is declared developer ready? Not only Hayling will lose its wildlife but inevitably with continuing coastal squeeze, our wider region must surely lose any credibility as habitat rich, supporting migratory birds.

Ironically Rook Farm's site as under a mile from our unprotected south coast, makes it highly unsuitable for the proposed housing development. It is frankly ludicrous to imagine that the new housing can comply with the NPPF's 100 year or even an 80 year life-span. Whoever thinks that has clearly not understood the scientific studies proving Climate Change rising sea levels and increasingly disturbed, violent weather patterns.

Portsmouth and Southsea's hugely expensive sea defences are not built on a whim. What is expected to happen there cannot fail to happen on Hayling and there is no money for any matching sea walls to protect our existing homes and what infrastructure we are already watching deteriorate. Is it fair to charge families to plan their future on a site that could, within their lifetimes, be routinely cut off by weather and ever more severe flooding? This is fundamentally dishonest. Is this the best that can be done for those seeking long-term financial and home security? Who will tell them that they may one day no longer enjoy, for one example, normal property insurance as the sea rises let alone forecast loss of road access to the mainland work, study and health care? Loss of home insurance owing to even one flooding incident is already happening to hitherto 'safe' homes on Hayling.

This is a short term developer's money-making scheme that will not benefit future residents. As those of us living here have attested: the island's roads, vanishing coastline and already over-pressed infrastructure are completely inappropriate for more housing developments on this Application's scale. Please refuse this Application.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.