

National Park Authority

Robert Pearcy

6th April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing a letter of support regarding Sarah Simmons planning application. I write this to you in my capacity as a professional registered farrier & have worked on numerous occasions with Sarah, whilst training young horses to be shod & trimmed.

Sarah has invaluable experience of training horses gained whilst working in America & attending numerous courses.


In our modern age of fast 'instant fix' life, it is apparent that the skills of quiet patient horsemanship have all but vanished, Sarah skills are an invaluable commodity which need sharing.

A result of this lack of knowledge with training young horses (which is so apparent these days) the job of the equine professional has become increasingly dangerous & is a source of great concern for governing bodies of farriers, equine vets, dentists, physiotherapists. From a personal perspective, an injury to my lower back which I sustained whilst trimming an unruly (& ill prepared) young horse, means that I have had to significantly reduce my workload of shoeing horses & have diversified my business to accommodate this.

I am also a New Forest commoner & turn out mares & breeding stallions on the Forest. There appears to be a thriving market for forest bred foals & a new online auction has opened up this market to the whole country; prices & demand for ponies at the last two sales were the highest ever. The single biggest 'threat' to the sales of such youngstock is inappropriate handling – unfortunately the horsemanship skills to 'gentle' an unhandled young pony now seem to be fairly non-existent. This not only has a negative impact on the young ponies mental well being, but it also put off potential buyers at the Sales.

I believe this will be an exciting opportunity to help alleviate this situation by allowing Sarah to have a small training yard where she can pass on the unique horsemanship skills of patience, trust & understanding to help horses & humans alike. This will be an invaluable asset to our New Forest Equestrian community which revolves around our much loved & brilliant ponies, if they can be given the best start in life.

Yours sincerely


Robert Pearcy Dip WCF