



**To: PLANNING DEPARTMENT
FAO Nicola Mason**

Date 02 November 2012

**From: Lee Money
PUBLIC HEALTH & LICENSING**

Your Ref: DC/12/1763

**Land North West of Homefield Farm Broadford Bridge Billingshurst West Sussex
The siting and development of a temporary borehole, well site compound and access road
including all ancillary infrastructure and equipment for the exploration, testing and evaluation of
hydrocarbons in the willow prospect**

Thank you for your consultation memo in respect of this application.

It is considered the application does not contain sufficient information in respect of noise to allow the application to be properly determined.

Specifically no ambient baseline noise monitoring has been undertaken. Therefore the significance of the noise impacts arising from the development have not been properly assessed. Reliance on the characterisation exercise presented in the informative Annex E to BS5228:2009 does not provide sufficient protection in situations where prevailing ambient noise levels are very low. Monitoring excises undertaken by this authority have shown that in rural parts of the district not influenced by road noise daytime L_{Aeq} 's can be as low as 30 dB. The predicted Phase 1 impacts at Homefield Farm are anticipated to be 49dB L_{Aeq} and could therefore be more than 10dB above the prevailing ambient noise levels and therefore constitute a significant adverse noise impact.

Similarly the predicted Phase 2 impacts for night time operations take no account of the difference between the prevailing ambient night time noise level and predicted noise levels. Therefore the degree of impact has not been assessed. It should be noted that the L_{Aeq} values used represent an averaged value and this can mask the impact of individual noise events which will be much louder. Accordingly the assessment of noise impacts at night should also consider peak noise events as these are equally deleterious to sleep.

The applicant should submit detailed proposals of barriers and other mitigation measures designed to reduce the anticipated noise impacts arising from the development.

Lee Money
Environmental Health Officer