



OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

APPLICATION NUMBER: SCC Ref 2019/0072, WA/2019/0796

Site: Loxley Well Site - Land South of Dunsfold Road and East of High Loxley Road, Dunsfold, Surrey

Proposal: The construction, operation and decommissioning of a well site for the exploration and appraisal of hydrocarbon minerals from one exploratory borehole (Loxley-1) and one side-track borehole (Loxley - 1z) for a temporary period of three years involving the siting of plant and equipment, the construction of a new access track, a new highway junction with High Loxley Road, highway improvements at the junction of High Loxley Road and Dunsfold Road and the erection of a boundary fence and entrance gates with restoration to agriculture.

Surrey South West Labour object to this planning application. The application is intended eventually to lead to extraction of hydrocarbons which will contribute to the carbon emissions which are endangering our community, our children's lives and the wellbeing of our planet.

Surrey South West Labour object to the proposed planning application because if it is passed, it will contribute to the carbon emissions which are endangering our planet. In doing so, it will undermine the UK's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050¹. This commitment is intended to support the restriction of man-made climate change to an increase in temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius, the target the UK signed up to in the Paris Climate Agreement.

To achieve these targets, all of us in the UK need to move rapidly to low-carbon alternatives across all energy uses. Globally, according to research by UCL Institute for Sustainable

¹ "New target will require the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050". Published 27 June 2019 From: [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](#) and [Chris Skidmore MP](#)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>

Resources 2, half of all existing known gas reserves should remain in the ground and not be used if global warming is to stay below the targets agreed by policy makers.

Within the planning framework, the Government has said that “Addressing climate change is one of the core land use planning principles which the National Planning Policy Framework expects to underpin both plan-making and decision-taking.”³ Furthermore, paragraph 209(a) of the National Planning Policy Framework which gave strong support to onshore hydrocarbon exploration has recently been ruled unlawful and is no longer a legal part of the Framework. The development and exploration for further sources of carbon within the UK is in direct contradiction to the Government’s key policy to commit to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. It is also worth noting that in such an exercise, capital investment will be wasted on what will become stranded assets when this source of energy cannot be used in practice due to legislative constraints on hydrocarbon use, and the movement of consumers and markets to renewable energy sources.

Earlier this month, Surrey County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency.⁴ Applications such as this one test the strength of this professed commitment to facing this crisis. Words need to be backed up with action.

The Dunsfold site has recently been granted ‘Garden Village Status’⁵. According to the Town and Country Planning Association’s guidelines on Garden Villages and Cities⁶, these designated areas are to be designed to be as carbon neutral as possible. The prospect of allowing the exploration of hydrocarbons in such close proximity to the site underlines a contradictory and non-sensical approach to the serious issue of the climate emergency we are facing.

The Chief Executive of UKOG (the planning applicant) has been reported as saying “Our activities are designed to increase the UK’s energy security by reducing the increasing dependence on long-distance oil imports from places that often have less rigorous safety and environmental standards than the UK.”⁷ In our eyes, drilling for hydrocarbons is no way to achieve “energy security”. Energy security, if taken to mean the reduction of risks to all that we hold dear, cannot be used as a justification for exploration for hydrocarbons.

We therefore strongly oppose the planned exploration for hydrocarbon minerals in Surrey because even the smallest step in the wrong direction represents a disastrous retrogression in the challenging but necessary journey we must go on, in order to protect our community, our children and our planet from catastrophic climate change.

Natasha Fletcher, Climate Emergency Co-ordinator, South West Surrey Labour Party
Gerry Boyle, Member, South West Surrey Labour Party
On behalf of the South West Surrey Constituency Labour Party

²UCL News 7th January 2015 “Which fossil fuels must remain in the ground to limit global warming?”
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2015/jan/which-fossil-fuels-must-remain-ground-limit-global-warming>

³ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government National Planning Policy Framework update March 2019 Paragraph 001 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change>

⁴ <https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/surrey-county-council-declares-climate-16556902>

⁵ <https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/dunsfold-aerodrome-garden-village-live-16498794>

⁶ Town & Country Planning Association, Guide 4: Planning for Energy and Climate Change (2016), Section 3 p. 11 <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=a5e9d5ac-2d96-41e3-8d66-06d8b699b76d>

⁷ <https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/dunsfold-oil-ukog-extinction-rebellion-16409494>