

**From:** [Antony Penrose](#)  
**To:** [PL Planning Applications](#)  
**Subject:** Application number: WSCC/045/20  
**Date:** 28 September 2020 17:29:28  
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Application number: WSCC/045/20

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

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

This proposed development, like the previous application, is 'not in the public interest' and 'not appropriate to the area', in the words of the WSCC planners following Angus Energy's last attempt to secure planning permission for Balcombe. Balcombe remains in an AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY. At a time in England when the devastation of CLIMATE CHANGE is queuing behind the crisis of Covid19, another oil well is simply wrong. Renewables are ever cheaper. Getting rid of fossil fuels is urgent, a national obligation. This oil site has no place in modern England.

Angus Energy operating this site in Balcombe for one year would establish an INDUSTRIAL PRESENCE here and make it difficult for the council to refuse later stages of development at the site. The presence of the Conoco well (abandoned in the 80s) is irrelevant in his respect. The site has been used in the interim for forestry purposes.

A frequently overlooked danger of fracking is the pollution caused to aquifers. The injected chemicals, many of them toxic will inevitably infiltrate the underground watercourse. It appears no reliable survey has been made of the aquifers in this region and the only reference to them has been the entirely spurious claim by Angus that they run only 6 to 10 metres below the surface. Hydrologist claim this is wrong and they run much deeper to hundreds of meters. There is also the danger of the chemical leaking from the borehole closer to the surface. Any contaminant that enters the aquifer will never ever be able to be removed.

We the public do not want it. Balcombe village has voted three time to reject this development. IT IS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL PEOPLE or of the people of England.

**Grounds for objections:**

Not appropriate for an area of outstanding natural beauty  
Not in the public interest  
Risk to groundwater  
Risk to Ardingly reservoir which is nearby  
First step to industrialisation of the Weald  
Stimulation by acid means acid fracturing  
14 metre flare is an air pollution risk to local people

HGV traffic on a B road past the village school

Antony Penrose

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