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**To whom it may concern**

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: **Quinta da São Pedro, Sobreira, Lisbon, Portugal**

I and my colleagues have been running a 2nd-yr undergraduate field course at the Quinta da São Pedro for the last 26 years. It is a wonderful place, now a 3-ha island of green vegetation in the midst of a suburban landscape. It is especially wonderful in spring and autumn when the flowers are out.

It has always been an ideal place to take our undergraduates, offering beautiful surroundings and very comfortable and civilised accommodation. Sometimes we obtained financial support to match our students with Egyptian undergraduates often to give both their first taste of field research and of Europe - this was a great highlight of my time there, among many special memories. The walled area of the Quinta is very safe and very rich in biodiversity, giving us plenty of raw material with which to introduce and guide students in designing and implementing their own projects. The results are contained in a series of bound volumes held at the Quinta, one per year, that document every student project we have carried out. The variety of the project work speaks eloquently of the possibilities for field biology there.

The success of our courses at the Quinta has in large measure been down to the exceptional logistical support offered by its staff, first Armin Pircher and now Benjamin Richter and his wife Insa. This support allows us to concentrate on the science and the teaching, and is one of the many reasons we have never taken the course elsewhere. I cannot recommend it highly enough.

With very best wishes



Dr Francis Gilbert  
Professor of Ecology