



**Sussex Police**  
Serving Sussex

[www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

## Local Policing Branch

Your Ref: WSCC/071/19

Our Ref: NW/WSX/17/07B

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Contact Name: Neville Wren

Tel: 101 ext: 540112

Direct Dial No: 01273 404868

Dear Mr Bartlett

**Re: Lower Stumble Exploration Site off London Road Balcombe RH17 6JH**

Thank you for your correspondence of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019, advising me of a Planning Application to 'Remove drilling fluids and carry out an extended well test. This proposal is a two-stage activity: 1) Pumping out previously used drilling fluids to ascertain any oil flow (up to 4 weeks), 2) Should oil be seen to flow, an extended well test would be carried out over a period of 3 years' at the above location, for which you seek advice from a crime prevention viewpoint.

I have had the opportunity to examine the detail within the application and in an attempt to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime I offer the following comments.

The National Planning Policy Framework demonstrates the government's commitment to creating safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion, and with the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Haywards Heath and Balcombe areas being below average when compared with the rest of Sussex, I have no major concerns with the proposals, however, additional measures to mitigate against any identified local crime trends should be considered.

I refer the applicant to our previous letter NW/WSX/17/07B dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 regarding planning application WSCC/040/17BA to which all matters remain extant.

I reiterate comments from that letter, that the two main crime prevention measures that will benefit this installation are secure perimeter fencing with gates and lighting. In addition to the above two measures, due to the rural location it may be necessary for a monitored intruder alarm system to be fitted to indicate any intruders when the site is not occupied. In remote location such as this, the intruder system can also be linked to a CCTV system to provide a remote visual link to the site as well. I recommend that consideration is given to the lighting to ensure that should CCTV be installed the lighting is commensurate with it.

I note that the existing site perimeter fencing and gate is 2m high weldmesh. This height should also apply to the driveway entrance gate.

All security fencing should be checked to ensure it is sound, with no damaged areas that would give access to unauthorised persons and be fit for purpose before operations commence. This will assist in protecting staff, equipment vehicles and any potentially hazardous liquid tanks.

MC Bartlett  
Planning Officer  
County Planning  
West Sussex County Council



The timber vertical boarded gates at the driveway entrance from the B2036 must also be secure to prevent unauthorised vehicle access and closed after vehicle movements. The gates should be appropriately sign posted and with clear direction signage. The entrance gate may require lighting during the hours of darkness at the end of operations each evening to ensure the health and safety of users.

Entrance/driveway gates should be inward opening, of substantial framed construction and employ galvanized adjustable hinges and fixings mounted behind the attack face. Hinge systems must not allow the gate to be 'lifted off' and therefore should employ a method to restrict the removal of the gate from the adjoining fence post or wall. Gates should be fitted with galvanized drop bolts and facility for padlocking (manual gates) or electro-mechanical locking (automated gates) and employ mechanical/electro-mechanical devices as applicable to hold gate leaves in the open position.

The gate construction should have the same design and construction attributes as the fence. Where automated gates are supplied and installed these must meet with the EU Machinery Directive and be CE marked accordingly.

The tops of fences should finish flush with their posts. It is important to ensure that where stepped ground is present there are no gaps which enable access under the fence. Equally important is to ensure that all elements that make up the perimeter security are of the same design, height and construction so that no one single element will compromise the overall security of the perimeter security.

I note that the operation will consist of two phases. The first to remove remaining drilling fluids from the well bore, carried out over 4 weeks and the second, carried out over 3 years would continue if stage one produces oil, but will cease operation of no oil is forthcoming.

Vehicle movements on and off site will be between (07.30hrs and 18.30hrs Mondays to Fridays) and (08.00hrs to 13.00hrs Saturdays). Access gates should be closed and secured between vehicle movements to prevent unauthorised access.

The stage 1 and stage 2 operations to remove drilling fluids and ascertain oil flow and pumping will be undertaken over 24 hours every week day. It is estimated 10 staff will be on site.

Consideration should be given to security guards if required to man the gated entrance and direct vehicle movements in and out of the site during working hours.

Authorities must be notified of the date of commencement of site operations.


The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 heightens the importance of taking crime prevention into account when planning decisions are made. Section 17 of the Act places a clear duty on both police and local authorities to exercise their various functions with due regard to the likely effect on the prevention of crime and disorder. You are asked to accord due weight to the advice offered in this letter which would demonstrate your authority's commitment to work in partnership and comply with the spirit of The Crime & Disorder Act.

Yours sincerely



**Neville Wren**  
**Designing Out Crime Officer**  
**Sussex Police Headquarters**





**Sussex Police Headquarters**  
Malling House, Malling, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DZ

Telephone: 101 | 01273470101