



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd July 2024

Rt Hon John Healey MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Case ref: MiddlewickSkylarks

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Jenkin".

I am writing to you today regarding the mowing of Middlewick Ranges and the immediate threat to nesting skylarks that has been brought to my attention by constituents and local councillors. This appears to be a breach of the law.

As you are aware, the site has been put up for sale by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and recently the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) who manages the site has been reported for mowing over areas where skylarks are nesting. If this is true, this would be a breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, that protects all wild birds during nesting season.

I would be most grateful if you would urgently investigate the situation, including whether the MOD has undertaken surveying to identifying potential nesting sites. I ask that further actions disturbing the area cease immediately until all necessary surveys have been completed and considered.

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