

15/01/2021

WSCC Ecological Response to...

APPLICATION No.: WSCC/045/20

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

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.

An HRA screening by WSCC has been completed concluding:

There will be no direct or indirect impacts on the SAC/SPA or on the qualifying features during operation. Therefore, specific mitigation or compensation within the proposed site is not required to protect the SAC/SPA.

There are no habitats present within or close to the works footprint which could support qualifying features of the SAC/SPA. As none of the habitats or species listed as primary qualifying features will be affected by the proposals and general construction measures have been, and will continue to be, implemented to prevent pollution and general ecological impacts, it has been assessed that the project will not result in any likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 site.

The proposals for this site will not result in any likely significant effects on the Natura 2000 site. In addition, no cumulative effects are anticipated.

Recommended Conditions

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/045/20. 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.

Don Baker MCIEEM

Team Manager, Environment & Heritage, Planning Services

West Sussex County Council, Ground Floor, Northleigh, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ

Phone: 033 022 26439

Email: don.baker@westsussex.gov.uk | Web: www.westsussex.gov.uk