

24th January 2018

Dear Ms. Dawson,

Thank you for your letter, which was forwarded to me by Lynne Campbell, our Planning & Environment Manager, and which I understand you subsequently shared with the press.

I appreciate you reaching out and opening a dialogue with INEOS. A discussion with the National Trust in relation to our request for access at Clumber Park is something we have been very keen to schedule for some time now, to allow us to address various points directly with you, including the ones you raise in your letter – the enduring beauty of the park, its priority habitats and its position as a well-loved area of the country. We have also sought to address your repeated statements about the Trust's stance on use of fossil fuels and their impact on the environment. But with our repeated attempts to meet and engage with you having been rejected, we felt, with some regret, that we were left with no choice but to pursue a legal route.

The Trust is aware of the nature of seismic surveys, having previously allowed access for such purposes in Clumber Park. The process of seismic – taking a picture of the underground – is categorised by the Oil & Gas Authority, the industry's regulator, as non-intrusive. We are happy to visit and discuss your concerns in detail, where we can confirm, as we have said before, that there will be no threat to the park, its ecology or its buildings as a consequence of allowing access for a seismic survey.

Indeed, in past months we have been conducting a 250km² survey in the East Midlands that is consented and governed by the relevant local planning authorities using The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 provisions. We would be pleased to demonstrate how our operating approach has worked with landowners in the region and how our teams have identified and carefully managed all manner of sensitive landscape, habitat and historic built environments, safely and with respect.

The results of this survey – the most comprehensive ever carried out in Britain – will be made available to academia and the nation, the analysis of which will form part of a much wider study relevant beyond INEOS / the shale industry specifically, to better understand the geology of our country at a level of detail not previously known. These data could inform the future understanding of many different concepts and processes, including the possibility of carbon capture and storage.

As you are aware, we have legal obligations to the UK government to undertake certain exploratory and technical work on the licences they have awarded us in order to better understand what potential opportunities they hold. And we must satisfy these commitments within agreed timelines. INEOS will endeavour to continue discharging these commitments in a responsible manner, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss our approach in more detail with you. However, given the time constraints referred to above and the current status of our formal legal action, you will understand that we must continue to pursue that legal action in the meantime.

I will be in touch in due course to arrange a meeting.

Kindest regards,



Lynn Calder
Commercial Director