

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Environment & Heritage Archaeological Response to: -

County Planning (FAO Jane Moseley)

DATE: 13th June 2014

APPLICATION No.: 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

Further information received

RECOMMENDATIONS: No objection on archaeological grounds is raised to the proposals, subject to suitable archaeological safeguards, to be provided for through the use of a suitable archaeological condition.

Recommended planning condition (Archaeology)

No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successor in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of heritage asset mitigation works in accordance with a written Heritage Asset Mitigation Strategy and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that buried archaeological heritage assets will be properly investigated recorded before and during development and subsequently reported.

SUMMARY: The submitted further information (geophysical survey report, desktop geoarchaeological report, and archaeological mitigation measures proposed therein) provides sufficient information for informed archaeological comments on the proposals. .

No further information is required from the applicant in advance of determination of this application.

Some buried heritage assets (archaeological features and deposits) have been shown, from the submitted reports, to exist on the site. Their archaeological significance is estimated to be moderate.

The proposed mitigation measures (including exploratory excavation of trenches and test pits, hand auger sampling) are proportionate to the significance of the heritage assets, and are considered to be acceptable.

Provision for the carrying out of the proposed mitigation measures should be made through the use of a suitable planning condition.

COMMENTS: In response to West Sussex County Council's request for additional information (letter to Celtique Energy Weald Ltd of 3/12/2013), further information has been submitted in support of this planning application (geoarchaeological assessment and geophysical survey reports).

Sufficient archaeological information now exists to inform West Sussex County Council's archaeological response.

A small number of archaeological features have been identified from geophysical survey. Archaeological mitigation proposals for these, and for the impact of development on river terrace deposits on the site, have been proposed in the submitted reports (Geophysical survey report, 5.1, Geoarchaeological Desktop Survey report, under heading "Palaeo-environmental mitigation strategy").

The proposed mitigation measures (exploratory excavation of trenches and test pits, hand auger sampling) are proportionate to the moderate estimated significance of the buried archaeological deposits and features, and are considered to be acceptable.

Depending upon the findings of these investigations, further, targeted investigation and recording may be merited, before and during development.

It should be noted that the currently proposed archaeological mitigation measures described above, discussed before submission with West Sussex County Council, acceptably modify those referred to in the revised Planning Statement (Sustainability Appraisal, Section J, page 79).

Provision for the carrying out of the proposed mitigation measures should be made through the use of a suitable planning condition.

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