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**ACCOMPANYING PLANS**

<b>Plan 1215/2237/1D</b>	Location Plan	Scale 1:2,500
<b>Plan 1215/2237/21H</b>	Site Layout	Scale 1: 500
<b>Plan LOS 1</b>	Borehole Trajectories	As shown
<b>Plan LOS 2</b>	Cross Sections	As shown

**APPENDICES**

- Appendix A** Screening Request and Opinion
- Appendix B** Flood Risk Assessment
- Appendix C** Section 106 Agreement

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Lidsey wellsite is an established oil facility originally approved for exploratory boreholes in 1985. Since then, various permissions have been granted, the site currently benefiting from a planning permission for the production of oil to February 2018. It is operated by Angus Energy PLC who has interests in two further sites at Brockham, Surrey and Balcombe, West Sussex.

1.1.2 During the latter part of 2017 the company drilled a new production well which is shown as LX2 on the accompanying site plan ref: 1215/2237/21H. The first borehole is shown as L1 and was drilled in 1997.

1.1.3 The site has established oil reserves capable of being produced by both existing wells and an application is being submitted to retain the site, and production boreholes, in its present state for a further period of 10 years.

### 1.2 The Application

1.2.1 The On behalf of Angus Energy PLC (AEPLC) a planning application is being submitted for retention of the site infrastructure and two existing boreholes as developed under the provision of the present operating Permission BN/31/05 dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

1.1.2 It should be noted that the application relates to the extraction of hydrocarbons by conventional methods and does not involve the exploitation of shale gas through hydraulic fracturing (fracking)

### 1.3 The Applicant

1.3.1 The application is being submitted by Angus Energy PLC that is an independent onshore oil and gas company. Angus Energy PLC considers that the production from the Lidsey Oil Field enhances the British economy by reducing the need for

mineral imports. With North Sea production in considerable decline, the UK onshore hydrocarbon developments will become more important.

- 1.3.2 There are no adverse effects upon the localised or wider highways network, landscape and visual amenity, general site operations, environmental matters or ecological habitats and species that are present. Detailed evaluations of these matters form an integral part of this Planning Application.

#### **1.4 Pre-Application Discussions**

- 1.4.1 Discussions has taken place with the mineral planning officers of West Sussex County Council concerning the general nature of the planning submission. Further, a screening request was made in early December 2017 with the West Sussex County Council adopting the Opinion that the proposals do not represent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development. The screening opinion received from West Sussex County Council is shown at Appendix A and confirms that the planning application does not constitute EIA development.

#### **1.5 Need for the Development.**

- 1.5.1 A governmental Annual Energy Strategy 2014 advised and confirmed that the production of oil and gas and oil from the UK's own reserves has been in decline since 1999, and since 2004 the UK has been a net importer of energy. It is thus of some significance that onshore oil and gas development and production continues to play a vital role in supporting the UK energy needs for the future. The importance of the contribution to these energy needs is also highlighted in the Energy Strategy.

## **2. THE SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA**

### **2.1 Site Location and Description**

- 2.1.1 Lidsey Oil Site covers an area of some 1.6 hectares with an additional area beyond the site security fence with a 3 metre high (approximately) screen bund. The screen bund is located to the west of the fenced oil site with dense tree canopy to the north, south and east. The site is located within the Arun District of West Sussex and has been developed as an oil production site together with supporting oil tanks and processing plant, workshops, site generator and administration facilities.
- 2.1.2 The site lies approximately 0.6 km east of Lidsey, 1 km south west of Shripney and 1 km south of Woodgate. Land to the north, east and west is predominantly in agricultural use with an operational sewage treatment works adjacent and to the south of the site.
- 2.1.3 Footpath Number 200\_1 runs in a general east-west direction along the Southern Water access road leading to the site and Footpath Number 296\_1 runs in a southerly direction to Sack Lane from the access road and west of the site compound.
- 2.1.4 The closest residential properties are Lidsey Farm buildings just off Lidsey Road approximately 585 metres to the south-west and Woodgate caravan park approximately 500 metres north of the site.
- 2.1.5 Details of the land ownership and the application boundary are shown on Plan 12152237/21H which confirms all the land necessary for the proposed development is in the control of the applicant.
- 2.1.6 The Lidsey Oil Field is not located within an environmentally sensitive area; however, Angus Energy are fully appreciative that all aspects of the environment must be carefully considered when undertaking such development and that biodiversity of the West Sussex countryside is of great importance.

Environmental matters are considered later in this submission.

## **2.2 The Structure of the Planning Application**

2.2.1 This application is submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which, as the development relates to development approved for oil operations, require matters governing the proposals to be determined by the West Sussex County Council.

2.2.2 This Written Statement provides the key data relating to the scope and formulation of the proposals and the planning application is also accompanied by several plans which illustrate the site location, layout and the two existing wells.

## **2.3 Planning History**

2.3.1 The site was originally developed in 1985 with the original planning permission for the construction and drilling of the first well granted in 2006 (BN/31/05). The permission approved *“Development and operation of a three wellhead and beam pump oil production facility plus ancillary works at the Lidsey Oil Exploration Site at Lidsey, Near Bognor Regis at Lidsey Well Site, Lidsey Road, Aldingbourne, West Sussex.”*

2.3.2 During the development of the site various schemes have been submitted to cover a variety of conditional matters including perimeter site security fencing, support buildings, oil tanks, fire control, site landscaping, site lighting, archaeology, site drainage and site restoration. The Site Plan included within this application illustrates the site layout and all supporting infrastructure.

## **2.4 Geology and Hydrology**

2.4.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping confirms the Lidsey site to be underlain by thin Quaternary superficial raised beach deposits, overlying the main bedrock geology of the London Clay Formation. The Paleogene London Clay is composed of slightly calcareous, silty to very silty, clay and some silt, with

some layers of sandy clay. Borehole records from the site confirm an approximate thickness of some 40m of London Clay Formation underlying the well locations.

- 2.4.2 Owing to their limited permeability both the superficial deposits and the London Clay Formation are classified as unproductive strata by the Environment Agency, and accordingly the site does not lie within any groundwater Source Protection Zones. It should be noted that the deeper formations of interest to Angus Energy are not drink water aquifers.
- 2.4.3 The nearest notable surface water feature is an approximately 112m x 124m body of water 134m to the north of the site. 171m to the west of the site is a small river tributary which runs around the southern boundary, at approximately 190m.
- 2.4.4 No licensed groundwater abstractions are recorded within 1.85km of the site, and the nearest surface abstractions are approximately 160m to the west-south-west from the bordering tributary around the site.



### **3. THE DEVELOPMENT**

#### **3.1 Overview**

3.1.1 The proposed development involves retention of the existing two wellheads and boreholes to enable renewed production operations for the Lidsey 1 well and the recently drilled Lidsey X2 production borehole both as indicated on the accompanying site plan and within the confines of the site. All proposed surface operations will continue to be undertaken within the confines of the existing fully enclosed and fenced well site.

3.1.2 The site is provided with site administration facilities, storage containers for site equipment, electrical generator container, mess and wash rooms, toilet facilities and site security facilities. Permanent lighting units are already provided for essential safety purposes. The oil production facilities include four oil tanks, a water holding tank and a 3-phase separator for oil, water and gas.

3.1.3 The production process involves crude oil, water and gas flowed from the wellheads to a separator which directs fluids into the on-site storage tanks. Produced water is re-injected into the same reservoir or exported to an off-site treatment facility by licensed waste carrier. Treated crude oil is loaded onto road tankers and exported to approved oil storage facilities.

#### **3.2 Operational Issues**

##### **Site Security**

3.1.1 The site is secured by way of a 2.4 metre approximately steel palisade fence with two sets of site entrance gates at the front and rear of the site. These gates are securely locked when the site is not in use.

3.1.2 Site lighting is provided by four lighting units approximately 6 metres in height. The lights are angled to ensure that the light is directed into the site and incorporate CCTV cameras for site monitoring within the site and access points.

3.1.3 During normal site operations the site is managed by two staff to monitor day to day site operations.

### **3.2 Working Hours**

3.2.1 The present planning permission contains a condition which regulates working hours at the site. This advises that for normal site operations no work shall take place (except in an emergency) other than between the hours of 07.30 and 18.00 on weekdays and Saturdays. No working is permitted on Sundays or public holidays. The extended site management and maintenance operations will be undertaken within the same hours as above.

### **3.3 Traffic Movements**

3.3.1 The proposed development will involve HGV movements from the site to deliver oil products and receive fuel and essential site equipment however, the number of vehicle journeys will be no more than that originally suggested in the 2006 planning application. This application advised of 8 return journeys per week by road tankers carrying crude oil and 2 return journeys delivering diesel and chemicals. However, the number of vehicles delivering diesel and chemicals may only be 1 per week. There will also be occasional vehicles removing waste from the site as outlined below. All movements will be controlled and monitored during the ongoing production period. Given that the HGV's will adopt the approved HGV route to and from the site, which is linked to a Section 106 Agreement, it is considered that the continued site use is unlikely to have any significant impact on local traffic conditions or road safety. The Section 106 Agreement is shown at Appendix C.

3.3.2 During normal operations 2 staff will be on site, and with occasional visitors, it is anticipated that no more than 8 car/light vehicle movements (4 in and 4 out) per day.

**3.4 Period of Time for Development**

- 3.4.1 The period requested for the ongoing oil extraction and production operations will be approximately 10 years. This will enable recovery of the remaining oil reserves in Borehole L1 and the more recently drilled LX2.

**3.5 Site Restoration and Re-instatement**

- 3.5.1 Once the remaining oil reserves have been extracted from the site and should no further applications be made for additional production wells, all plant and equipment will be removed from the site together with the site buildings, containers, fire tank, oil tanks and other site infrastructure. Thereafter the site fencing will be dismantled and removed, all hardstanding and drainage channels removed, vegetation removed, and the stored soils replaced. The site will then be cultivated initially with a pioneer grass species and thereafter subject to a detailed 5-year aftercare scheme. This will ensure a return of the land to its original agricultural status.

## 4. PLANNING POLICY

### 4.1 The Development Framework

4.1.1 Under present planning legislation the West Sussex County Council has a duty to determine mineral planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.1.2 The Development Plan consists of The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the West Sussex Minerals Local Plan (saved policies) and the Arun District Local Plan.

### 4.2 The National Planning Policy Framework

4.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and came into force immediately with respect to plan and decision making. The NPPF Confirms that the Government seeks to encourage sustainable development.

4.2.2 The NPPF provides a presumption given in favour of development with sustainable credentials. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF states: *“At the heart of the planning system is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan making and decision taking.”*

4.2.3 The NPPF states at paragraph 142: *“Minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth and our quality of life. It is therefore important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings energy and goods that the country needs.”*

4.2.4 Paragraph 144 of the Framework comments upon the determination of planning applications and advises that local planning authorities should *“give great weight to the benefits of mineral extraction, including the economy”* and Paragraph 147 further advises *“when planning for oil and gas development,*

*including unconventional hydrocarbons, clearly distinguish between the three phases of development (exploration, appraisal and production) and address constraints on production and processing within areas that are licensed for oil and gas exploration of production”.*

- 4.2.5 The continued use of the facilities, as described within this application, are in support of an established oil production facility which has the benefit of a valid site planning consent for oil production, treatment and transportation to the February 2018.

### **4.3 The West Sussex Minerals Local Plan**

- 4.3.1 The West Sussex Minerals Local Plan was adopted in 2003 and sets out the strategy for mineral development within the County of West Sussex. In September 2007 confirmation was made that 55 of the original 64 policies would be saved until a new Minerals Local Plan had been confirmed and adopted. Policy’s 26 and 27 which previously related to oil and gas have been saved. Additional policies relate to the environmental control of mineral workings and these are considered in Section 5.

- 4.3.2 The proposed submission draft of the new West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in June 2017. A public examination of the Plan took place in September 2017 and it is anticipated that adoption will take place in May 2018.

- 4.3.3 Whilst the Plan has not yet been adopted it has been the subject of an examination and therefore may be considered to be an indication of West Sussex County Council’s views on future mineral planning within the County. It is therefore considered that a degree of weight may be given to the policy provisions as contained within the Plan during the current minerals application determination process of the County. Relevant policies are considered in this section and additionally in Section 5 which covers general environmental and planning considerations.

- 4.3.4 National policy relating to oil and gas exploration identifies the importance of onshore reserves especially in view of the decline being experienced in North Sea production. It seeks to encourage the full exploration and appraisal of hydrocarbons and to ensure the maximum economic exploitation of oil and gas reserves over time.
- 4.3.5 Policy 26 advises that *“applications for the exploration appraisal and commercial development of oil or gas resources will be permitted where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the mineral planning authority that proposal presents the best option comparison with other alternative sites within the area of search and that proposal is acceptable in relation to the surrounding area. Particular attention be given to (A) the impact on other countryside resources; (B) the site access and the meeting of heavy vehicles; (C) the means of protecting nearby residents and amenities from the effects of the operations; (D) the safeguarding of public rights of way; and (E) the safeguarding of water supplies and the water environment.”*
- 4.3.6 It is considered that the development will take place within an existing site, including a range of established proven mitigation measures, and following the completion of development the site will be restored to agriculture. Accordingly, the development is in accordance with the provisions of Policy 26.
- 4.3.7 The emerging West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan (Submission Draft) deals with hydrocarbon exploration, appraisal and production in Policy M7a. This policy states for production *“proposals for oil and gas production, not involve the hydraulic fracturing, including extensions to existing sites, will be permitted provided that: (i) they accord with provisions for exploration approval (outside South Downs National Park and High Weald AONB; (ii) site selected is the least sensitive, deliverable location, taking into account impact from on-site activities and off-site activities including HGV movements; (iii) any unacceptable impacts including (but not limited to) noise, dust, visual intrusion, transport, and lighting, on both the natural and built environment and the community, including air quality and water environment, can be minimised, and/or mitigated, to an*

*acceptable level; (iv) restoration and aftercare of the site to high-quality standard would take place in accordance with Policy M24 whether or not oil or gas is found; (v) no unacceptable impacts will arise from the on site storage or treatment of hazardous substances and/or contaminated fluids above or below ground).*

4.3.8 It is considered that the development will take place within an existing site, including a range of established proven mitigation measures, and following the completion of development the site will be restored to agriculture. Accordingly, the development is in accordance with the provisions of Policy M7a.

4.3.9 The proposed development is also subject to a range of environmental policies designed to ensure that oil and gas exploration, appraisal and production activities are undertaken in an approved manner and with due regard to the localised site environment. These are set out in Chapter 8 of the emerging West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan. It is considered that the proposed development can be undertaken in full compliance with the relevant policy provisions.

4.3.10 The commentary within the approved and emerging minerals plans advises that the county council will assist applicants by taking part in pre-application consultations. This process helps to identify the main issues which will need attention regarding the prospective planning application and further to ensure that the operators intentions are understood. The applicants have consulted with the minerals officers of the county council prior to submission of this application. As stated earlier in this submission a screening opinion was requested from the county council and this has confirmed that the development does not trigger the need for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

#### **4.4 The Arun District Local Plan**

4.4.1 The adopted Arun District Local Plan 2003 is the primary document is the primary document which relates to planning and development within the district. The Association with the district Local Plan the overall development plan

includes the adopted West Sussex Minerals Local Plan (July 2003) and the West Sussex waste local plan (April 2014).

- 4.4.2 Oil and gas development within the district is covered by the adopted West Sussex Minerals Local Plan and therefore consideration will be given to the policy provisions earlier in this section. General policies relating to environmental controls in relation to the Lidsey Oil Site are considered in Section 5.



## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION AND POLICY REVIEW

### 5.1 General

5.1.1 The site will continue to be regulated by the provisions of the site planning consent and environmental controls imposed by way of the Environment Agency site Environmental Permits. In general terms the key environmental considerations are as follows, and where policy provisions are relevant due consideration is given:

### 5.2 Highways Matters

5.2.1 Part six of the adopted minerals local plan advises on traffic generation in Policy 47 which states *“where planning applications for mineral development are considered, account will be taken of the numbers, type and routing of vehicles likely to be generated. Permission will be refused if a highway network is inadequate and any significant harm which would be caused by the inadequacy cannot be overcome. In addition, permission will refuse if, in attempting to overcome any highways inadequacy, the improvements themselves would cause significant harm to the environment.”* The site is accessed via the private road which serves the site, adjacent sewage treatment works and agricultural lands lying beyond the site. Under the provisions of the existing planning consent, and associate Section 106 Agreement, all traffic moving to and from the site must not use the last section of the road (approximately 160 metres) leading from the sewage works and Lidsey Oil Site to the nearby A29. It is considered that the provisions of Policy 47 have been met regarding the existing development and establishment of the Lidsey oil site. At this time the County Council are considering a by-pass for the A29 which would involve Eastergate, Westergate and Woodgate villages, a new junction on the A29 Lidsey Road north of Shripney and a junction with the existing A29 Fontwell Avenue north of Eastergate. As part of the development proposals a new site access to the Lidsey Oil Site and the adjacent sewage works of Southern Water would be provided.

5.2.2 Part six of the adopted Minerals Local Plan advises on access arrangements in Policy 48 which states *“access to minerals sites from the highway will be required to meet satisfactory standards and within sites satisfactory provision for vehicle turning, manoeuvring, loading and where appropriate wheel cleaning facilities will be required.”* It is considered that the provisions of Policy 48 have been met regarding the existing development and establishment of the Lidsey oil site.

5.2.3 The proposed development will involve HGV movements from the site to deliver oil products and receive fuel and essential site equipment however, the number of vehicle journeys will be no more than that originally suggested in the 2006 planning application. This application advised of 8 return journeys per week by road tankers carrying crude oil and 2 return journeys delivering diesel and chemicals. However, the number of vehicles delivering diesel and chemicals may only be 1 per week. There will also be occasional vehicles removing waste from the site as outlined below. All movements will be controlled and monitored during the ongoing production period. Given that the HGV's will adopt the approved HGV route to and from the site, which is linked to a Section 106 Agreement, is considered that the continued site use is unlikely to have any significant impact on local traffic conditions or road safety. During normal operations 2 staff will be on site, and with occasional visitors, it is anticipated that no more than 8 car/light vehicle movements (4 in and 4 out) per day.

### **5.3 Noise**

5.3.1 Part six of the adopted Minerals Local Plan advises on noise in Policy 60 which states *“conditions will be imposed requiring that acceptable maximum levels of noise or not exceeded and appropriate monitoring points will be identified on site boundaries and/or at appropriate locations outside site.”* It is considered that the noise levels approved under the provisions of consent ref: BN/31/05 can be met regarding the continued site operations. The proposals do not involve the use of equipment which will give rise to excess noise or ground vibration and as such no environmental impacts will arise from the operations proposed.

## **5.4 Production of Waste**

5.4.1 The continued use of the site will involve the occasional removal of waste water from the production operations and additionally the removal of general wastes from the site. The waste water will be contained and removed by specialist road haulage tankers whilst the general waste will be segregated in skips and removed to local waste recovery sites. The nature of “general” wastes will be timber, paper, scrap metal, sanitary waste and general “domestic” wastes from the on-site administrative buildings. Given the level of control over such wastes the proposed continued use of the site is not considered to create operations which will result in adverse environmental impacts. This is confirmed in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.5 Land Contamination**

5.5.1 The site is currently provided with substantial environmental barriers by way of sub-surface containment membranes, hard standing and peripheral site drainage channels. The proposed continued use of the site for oil production operations will not lead to any issues in respect of land contamination due to the level of environmental containment provided. The site has two well cellars which retain any oil spillages from ongoing production and maintenance operations. The oil tank area is fully bunded which accommodates all required tanks. The site will continue to operate in accordance with the present planning permission, and other environmental authorisations, specifically Environmental Permits as issued by the Environment Agency. No additional drainage is necessary to allow the development to take place and all pipework and storage tanks will continue to be inspected daily. Any spills will be cleaned up and recorded with details of all spills/accidents notified to the Environment Agency in accordance with permit requirements. Accordingly, it is considered that no impact will arise in terms of land contamination because of the development proposed. This is confirmed in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.6 Hydrology**

5.6.1 Part six of the adopted Minerals Local Plan advises on protection of the water environment and water supplies. Policy 56 states *“the quality of surface and groundwater supplies will be protected and steps will be taken to ensure that proposed mineral extraction will have no adverse effects upon the water table which would be likely to cause significant environmental damage, flooding or adversely affect water resources.”* Policy 59 states *“conditions will be imposed upon planning permissions to ensure that the drainage and discharge of water is efficiently and properly controlled within the site.”* The design of the site has been implemented to Environment Agency licencing/permitting standards, encompassing comprehensive site drainage facilities, which will ensure that no impact arises in terms of hydrogeology because of the development proposed. This is confirmed in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.7 Flood Risk**

5.7.1 The use of the site for continued production purposes has a very limited overall footprint (approximately 1.6 hectares). It does not lie within a designated flood risk zone and no impact in terms of flood risk will occur because of the continued oil production operations proposed. The application is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment which may be found at Appendix B which confirms that there are no concerns relating to flooding.

## **5.8 Habitats and Biodiversity**

5.8.1 The site compound, entrance and associated HGV and car parking areas are remote from any areas of statutorily designated sites and already established. The proposed continued site use will not involve the removal of flora or fauna. The operational site areas are hard surfaced with either concrete or aggregate and provide limited habitats. Although established vegetation lies in the proximity of the site the site security fencing effectively ensures that there will be no direct impact upon vegetation. Accordingly, it is considered that there will be no impact on ecology and protected species. This is confirmed in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.9 Air Emissions**

- 5.9.1 Part six of the adopted Minerals Local Plan advises on arrangements to control dust emissions in Policy 61 which states *“conditions will be imposed upon planning permissions where appropriate to suppress dust levels by such means as spraying water on material at appropriate stages in processing, and by watering (or hosing) areas regularly used by vehicles, and by the use of dust extractors.”* The ongoing site operations do not have the potential to generate significant quantities of fugitive dust, with the potential source arising from vehicle movements along the site access road. In order to mitigate this an appropriate speed limit is enforced and all site operations are undertaken with due regard to the minimisation of fugitive dust emissions. The proposed development involves continued production activities, with an associated approved flare as per the present planning approvals, and no impacts to climate or air quality will arise. Accordingly, it is considered that there will be no impact on climate or on air quality subject to continued and appropriate environmental controls. This is confirmed in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.10 Landscape and Visual Amenity**

- 5.10.1 Part six of the adopted Minerals Local Plan advises on arrangements to protect residential amenity and the built environment in Policy 19 which states *“in considering planning applications for mineral extraction attention will be given to the effect of one residential and other amenity, and measures to mitigate the impact.”* The site lies within a relatively rural environment and there is a general absence of buildings or conservation areas within the proximity of the site. The closest residential properties lie approximately 500 metres from the site and due to the existing site landscaping bund, and associated vegetation, do not have direct views of the compound. The site has been present as a feature in the local landscape since the early 1980's and is surrounded by agricultural lands on 3 side with the sewage treatment works forming the other site boundary.
- 5.10.2 The proposed ongoing site operations will take place solely within the existing developed site. From time to time a crane or small workover rig may be required

for site maintenance, this will only be present for short period of time. Although the upper elevations of the crane or workover rig may be visible from outside of the site, owing to the temporary nature this will not lead to any significant visual impact. Accordingly, it is considered that no adverse visual impacts will arise because of the development proposed. This is reflected in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.11 Archaeology**

5.11.1 Part six of the adopted Minerals Local Plan advises on arrangements to protect or preserve archaeological features of importance. Policy 48 which states *“where necessary, mineral operations will be required to define the character and significance of archaeological remains on proposed mineral sites by means of archaeological Field evaluation stop.”* The development and use of the oil production site, and associated access road, has been a presence in the local landscape for some years. Further, a scheme of archaeological investigation was approved under the provision of the present site planning consent when development first took place. No additional areas will be disturbed by the continuation of the oil production operations proposed. Accordingly, it is considered that the continued use of the site will have no impact in terms of localised archaeology. This is confirmed in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.12 Built Heritage**

5.12.1 The site does not lie within a conservation area and there are no listed buildings on or within the proximity of the site. Accordingly, it is considered that the continued use of the oil production site, and use of the existing site access, will have no adverse impact in terms of built heritage. This is confirmed in the screening opinion at Appendix A.

## **5.13 Public Rights of Way**

5.13.1 Part six of the adopted Minerals Local Plan advises on arrangements to safeguard public rights of way. The introductory parts of Policy 55 state *“public rights of way will be safeguarded and promoted. The amenity of rights of way,*

*(particularly views across workings) will be taken into account in considering proposals for landscaping and screening mineral sites.”* The proposed development would have no impact on public rights of way as no changes to the localised footpath network is proposed. There is signage to alert users of footpaths adjacent to the site of the presence of HGV traffic. Further that pedestrians have rights of way over traffic travelling to and from the site.

## **6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 General**

6.1.1 The site at the Lindsey has been operational for many years and it has been successfully managed as a production facility without impact on the local community or environment. The sites relatively remote location enables it to continue production operations from the existing two wells and will not result in any unacceptable environmental or amenity impacts. The application does not seek any further drilling but a further period of 10 years to produce oil from the to the existing boreholes on site. Further, the proposed retention of the Lidsey Oil Site will make a significant contribution towards meeting the government's desire to maximise indigenous oil and gas production and serving energy needs through the production and sale of hydrocarbons products at the site.

6.1.2 The applicant recognises that the development must be undertaken in accordance with current environmental and planning controls. All site operations at the site will be regulated by standard environmental controls and monitored, as required by the provisions of the planning consent, by specialist consultants or company personnel to ensure the effective implementation of the scheme.

6.1.3 The applicants confirm that the development will be undertaken in full accordance with the approved, or emerging, planning policies of the County Council and the terms of the existing planning permission, and any variation which may be issued regulating activities at the site.

### **6.2 Conclusions**

6.2.1 The proposed development can be carried out with no adverse effects on the localised environment and has no impact upon nearby communities.



6.2.2 As described in this submission there are no adverse impacts resulting from the development proposals on:

- Highways;
- Noise;
- Ecology;
- Air emissions;
- Hydrology and flood risk;
- Historic buildings or archaeology;
- Landscape and visual impact;
- Public rights of way and
- Agriculture.

6.2.3 The details contained within this application confirm that there are no environmental impacts associated with the proposal to extend the life of the oil production wells, oil tanks and exportation operations for a further period of 10 years. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that West Sussex County Council grant planning permission for the continued operation of the existing, and well established, Lidsey Oil Site.