

DESIGN STATEMENT FOR RE-BUILD AND RELOCATION OF 1 WINDMILL COTTAGES

My name is Remony Moser and I am the owner of the 200 acre Windmill farm adjacent to my requested building plot. In 1988 I bought the farm and reverted it to chalk grassland from previously being arable. I went to Sparsholt Agricultural College and trained as a shepherd. For 10 years I ran a breeding flock of 350 ewes grazing the pasture. My neighbour continues the grazing enterprise.

I was one of the first farmers in NE Hants to join the government Stewardship scheme in 1989. After 10 years I renewed in 1999. Then in 2009 I gained the Higher level status. This scheme requires a high standard of environmental husbandry. No artificial fertiliser is allowed, or any spray. The grass mix is an indigenous chalk grass mix in keeping with the South Downs, with no rye grass. The fertility is reduced to encourage wild flowers. We now have a wealth of flowers including cowslips, harebells, bird's-foot trefoil and orchid to name just a few. I have seeded fields and also grazed carefully using extensive grazing methods to increase wildflowers.

My environmental scheme also requires me to plant hedges. I have planted 5 new hedges and I am in the process of planting another with agreement from the Woodland Trust. I have planted a new wood with hardwoods, and am planting another copse with approval of the Woodland Trust again. I maintain an ancient bluebell wood.

I also belong to the Selborne Landscape Partnership. This was established 5 years ago, It is comprised of a group of local farmers. Its aim is to enrich habitats and record resulting increases in species especially those with endangered numbers e.g. Lapwings owls and woodlarks, the brown hare streak (lays eggs on blackthorn) and the Duke of Burgundy butterfly, the latter being dependant on cowslips. I have just finished a survey of ponds in this group with the aim of recording numbers for managing and restoration.

I have planted 3 wild bird feeding strips on Windmill farm and I supplement feed with seed mix throughout the year. I have regular bird surveys over the farm and am delighted with the increase in numbers and varieties. I have also erected owl, kite and bat nesting boxes over the farm, and have evidence that they are being used.

I am also a qualified teacher, and have an educational access role with my Higher level government status. I purchased Field farm barn in 2004. I renovated this beautiful barn with the help of a 30% re-instatement grant from Natural England. I gained planning permission for a Rural Studies Centre in 2008. The barn is used in conjunction with the farm for educational countryside visits. Groups also enjoy bush craft and camping activities in the wood. I have had visits from diverse schools, disabled groups and youth offenders, also many adult groups. Lambing time is very popular! I hope it will continue after lockdown.

The Liss Archaeological Group come twice a year for a total of 6 weeks to excavate a substantial Roman settlement. This is visited by many people including enthusiasts from abroad. They reserve Fridays for me to take school groups to the site to participate in many enjoyable group activities.

The South of England sheepdog trials have been held on Windmill Farm twice a year for the last 30 years. Hedge laying competitions are also held regularly.

I purchased the land at the back of 1 Windmill Cottage in January. (See map). This land has lain unused since 1970's. I would like to bring it into the above legacy of Windmill Farm. I propose establishing a new pond to replace the ghost pond nearby (see Map), the area around the new pond would have generous buffer strips for wildlife. There would also be provision for birdlife in the choice of indigenous shrubs, local wild hedgerow and trees. Wildflower planting would also increase insects and butterflies. From my design statement I hope it can be seen that over the years I have amassed a wealth of experience and knowledge to embark on this project. I also have a range of knowledgeable contacts for advice and labour.

I currently live in a house in Colemore. I need to future proof my living needs. A replacement one storey smaller home on this site is being requested, overlooking my beautiful farm surrounded by an environmentally rich agricultural area.