



Pagham Ponies
horse and pony sanctuary



Nigel Mundy

LETTER SENT TO RSPB On the 8th October, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I understand from various sources that your association has decided that the development on the Pagham Road P/140/16/OUT would not have a detrimental impact on the environment in that area, therefore you do not object to the planning application.

Well I beg to differ and would ask you to reconsider your decision. I know surveys have been carried out, I know because I have been in attendance on the Church Barton House land for 10+ years, every day and mostly all day. I have to because I tend to the rescued ponies that reside there. I've met the surveyors who attended the site last summer and I have to say that I felt at the time their efficiency left much to be desired. They would only turn up once or twice a month and stay no more than an hour usually. I often spoke to them on the various species I had seen over the years, but mostly they showed little interest.

In the times they attended they could not have possibly seen just how diverse and full the wildlife is in this area. Kestrels nest every year in the well-established trees. I watch them produce their young usually 3, and then they teach them to hunt over the fields. It is amazing, every year.

There is a pair of little Owls nesting here. I see them taking rodents back to the trees for their young, but not sure what tree, only that it is on this site.

There is an abundance of Green Woodpeckers here most days on the grass feeding and just this year a pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers have appeared and spend hours up by the stables pecking away at the electric pole because it's cracked and houses lots of bugs.

The Buzzards returned this year too and are often circling the fields and being harassed by the Crows and Magpies (which incidentally love been riding on the horses back, sometimes 3 at a time)

There are Shell Ducks that turn up every year and I am sure they nest on the field boundaries in the long grass, as do Pheasants and Partridges.

Hordes of Finches come here to feed in the well-established hawthorn hedge which is rife with brambles. All types come, Gold Finches, Bull Finches, Chaffinches, Green Finches, Yellow Hammers. Not in ones or twos, "dozens" at a time.

The Swallows, Swifts and Martins can be seen ^{ss} ~~passing~~ ^{soaring} over the fields in their hundreds, catching the gnats and midges they feed on. All amazing sights, which will diminish greatly if all this development goes ahead. At the moment the Pagham Road and the field is a reasonable barrier against predators, even though some cats do find their way over to Church Barton house.

If they develop that field, it will bring in new predators much closer to the nature reserve with no barrier of the road to hamper them, the bird life will all suffer and that would be a catastrophe. This place is as nature would have intended and shouldn't be threatened like this. You are the approved body for the protection of Birds and wildlife, so you really need to let your voice be heard loud and clear against damaging this environment, otherwise what next? The nature reserve itself?

I would appreciate a reply on how you plan to protect the wildlife I've mentioned in this letter, if you are to go ahead with your support for the development, but more favorably I would like you to reconsider and object to the development proposals with a view to protect this area with all the wildlife it supports and the surrounding nature reserve.

Yours Faithfully

Nigel Mundy