

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Control](#)
Subject: Objection to application NY/2025/0030/ENV
Date: 26 March 2025 13:38:24

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Planning Application for Hydrocarbon Appraisal Operations at Land east of the Mill Yard, Burniston Mill, Coastal Road, Burniston, Scarborough YO13 0DB

I am writing to object to the planning application submitted by Europa Oil and Gas Limited for hydrocarbon appraisal operations at the above location. Having reviewed the application documents, I wish to register my strong objection on the following grounds:

Proximity to North York Moors National Park and Impact on Tourism

The proposed development is situated in close proximity to the North York Moors National Park and the tourist town of Scarborough. This raises significant concerns:

- The industrial operations, including drilling equipment and associated infrastructure, would introduce alien elements into what is predominantly a rural landscape, severely compromising the setting of the National Park.
- Scarborough's economy is heavily reliant on tourism. The presence of an industrial wellsite with its attendant heavy goods vehicles, noise, and potential pollution could significantly deter visitors, damaging local businesses and the wider tourist economy.

Environmental Concerns

The air quality assessment submitted with the application identifies numerous environmental issues:

- The operations would release a range of pollutants including nitrogen oxides, particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and potential odorous compounds such as hydrogen sulphide and mercaptans.
- The site is approximately 440m from the Scarborough to Whitby disused railway, which according to the applicant's own air quality assessment (page 8 of the submitted Air Quality Assessment) is designated as a "site of importance for nature conservation". The ecological impact on this site appears to be inadequately assessed.
- While described as "temporary", the operations may be "staggered over a period of up to three years" according to the assessment. This represents a significant period of disruption to the local environment.
- The application mentions a "proppant squeeze" operation, which raises concerns about potential impacts on groundwater and possible induced seismicity that do not appear to be properly addressed in the application.

Conflict with Local Planning Policies

The proposal conflicts with several local planning policies, including:

- Minerals and Waste Joint Plan (2022) Policy D14, which requires "no unacceptable impacts on the intrinsic quality of air" and "no unacceptable impacts on the management and protection of air quality".
- Policy M17 on Cumulative Impact, which states that hydrocarbon development will only be permitted where "it would not give rise to unacceptable cumulative impact".
- Policy M17 on Local Amenity, which requires adequate separation distances between hydrocarbon development and residential buildings to protect against "unacceptable adverse individual and cumulative impacts on amenity and public health".

Agricultural Land Loss

The application documents indicate the current use of the site is "Agricultural field currently in grassland". The development would result in the loss of 1.42 hectares of agricultural land, even if on a temporary basis. This is contrary to planning policies aimed at protecting agricultural land..

Specific Technical Concerns

Based on the submitted documents:

- The nearest residential property (Wayside Farm) is only 320m from the wellsite, with further residential properties in Burniston at approximately 350m. This proximity raises significant concerns regarding noise, light pollution, and air quality impacts on local residents.
- The air quality assessment states that "any future production operations would be the subject of a separate planning application", suggesting this application is potentially the first stage of a longer-term industrial development in this rural area.
- The assessment dismisses cumulative impact considerations too readily, stating: "A survey of planning and permitting applications did not indicate any recently approved, or proposed future developments, with the potential to influence background concentrations of pollutants of interest in the area near the wellsite. In this case in-combination effects are not considered".

Biodiversity Concerns

While the application includes biodiversity net gain calculations, these raise further concerns:

- The pre-development biodiversity value is listed as 2.56, calculated on 28th January 2025.
- There is a lack of detailed information on how biodiversity net gain will be achieved during and particularly after the operations.
- Given the duration of operations could extend to three years, there are questions about how biodiversity commitments will be maintained over this period.

Highway Safety and Traffic

The rural nature of the road network in this area means that local roads are unlikely to be suitable for the increased heavy goods vehicle traffic associated with drilling operations. This creates safety concerns for local residents and visitors alike.

Conclusion

Based on these grounds, I strongly urge the planning authority to refuse this application. The proposed development fails, in my opinion, to comply with local planning policies and would result in unacceptable impacts on the environment, local amenity, and the tourism economy that is vital to the Scarborough area.

The combined impact of the issues outlined above demonstrates that this proposal would cause significant harm to the local environment and community without adequate mitigation or justification.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Robertshaw

24 Stepney Road, Scarborough, YO12 5BN

Date: 26/03/2025