

**From:** [Marie Holmstrom](#)  
**To:** [PL Planning Applications](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to planning application  
**Date:** 23 September 2020 19:06:14

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in objection to following planning application:

Application Number: WSCC/045/20

Proposal: Remove drilling fluids and carry out an extended well test

Location: Lower Stumble Exploration Site, off London Road, Balcombe, Haywards Heath RH17 6JH

Applicant: Angus Energy Weald Basin No.3 Ltd

Reasons for objection are as outlined below.

The site is located in Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with ancient woodland with rich and diverse but fragile ecosystems. Drilling and exploiting this area will do harmful damage to wildlife, plants and the environment. The application declares that adjacent trees and plants might be damaged. The site will also aesthetically ruin the beautiful countryside there, not just for wildlife, but for locals and people coming to enjoy walks around there.

This type of exploitative drilling has already been heavily protested against by wildlife organisations and the public, and we will continue to do so. For example, The Sussex Wildlife Trust claimed that insufficient consultation and surveys were carried out before oil drilling started at Balcombe in 2013. The charity states the ancient woodland surrounding the site in West Sussex could be home to a number of species of woodland birds, bats and dormice, and their habitat is potentially being disrupted while exploration takes place. In particular nocturnal species are at risk due to noise and light pollution at night.

The drilling will mean heavy machinery and vehicles driving to and from the site, contributing to further air and noise pollution, and putting more pressure on the roads around the area.

The drilling will produce foul sewage, that may contaminate the ground water and nearby flowing water. The site is in close proximity to waterways connected to River Ouse and Ardingly Reservoir, which would become contaminated, as well as ground water. River Ouse and Ardingly Reservoir have extraordinary ecosystems and a very rich wildlife, that could become damaged.

Drilling of this type always carry seismic risks.

This type of short-sighted damaging exploitation for gas and oil needs to be abolished in favour of more sustainable energy alternatives such as solar/wind/water in order to help deal with our climate emergency, as announced by our government.

I would be grateful if you acknowledge receipt of this planning objection.

Kind regards,  
Marie Holmström