

12/02/2014

WSCC Ecological Response to...

APPLICATION No.: WSCC/005/14/BA

PROPOSAL: Temporary permission for the 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.

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

GRID REF: 531010 / 129238

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

Lighting

Following observations and recommendations made within the ecological report, general best practice and assurances within the planning statement I recommend that a condition is imposed to strictly control lighting upon the development in the event that the LPA is minded to approve.

Recommended Conditions

Lighting

Prior to development or any preparatory works the lighting strategy shall be assessed by a suitably qualified ecological consultant and the details submitted to the LPA for approval. All approved details shall then be implemented in full. Within 7 days of the installation the site's lighting regime, the site and immediate environs will be re-assessed by a suitably qualified ecological consultant. Measurements using a light meter will be taken of the surrounding vegetation at night. Should light spill onto nearby vegetation be above 1 lux, immediate remedial action will be taken. A report detailing the re-assessment and any remedial action taken shall be submitted to the LPA for approval and will include appropriate images of the site, light meter readings proving that light spill onto adjacent vegetation is less than 1 lux.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF (118).

Bat monitoring

Within 12 months of the start of operation and during the appropriate active season (May to August) bat activity will be assessed again by a suitably licenced ecologist and following recognised best practice. A report shall be produced and submitted to the LPA for approval.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF (118).

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