

UPDATE FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF A REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
– Tuesday 19th October 2021

1. **20/00513/FUL** **Land north east of New Barn Business Park, Sandown Road, Arreton, Newport, PO30 3BT**

Nature of Representation

Since the publication of the officer report an additional 6 representations have been received by the Planning Authority, which raise concerns about the proposed development. Some of the concerns raised reflect those already set out within the third-party representations that have been summarised within the report. The following list summarises additional issues raised by the recent comments:

- The planning department's report does not include any worldwide scientific reports that have been issued this year, relating to flooding, fires and increasing crop failures
- There is no mention of the IPCC report issued on 9th August 2021
- The report does not mention the effects that fossil fuels have on greenhouse gas emissions
- To say that the economic benefits outweigh the potential damage is neglectful to all life
- The Planning Department are not separate to the Council, just as the Isle of Wight is not separate from the Earth
- The report gives credence to Government departments that are already failing the Island's environmental protections that are needed
- To ignore warnings that Island residents are taking time to write potentially diminishes the trust that Islanders have in the Council
- The Council should now move the net zero goalposts back to 2030 rather than the 2040 target
- UKOG's stated recoverable volume of oil only relates to 2 days of UK supply
- Onshore oil only accounts for 2% of UK production and so the officer report is wrong to conclude that the application will bring substantial economic benefits and outweigh environmental damage
- Future problems from decaying underground infrastructure left in place after wells are capped and abandoned

In addition, a petition was provided to the Council on 12th October 2021, which included 4,410 signatures supporting the concerns raised within the petition. The petition includes the following statement:

'The Isle of Wight cannot afford to have its freshwater drinking supply contaminated by the proposed oil drilling. During the drilling process, high strength acids and chemicals are forced into the rock to get the oil below our fresh water source.'

UKOG have submitted a planning application and announced that drilling will go ahead if their planning application to the Council is successful. Please go to the IOW website to

*voice your concerns “Can I add that the proposal to drill for oil on the Island by UK Oil and Gas has now resulted in a full planning application. It is absolutely vital that the people who sign your petition now write to the planning department of the Isle of Wight to make their objections known. All the details are given on the following website with easy to follow suggestions to make your objections: [*Isle of Wight Council should reject UKOG’s planning application. Oil drilling would contribute to the destruction of the natural environment on the Isle of Wight, the quality of water and would increase the impact of climate change.’*](https://www.dontdrillthewight.co.uk?...” – Don’t Drill the Wight</i></p></div><div data-bbox=)*

Finally, officers have noticed a typographical error within paragraph 7.8 of the officer report. This refers to ‘National Planning Policy Statements for energy’ whereas this should read as ‘National Policy Statements for energy.

Officer Conclusion

One of the additional comments refers to recent worldwide scientific reports. However, the role of the Planning Authority is to consider the merits of a proposed development on the basis of existing policy guidance. The potential impacts of the development on ecology have been assessed, in consultation with Natural England and the Council’s Ecology Officer, with their conclusions and comments and the relevant ecological guidance referred to within the report. The worldwide reports referred to do not change the current policy framework against which this application should be assessed.

The issue of climate change is referred to within the principle section of the officer report.

Regarding the balance given to the material considerations for this planning application, the officer report sets out the reasons for the balance between the relevant social, economic and environmental issues. This is based on the relevant national and local policy guidance, site specific issues, supporting information and comments that have been received from consultees and the public.

Regarding the likely reserves of oil, it should be noted that policy guidance does not refer to a ceiling level or a minimum level of minerals that a development proposal should deliver.

Officers conclude that the additional representations should be noted, with no change to the officer recommendation.

Ollie Boulter – Strategic Manager for Planning and Infrastructure Delivery
Russell Chick – Planning Team Leader

Date: 19th October 2021