
From: [REDACTED] (NE)
Sent: 24 October 2007 20:15
To: Rose, Beth B (NE)
Cc: Wilson, Sarah (NE East); Thomas, Shaun (NE)
Subject: Hen Harrier incident

Dear Beth

Thank you for getting back to me tonight. As promised, here is a short statement of the events as an update and as a recorded statement of events:

At 5pm, [REDACTED] went onto Dersingham Bog NNR with two members of the public to look for Hen Harriers coming into roost. They went up onto the escarpment overlooking the bog at TF675289. A volley of 10-12 shots were heard just before 1800h. At around 1800h, [REDACTED] saw a 'ring-tail' Hen Harrier approaching the flight pond off the reserve on the Royal Sandringham Estate from a NE direction at tree top height. He then heard a shot and saw the Harrier immediately fold and drop out of sight behind cover. Within seconds he saw a second bird appear to the SW heading NE at tree top height, heard another shot and the Harrier fold and drop immediately. There was a pause of approximately 30-40 seconds before another shot was heard. Shooting was then heard further to the SW. This volley continued for at least twenty minutes. The people shooting were out of sight, behind trees. Visibility was good and, despite being c500m away, the Harriers were easily recognisable through binoculars.

[REDACTED] rang me at 1802h in the office to say what had happened. I rang Shaun Thomas's mobile, but could not get an answer, so rang Sarah Wilson's mobile and left a message, before ringing the Operation Compass hotline number to Mark Thomas at the RSPB. Mark passed on the call to the WLO at Norfolk Constabulary. An officer then rang [REDACTED] and suggested that they would check it out in the morning. I rang Mark Thomas again to say that I was not satisfied with the course of action taken and he rang the WLO who had been in discussion with the Chief Inspector who had advised that he