

BRENT GEESE SURVEY, PAGHAM ROAD, JULY 2017.

I undertook this survey in conjunction with PAGAM and the Sussex Ornithological Society following concerns that the Wildlife Report prepared by Ecology Solutions for Hanbury Properties had not identified Brent Geese using the fields that were the subject of planning application P/140/16/OUT.

The survey was to include all those properties in Pagham Road that overlooked the fields subject to the above planning application. This included all those properties between Sea Lane and Church Way, Pagham. A total of 58 properties. I only interviewed residents who had lived in Pagham Road for more than 3 years. This excluded 4 properties. 2 other residents declined to be interviewed, 2 properties were unoccupied and 18 householders were not in despite my calling 3 times. This meant I interviewed residents at 32 properties during the period 22nd July to 29th July.

Residents were asked 6 questions.

1. Address
 2. How long they had lived there.
 3. Had they seen Brent Geese – annually, regularly, occasionally, never.
 4. Had they seen Brent Geese in 1000's, 100's or less.
 5. What other wildlife had they seen on the fields.
 6. Any other comments.
-
2. Length of residence ranged from 47 years to 5 years. The average was 21 years.
 3. 31 houses had seen Brent Geese annually. 97%
 4. 27 houses had seen flocks of Brent Geese in excess of 1000. 84%.

Whilst walking Pagham Road I encountered 6 local dog walking villagers all of whom reported seeing Brent Geese on the fields on an annual basis.

5. Other wildlife recorded was as follows. The figure in brackets indicates the number of houses reporting.
 - Mammals – Bats (21), fox (12), and Deer (5).
 - Birds – Gulls (14), Lapwing (6), Skylark (5), Mute Swan (3), Curlew (2), Grey Heron (2), Pheasant (1), Partridge (1) and Birds (2).
 - Other – Slow Worms (2).
6. Any other comments:

Many residents had considerable concerns about the possible impact of 400 proposed homes on the village infrastructure. I only recorded comments relevant to a wildlife survey. Many residents felt an affection towards the geese and looked forward to their return each year. The geese were seen as a local attraction. Several residents had noticed that numbers were down during the months of January – March 2017. A number thought that this was due to the increased usage of bird scaring devices. Residents regretted that the approval of this planning application would mean the loss of valuable agricultural land and the loss of a habitat clearly favoured by Brent Geese.

JDW/PAGROAD/SURVEY/july 2017