

19/11/2019

WSCC Ecological Response to...

APPLICATION No.: WSCC/071/19

PROPOSAL: 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.

SITE: Lower Stumble Exploration Site, off London Road, Balcombe, RH17 6JH

There is no ecological objection to the proposed works subject to the imposition of suitably worded conditions.

Recommended Condition

Lighting Strategy

Development shall not begin until a Lighting Strategy, assessed by a suitably-qualified ecologist, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Minerals Planning Authority. The Lighting Strategy shall include continuous monitoring and recording of light levels throughout the site (including site boundaries) and:

- a) Re-assessment by suitably-qualified ecological consultant of the impact of the site's lighting regime on the surrounding vegetation at night within 7 days of its installation;
- b) Measures for immediate remedial action should the assessment carried out at (a) indicate that light spill exceeds 1 lux; and
- c) Within 14 days of the installation of site lighting, submission to the Minerals Planning Authority of a report detailing the impact of the lighting on the surrounding vegetation. The report shall detail lighting measurements (carried out in accordance with (a)), remediation undertaken and its impact, and the type and timescale of further remediation which may be required to ensure light spill onto adjacent vegetation is less than 1 lux.

The approved Lighting Strategy shall thereafter be implemented in full.

Reason: To protect the ecology of the area, particularly bats.

Bat Monitoring

In the event that the development is scheduled to occur between April and October, an appropriate monitoring plan should be devised to determine if the development is having adverse impacts on local bat populations, in accordance with condition 17 of planning approval WSCC/040/17 and S4.3.3 of the submitted bat survey plan to WSCC/071/19. If, through the results of these surveys, it is thought that there is an adverse effect to local bat populations arising as a result of the development, then it will be reported to the relevant site operators and the Minerals Planning Authority. Mitigation works would need to be implemented immediately to reduce these impacts where applicable.

Reason: To protect the ecology of the area, particularly bats.

<p>Don Baker MCIEEM Senior Ecologist, Strategic Planning, West Sussex County Council Location: 1st Floor Northleigh, Tower Street, PO19 1RH Internal: 56691 External: +44 (0) 1243-756691 E-mail: don.baker@westsussex.gov.uk</p>
--