

WSCC TREE OFFICER response to planning consultation

Application reference number: WSCC/083/13/KD

Location: land south of Boxal Bridge, Northup Field, Wisborough Green, West Sussex RH14 0DD

Proposal: The installation of a well and associated infrastructure, including access road and soil bunds, for the drilling of a vertical borehole and contingent horizontal borehole from the same well for the exploration, testing and evaluation of hydrocarbons for a temporary period of three years.

District: Chichester District Council

Grid ref: 503706 126696

Date: 18th June 2014

Summary response: no objection subject to proviso conditions

Response:

- **Access to the site** Full ground protection in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 is required over the whole entrance; the extent of which is indicated in drawing number 3582 P 18. The ground protection should accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected. There should be no excavation or lowering of levels. The proposal includes extension / widening of the entrance almost 3m closer to T4 (Cat A1). Culvert construction is also indicated on this drawing which will involve excavation within the RPAs (root protection areas) of the retained trees. Details of the works and ground protection should be included in a **detailed** arboricultural method statement.
- **Site boundary** Why is this shown hard up against W7 & W6? (plan EDP 1) It could follow the security fence on the western side.
- **Site fencing** confirmation is needed that the fencing on the western side will be at least 15m from W7 & W6 and, in fact, is not intended to coincide with the site fencing as on the north, south and east sides. Is there a reason for this?
- **Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)** this should coincide with the indicated protective barrier (final position to be approved by the LPA) and should extend fully along the north of the site between the boundary fencing and W9. Is construction traffic confined to within the site boundary only?
- **Underground and above-ground utility apparatus** This and any inspection chambers must be sited well outside any RPAs. Above ground apparatus should be sited outside RPAs and avoid the need for detrimental tree pruning.
- **Hedgerow** along the Kirdford Road on the south side and west of the proposed entrance to be allowed to grow taller to provide some screening of the site.
- **New hedge and hedgerow tree planting** on the north-south field boundary to reduce the visual impact of the compound and provide

a long-term connection between the woodland areas in the north (around Boxal Bridge) and Noresuch Copse / River Kird to the south.

Recommended conditions should ensure tree protection in accordance with BS5837:2012 and a landscaping scheme to mitigate the impact of the compound and provide long-term benefit.

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