

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Bob Seely <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 13 July 2020 18:00
To: Chick, Russell <Russell.Chick@IOW.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Application Reference: 20/00513/FUL

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Further information can be found [here](#).

Dear Russell,

Please find below my objection to the Application Reference 20/00513/FUL

Objection to the construction, operation and decommissioning of a well site for the exploration and appraisal of hydrocarbon minerals, Arreton

8.07.2020

Since 2017 I have campaigned to protect our unique and special environment. I am today outlining my opposition to restarting oil exploration on the Island.

The Oil and Gas industry is important to the UK. However, it is not appropriate for the Isle of Wight. Specifically,

1. The application is contrary to the “strong links” between the Island Plan Core Strategy (2012) and Eco Island. Eco Island pledged to have the lowest carbon footprint in England by 2020. The Core Strategy plans to “create wealth whilst reducing our carbon footprint”. The application will increase our carbon footprint.
2. DM17 of the Island plan plans to “restrict traffic growth by 2.3% per annum”. The site will increase traffic by up to 15 two-way HGV movements and 30 two-way personnel trips per day. It has been recommended for refusal by Island Roads because it is a “hazard to both site and highway users”.
3. The Tourism Development Plan used by the Core Strategy observes a demand for “high

environmental excellence” and minimisation of greenfield development. The application is visually intrusive, on farmland, and has negative environmental associations.

4. In 2019, we became a UN Biosphere, a “learning sit[e] for sustainable development”. Restarting oil exploration does not demonstrate our commitment to this designation.

More generally, we need to preserve our conservational status. Our Island is 94% rural and 50% AONB, with 28 miles of Heritage Coast, and 395 local wildlife sites. We have been celebrated by Tennyson and Keates, settled by Romans. We tread on geology of chalk cliffs and Jurassic coast hundreds of millions of years old. Oil exploration detracts from our status as an environmental hotspot.

Second, the development conflicts with our economic aims. Our visitor economy is worth £520 million annually. Oil exploration may threaten that.

Third, we need to make sustainability part of the Island’s identity. The UK was the first to undergo the industrial revolution. We are now the first major economy to aim for net zero. We are embarking on an era of reform: legally binding targets on environmental improvement, biodiversity, air quality and resource efficiency; more powers for local authorities to act; an independent environmental regulator. What we are doing is making a difference - greenhouse emissions are down more than 40% compared to 1990 levels. We have cut sales of plastic bags by 90% since 2015. We will work to avoid all avoidable plastic waste by 2042. The Island has a unique opportunity to pioneer tidal energy, recycle 100% of its own waste, develop a smart grid, and reduce the use of oil-based plastics. We must not put off this action.

Restarting oil exploration on the Island has the potential to harm the Island’s conservational status, economic aims, and identity as a sustainability leader nationally. I therefore oppose this application.

This comment reflects our understanding and the documents publicly available online at the time of writing. While we have taken every effort to present accurate information for your consideration, as we are not a decision maker or statutory consultee, we cannot accept any responsibility for unintentional errors or omissions and you should satisfy yourselves on any facts before reaching a decision on this application.

Ends

www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2782-D1-Eco-Island-Sustainable-Community-Strategy-2008-20.pdf

<http://www.iwight.com/azservices/documents/2776-Core-Strategy-Adopted-March-2012-updated-web-links-May-2013-with-cover.pdf>, p.20

<http://www.iwight.com/azservices/documents/2776-Core-Strategy-Adopted-March-2012-updated-web-links-May-2013-with-cover.pdf>, p. 232

https://publicaccess.iow.gov.uk/online-applications/files/B4550AB2CBADF907BC82AC0308834AA/pdf/20_00513_FUL-MR_ISLAND_ROADS-2838721.pdf, p.8

Ibid.

www.iwight.com/azservices/documents/2782-Tourism%20Development%20Plan%20-%20Oct%202005.pdf, p.11

Isle of Wight Council Screening Opinion to UKOG, 19 December 2019, Item 7. Landscape and Visual, section 7.1 and 7.2, p.10. In *Environmental Statement*, UKOG, 20 March 2020, https://publicaccess.iow.gov.uk/online-applications/files/04A6DF2B47B3EB55DA3580ED793938F1/pdf/20_00513_FUL-ENVIRONMENTAL_STATEMENT-2826875.pdf, p.6

<https://en.unesco.org/biosphere/guidelines>

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6225459138265088>

http://www.naturalenterprise.co.uk/uploads/content_documents/1019/Medina_Valley_Visitor_Economy_Background_Report.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/31/shoppers-use-of-plastic-bags-in-england-continues-to-fall>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan/25-year-environment-plan-our-targets-at-a-glance>

Please do let me know if there is anything further I can send to you to confirm this application objection.

Best Regards,

Robert Seely MP
Member of Parliament, Isle of Wight

01983 220 220
Northwood House
Cowes, Isle of Wight
PO31 8AZ

Bob Seely, the Island's MP: working hard for the Isle of Wight. Find me on:

Twitter. @iowbobseely
Instagram. @BobSeelyMP
Facebook. IoWBobSeely

Web: <https://www.bobseely.org.uk>

Web. <https://robertseely.academia.edu>

UK Parliament Disclaimer: this e-mail is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted. This e-mail has been checked for viruses, but no liability is accepted for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail. This e-mail address is not secure, is not encrypted and should not be used for sensitive data.