

# Sussex Wildlife Trust

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Response sent via email, no hard copy will follow.

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11/12/2013

Dear Mr Neave

We would like to raise the following matters to West Sussex County Council given your request for further information, required under Regulation 22 of the town and country planning (Environmental Impact Assessments) regulations 2011 for the following application.

**Planning Application No:** WSCC/083/13/KD

**Proposal:** The installation of a well and associated infrastructure, including access road and soil bunds, for the drilling of a vertical borehole and contingent horizontal borehole from the same well for the exploration, testing and evaluation of hydrocarbons for a temporary period of three years

We welcome West Sussex County Council's request for further information but to ensure their planning decision is based on a robust evidence base, we urge WSCC to ensure the information requested under the ecology section includes the following:

- o A full survey of potential bat roost sites in the vicinity of the application site. The URS report identifies twenty-four trees as having potential as bat roosts within the impact zone of the proposed works. Fifteen are regarded as Category 1 (highest category) and nine as Category 2. The report gives various references to such trees needing further survey (e.g. Appendix 7.2, para 5.1.1.; App 7.1, para 6). Therefore we recommend this specific information request.
- o Further surveys/data on the bat species in the immediate vicinity of the application site, using survey methods suitable for all species, including Bechstein's.
- o Research to determine the impact of light from the derrick on use of the adjacent bat flightline and on foraging behaviour. This research should be undertaken by an expert in this field who is approved by the WSCC ecologist. Subject to the results of the research, mitigation should be proposed based on guidance from the forthcoming Eurobats meeting in September 2014.
- o Information is required on the potential impacts of noise from the drilling and associated lorries on nightingales and other songbirds in Northup Copse Nature Reserve.

Yours sincerely

Laura Brook  
Conservation Officer

## Taking Care of Sussex

President: David Streeter MBE  
Chairman: Chris Warne  
Chief Executive: Tony Whitbread

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