

Comment for planning application WSCC/046/23

Application number

Name

Address

Type of Comment

Comments
Geological research, including findings by Dr Robert Westaway and David Smythe, highlights the significant earthquake risk due to the Weald's heavily faulted nature. This risk is exacerbated by drilling activities, as evidenced by the Newdigate swarm of earthquakes linked to UKOG's operations at Horse Hill.

WSCC's climate change strategy aims for net zero by 2030. Approving this extension contradicts this commitment, particularly in light of the adverse effects of methane emissions and other environmental impacts from hydrocarbon extraction.

The local community has already experienced increased noise, light pollution, and traffic disruptions due to UKOG's activities. The dramatic rise in HGV traffic has caused significant wear and tear on local roads, negatively impacting residents' quality of life.

Moreover, UKOG's suggestion of converting the site for geothermal energy exploration lacks relevance to their current licence and feasibility, given the high costs and potential for triggering earthquakes in an already fault-prone region.

In addition to the aforementioned concerns, I must also highlight the broader ecological implications of this project. The Weald, a region celebrated for its rich biodiversity and natural beauty, is already facing the pressures of ecological decline, as reported by WWF UK and other environmental bodies. The industrialization and environmental disruption that would result from extending the Broadford Bridge site pose a significant threat to local ecosystems. This includes potential habitat destruction, pollution, and disturbance to wildlife. The UK's natural heritage is in a state of vulnerability, and it is imperative that we take immediate action to preserve and protect it for future generations. The proposed activities at Broadford Bridge run counter to these objectives, threatening to exacerbate the ongoing decline of UK ecology.

In conclusion, the continuous cycle of extensions and non-compliance with restoration obligations is unacceptable. The Broadford Bridge site must be restored to its natural state as originally agreed. I urge the WSCC Planning Committee to deny UKOG's application and enforce the immediate restoration of the site.

As members of the West Sussex County Council Planning Committee, you hold a pivotal role in setting

a precedent for the future of The Weald. Your decisions have the power to either preserve the natural beauty and ecological integrity of this cherished region for generations to come or to set it on a path of irreversible degradation. This is a momentous responsibility, and I urge you to consider the long-term implications of your decision on the Broadford Bridge extension. By denying this extension, you have the opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and the health and well-being of local communities. Your choice will resonate far beyond the immediate vicinity, sending a clear message about the value we place on our natural heritage and our resolve to protect it against short-term commercial interests.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Warm regards, Stacey Cohen

Received

22/01/2024 22:53:44

Attachments