

13/11/2017

WSCC Ecological Response to...

Application Number: WSCC/040/17/BA

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

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

Grid Ref: 531022 129238

There is no ecological objection to the proposed development subject to the imposition of a suitable worded condition.

Ecological surveys and assessment have been completed. In the absence of mitigation indirect impacts on bats arising from lighting would be expected. Mitigation to limit the impact of light on has been proposed but no details have been submitted. The lack of detail has been acknowledged by the applicant with a request to condition the item. Subject to a condition controlling lighting arrangements there is no reasonable expectation of harm occurring on designated sites or protected species either adjacent to the site or within the wider area.

Ideally, a lighting designer and ecologist should review the plans and produce a light spill diagram (external isoline contours for artificial lighting) detailing how the lights will be configured to reduce light spill outside the site down to below 3 lux. The properties of the light source also need to be controlled and a luminaire schedule produced. The following information (and attachment) may assist

Technological specifications

- Use narrow spectrum light sources to lower the range of species affected by lighting.
- Use light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light (e.g. AVOID metal halide or mercury light sources) or reduce/completely remove the UV content of the light.
- Lights should peak higher than 550 nm
- Avoid white and blue wavelengths of the light spectrum, to reduce insect attraction and where white light sources are required in order to manage the blue short wave length content they should be of a warm / neutral colour temperature <4,200 kelvin.

High negative impact light sources:

- Broad spectrum lights (particularly blue-white light) with high UV
- Metal halide and mercury
- Uplights - which light above the horizontal plane, illuminating trees and foraging habitat

Medium negative impact light sources:

- Broad spectrum lights with low/no UV
- White LED, high pressure sodium

Low negative impact light sources:

- Narrow Spectrum Lights with no UV content
- Low pressure sodium and warm white LED
- Directional downlights - illuminating below the horizontal plane which avoid light trespass into the environment

Recommended condition

Prior to the commencement of development or any preparatory works a lighting strategy shall be designed and assessed by a suitably qualified ecological consultant to ensure that the movement of bats is not affected and that external light-spill is kept below 3lux; the bat sensitive lighting plans, that will include external isoline contours and supporting ecological statement, will be submitted to the LPA for approval. All approved details shall then be implemented in full.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF (118).

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