Comment for planning application WSCC/045/20

Application number	WSCC/045/20
Name	P R Homer
Address	28 Southwater Rd, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN37 6JS
Type of Comment	Objection
Comments	The proposed development would represent major development in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, for which there are no exceptional circumstances, and which is not in the public interest. There are alternative sources of hydrocarbon supply, both indigenous and imported, to meet the national need, there would be minimal benefit to the local economy from the development, and there is scope for meeting the need in some other way, outside of nationally designated landscapes. It would therefore be contrary to Policies M7a and M13 of the West Sussex Joint Local Minerals Plan (2018) and paragraphs 170 and 172of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019). The Government's commitment to zero carbon by 2050 makes further fossil fuel exploration completely the wrong direction. On the 19th June 2020, Kwasi Kwarteng (Minister of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) observed that the government had 'moved on' and was looking to more sustainable forms of energy generation. Horse Hill in Surrey, another High Weald oil drilling site, has recently reported a decrease in oil flow after barely a year of production. Balcombe has very similar geology, and would probably have a similarly short useful life. This is not useful enough to UK fuel needs to justify a major industrial development in an Area of Outstanding Beauty. In addition, I have concerns about the complicated hydrology around the drill site, and the consequent dangers to the local water supply; the length of the operation (30 months - flow testing is usually for a maximum of 9 months); Angus's use of two different flares (one of which seems to inefficient, and potentially risky for air emissions); the use of acidisation with 15% hydrochloric acid (previous applications were for 10% HCI); the illusory benefits to the local community; the disregard of the movement to combat the effects of climate change; the negative industrialising effects of this development on a beautiful landscape. This landscape is for everyone, for
Received	09/09/2020 10:08:21
Attachments	