



Dear Sir/Madam,

Burniston Gas Exploration Proposal

I am writing on behalf of the North Yorkshire Moors Association (NYMA), whose Council of Trustees have agreed that we should make representations in respect of the Burniston Gas Exploration proposals. NYMA is the National Park Society for the North York Moors and its members are concerned with the conservation of the moors and the wellbeing of the National Park. It is a charity whose objectives can be seen on our website at <https://www.nyma.org.uk/> .

We do not support the proposed exploration for gas at Burniston for the following reasons:

1. Landscape:

Although the site proposed is 800m outside the National Park, it is located in a very open landscape, where the 30m tall drilling rig would clearly be seen from within the National Park as well as from surrounding communities and indeed the North Sea. Under the terms of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, all Authorities must have regard to the National Park purposes, and creating such a tall structure within clear visibility of the National Park contravenes that duty.

2. Traffic:

It is clear that a significant number of large vehicles would need to access the site, both for the exploration stage and for any further development. All of the possible approaches by road involve small bridges, and we do not believe that either the amount of traffic or how they will have to negotiate these bridges is appropriate for this area.

3. Climate Change:

The future of UK energy security relies on developing renewable technologies, not hydrocarbon-based ones, which will exacerbate the climate change challenges that the world faces. Exploring further hydrocarbon options is, simply, the wrong path to be going down.

4. Waste of resources:

We understand that the proposed exploratory stage may be classified as 'permitted development', but there is no point in exploration if there is no possibility of later being able to exploit that resource in a viable way. NYMA's Trustees are firmly of the view that any application to exploit this resource in this location would not get consent, for the reasons stated above and for other reasons. Given that there is no prospect of being able to commercially exploit gas reserves at this or any nearby site, any investment in exploration is a waste of money, time and no doubt other resources. These resources would be far better spent on a more sustainable way forward, particularly in and around National Parks.

Yours faithfully,



George Winn-Darley Chairman of NYMA

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