

FAO Chris Bartlett
Principal Planning Officer
West Sussex County Council



Sent by email
5th July 2020

Dear Mr. Bartlett ,

Re: Applications WSCC/078/19 and WSCC/032/18/WC Woodbarn Farm, Adversane Lane, Broadford Bridge, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9ED

I am writing on behalf of Broadford Bridge Action Group in connection with the application for extension of planning permission for fencing and other structures at the exploratory oil drilling site at Wood Barn Farm, Broadford Bridge, and to draw your attention to **a change in a material condition** that has occurred since the Planning Officer's report was written.

The justification for extension, as set out in the Executive Summary of the Planning Officer's Report is *"to enable data review and evaluation from surrounding sites"*. The applicant proposes *"that the site will be restored if no viable hydrocarbon resource is found or, if a viable resource is found, to retain the site whilst a further planning application is prepared"*.

Paragraph 4.4 of the Officer's report expands on this, as follows: "The applicant states that the potential viability of the site, and therefore its future, will be informed by data retrieved from other boreholes which are targeting similar reserves within the wider Weald Basin formations. In particular, testing is currently being undertaken at the Horse Hill well-site in Surrey. Drilling at this site was delayed but has now commenced (29th September 2019), with the evaluation of the site anticipated in 2020. In addition, a decision regarding a planning application for exploration, testing and appraisal is expected in 2020 for the Loxley Well Site (Surrey County Council) which is in the same PEDL area."

There is no need to wait to review and evaluate data from these two sites given recent developments in Surrey.

Planning Permission for the Loxley Well Site (also known as Dunsfold) was refused by Surrey County Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee this Monday (29/6/2020).

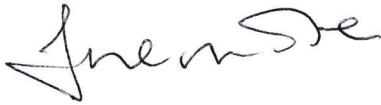
The reasons for refusal were: "It has not yet been demonstrated that there is a need for the development nor that the adverse impacts in respect of highways, noise, lighting or air quality will not be significant, contrary to policies MC12, MC14 and MC15 in the Surrey Minerals Plan 2011." Policy MC12 of the Surrey Minerals Plan states that boreholes for the exploration, appraisal or production of oil or gas will only be permitted where the need to confirm the nature and extent of the resource, and potential means of its recovery, has been established. In the case of Loxley, existing geological evidence from the immediate

area indicates there are no meaningful hydrocarbon deposits and no continuous network of hydrocarbon deposits. For more on the Loxley/Dunsfold decision, see <https://drillordrop.com/2020/06/29/villagers-applaud-surprise-council-rejection-of-ukogs-dunsfold-drilling-plans/>

At Horse Hill, the latest interim results, published this week, show that UKOG are beset by water problems. Of their two wells, HH-2z has been closed for some time and the latest RNS says that they are considering converting it into a water injection well. HH1 now has serious problems with water and emulsion production. UKOG say that HH-1 had produced more than 300 barrels of oil per day. This is not a level of production which would justify further work at Broadford Bridge. See the interim results at <https://www.lse.co.uk/rns/UKOG/interim-results-w8rsx3swc1s8lzw.html>

I trust this is useful. Please do contact us if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Mote', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jane Mote
Broadford Bridge Action Group