

## **WSCC TREE OFFICER response to planning consultation**

**Application reference number:** WSCC/040/17/BA

**Location:** Lower Stumble Hydrocarbon Exploration Site, London Road, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6JH

**Proposal:** Temporary permission for exploration and appraisal comprising the flow testing and monitoring of the existing hydrocarbon lateral borehole along with site security fencing, the provision of an enclosed testing flare and site restoration.

**District:** Mid Sussex District Council

**Grid ref:** 531022 129238

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Summary response:** No objection

**Response:** The site boundary indicated on the proposed site plan accords with the existing site boundary so there is no increase in the site footprint. The surrounding trees, scrub, woodland are therefore not directly affected.

The proposed site plan shows the enclosed flare location to be very close to the south east corner of the hardstanding area. Whilst it is likely to be in operation for only 7 days, would enough heat be generated by the flare to cause scorch to nearby trees or, in reality, would the flare be sufficiently distant from the boundary?

The access track has historic use for large forestry vehicles so HGVs would be of a similar size but given the vehicle movements are likely to be abnormal loads is any facilitation pruning anticipated for trees either side of the track or does the site access itself require any widening and therefore tree removal?

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