

Mr Russell Chick - Planning Team Leader,
Planning Services - Isle of Wight Council,
Seaclose Offices - Fairlee Road,
Newport - Isle of Wight,
PO30 2QS.

Our ref: **ZG-134**
Your ref: **20/00513/FUL**
Date: **27th July 2020**

Dear Mr Chick,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – MINERAL PLANNING APPLICATION

Applicant: UK Oil & Gas PLC.

Proposal: The construction, operation and decommissioning of a well site for the exploration and appraisal of hydrocarbon minerals from one exploratory borehole (Arreton-3) and one side-track borehole (Arreton-3z) for a temporary period of three years involving the siting of plant and equipment, the construction of a new access track, a new junction with the Newport to Sandown Highway (A3056) the erection of boundary fencing, entrance gates and other ancillary development with restoration to agriculture.

Location: Land to the west of Arreton in-off the Newport to Sandown Highway (A3056), Isle of Wight.

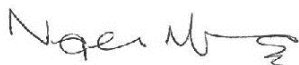
I refer to the above proposal (the “proposed development”) and development site (the “Site”).

The Applicant hereby submits a response to the representations made by the following statutory consultees:

- The Environment Agency; and
- Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

If you have any concerns or queries regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Nigel Moore – B.A.(Hons), B.PI, MRTPI

Environmental Impact Assessment Project Manager

APPLICANT RESPONSE TO STATUTORY CONSULTEE SUBMISSIONS

Applicant: UK Oil & Gas PLC.

Proposal: Hydrocarbon Mineral Development.

Location: Land to the west of Arreton in-off the Newport to Sandown Highway (A3056), Isle of Wight.

1. THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA): SUBMITTED 21ST JULY 2020

- 1.1 The EA finds the Environmental Statement and its associated Hydrogeological Risk Assessment to be acceptable and have no objections to the proposed development subject to the submission of a **Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)** secured by condition.

Applicant Response:

- 1.2 The Applicant agrees with these findings and respectfully submits the following condition for Council consideration.

Construction Environment Management Plan

Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The plan shall include the following details:

- (a) Construction Quality Assurance Plan, for the construction of retaining structures (i.e. gabion basket retaining wall, bunding and earthworks) and containing structures (i.e. perimeter ditches and the impermeable membrane) inclusive of final design details and methods of membrane sealing (i.e. with the drilling cellars, “rathole” or “mousehole”, pavements, floor slabs and foundations) supported by design methodology and details of any further geotechnical assessments to be performed; and*
- (b) Construction Quality Monitoring Plan, for the testing, inspection and maintenance of retaining and containing structures together with details of the placement and design of any groundwater monitoring wells to be installed.*

Verification of Construction Environment Management Plan Implementation

Prior to the commencement of drilling, testing and appraisal, a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) Verification Report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The verification report should include:

- (a) Details that demonstrate compliance with the CEMP;*
- (b) Justification for any changes or deviations from the agreed CEMP and provision of final ‘as-built’ plans and sections;*
- (c) The results and location plans of all field and laboratory testing, including certificates of compliance, and inspection records; and*
- (d) Any other site-specific information considered relevant to proving the integrity of the construction works.*

2. ISLE OF WIGHT AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB) PARTNERSHIP: SUBMITTED 15TH JULY 2020

- 2.1 The Partnership find the proposed development appropriate to its setting consistent with **AONB Management Plan - Sustainable Communities Policy P51¹**, sensitive to its surroundings consistent with **Sustainable Communities Policy 52²** and conclude it will have no direct impact upon the AONB.

¹ AONB Management Plan (2014-2019), Section 14: Sustainable Communities, page 64.

² AONB Management Plan (2014-2019), Section 14: Sustainable Communities, page 64.

Applicant Response:

- 2.2 The Applicant agrees with these findings but clarifies that a drilling rig is only likely to be needed for a maximum of 30 weeks in *Phase 2: Drilling, Testing and Appraisal*, and not 66 weeks as stated by the Partnership.
- 2.3 *Phase 2B: Drilling*, allows for the rig to be on site for 15 weeks and then *Phase 2E: Sidetrack Drilling*, allows for an optional further 15 weeks, should the decision to sidetrack be taken. However, any sidetrack involves the drilling of a new well in-off the main well, to seek out new areas of the target formation, and the main well will already be in place. Accordingly, the duration of any sidetrack drilling is likely to be less than 15 weeks.
- 2.4 During *Phase 2D: Testing & Extended Testing*, and *Phase 2F: Maintenance Workover*, it is likely that a crane with a telescopic boom would be used to lower tools into the well, perforate the target formations and/or remove debris. When fully extended, the crane would not exceed 37m in height and the duration of its use would be intermittent and temporary.
- 2.5 The Applicant has successfully used a crane for well testing and well maintenance at other sites within the Weald Basin, in SE England. It reduces the duration of the activity as well as significantly reducing any visual effects, given that a crane is a much slimmer structure than a rig and the crane boom is immediately lowered upon task completion.