



DATE: 01/04/2025

BY EMAIL ONLY: planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk

REF: NY/2025/0030/ENV - Construction of a temporary wellsite for the appraisal of gas, including drilling operation, proppant squeeze and flow testing operation and site restoration

Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on this application. We understand that it refers to plans for the construction of a temporary well site for the purposes of conventional gas exploration.

We accept that based on the information provided, the application site itself has few ecological constraints. However, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has an overall objection to fracking projects (which we believe this project has similarities with) due to the following concerns:

- The continued use of fossil fuels conflicts with commitments to reach net zero by 2050.
- Potential impacts of fracking are not well understood and existing environmental legislation is not adequate to address these risks.

It is the Trust's view, that the UK government should commit to reducing energy demand, improving energy efficiency measures, and investing in renewable energy, as an alternative source of energy security.

We therefore object to the exploratory proposal detailed within this planning application and we would likely object to any further proposals for gas extraction.

In the Environmental Statement the applicant begins with the following:

'Is this Fracking?

The borehole is a single conventional gas well targeting conventional tight gas sands. The sands at depths of over 2.0km will require stimulating (enhanced productivity) through a proppant squeeze operation. This operation will result in a small hydraulic fracture at depth. Onshore proppant squeeze operations in conventional wells have been conducted safely and successfully for over 50 years in the UK. The single borehole and the proppant squeeze operation are not to be confused with the practises of drilling multiple boreholes, horizontal drilling and multistage, large volume hydraulic fracturing associated with Shale Gas development or "fracking" (currently banned in the UK and therefore not part of this planning application).

The proposal is for natural gas exploration and does not relate to fracking or Shale Gas development.'





Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

1 St. George's Place,
York, YO24 1GN

 01904 659570

 @YorksWildlife

 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

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In order for us to accept this statement we require further justification from the applicant – what volume of liquid is a ‘small volume’ and how do the impacts of this technique differ from fracking? And it is important for context for consultees to understand what the next steps would be should the initial scheme conclude that gas could be extracted on a commercially viable basis.

Should you need any further information, please feel free to contact us on the email address below, or via our website www.ywt.org.uk.

We trust these comments are helpful.

Kind regards,

The Planning Team
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

planning@ywt.org.uk

