

What's it like to live near an operational well site?

We understand that when an application is made for gas or oil drilling in a local area it can be confusing and concerning for residents and businesses. We seek to be honest and open in our communications so that communities can have their concerns addressed. We do this through community events, leaflet distributions and meetings.

We thought a good way to help communities through this process was to talk to some local people who live near one of our operating well sites at Broughton near Scunthorpe and let them tell you how they feel about being a neighbour to a drilling operation.

The Wressle well site has now been operating for some time. Any early concerns have been eased by how quietly and responsibly the site has been managed. Overall, the Wressle well site has proven to be a considerate and community-focused neighbour.

Louise

You cannot see or hear it from the road and there is no increase in traffic or anything. The town and people of Broughton have benefited greatly from the generous grants given by the Wressle Oil Community Fund.

Catherine

The drilling operations have happened with very little negative effect on our community, but they have had a very positive effect! Our community has benefited immensely due to the Community Fund, which has invested thousands of pounds in good causes.

Wayne

I had a lot of initial fears about an increase in HGVs accessing the site and potentially increasing the amount of traffic coming through the towns. Those fears have been unfounded and we haven't noticed any problems.

Steve

Like many folk, I was apprehensive when I learned that oil production was to take place just 3/4 miles away, what with all the adverse publicity surrounding fracking. In the event it's almost like the production site didn't exist. No extra traffic, no sign of it being there and I've never heard an adverse word said amongst the Broughton community.

Derek

I had concerns about the noise produced from the site, the effect on local people and wildlife and the impact of pollution on our local area. However, we have not noticed any impact on the community of Broughton. You don't know it's there.

Emily



Testimonials from local people about the Wressle oil site

Notes:

CLG – the Community Liaison Group was established at the start of the exploration process. This group was made up of local people (including, initially, a number of protestors) and offers an opportunity to hear updates from the site, the local planning authority and the Environment Agency to raise questions from the local community. The group's objective is to establish and maintain an open and honest two-way dialogue.

WOCF – The Wressle Oil Community Fund was established when the site went into operation and donates around £100,000 a year to support local charities and not-for-profit organisations.

BCSA – the WOCF is administered by the Broughton Community and Sports Association, a local charity organisation which had an already established mechanism for making community grants. Meetings are held quarterly to review applications made in that window and are attended by a Wressle site representative.

Initially, many people in Broughton were wary of the operation in Wressle but from my point of view my association with the company has always been a positive experience.

As a result of grants issued through BCSA, Broughton in Bloom has been able to develop and enhance many raised flower beds around the town and improve the environment for all Broughton people. The funding also allowed for a polytunnel on the allotment site so that the group can now grow our own plants – reducing the need to buy all our plants and impacting positively on the environment.

Sue Turner, local resident and Broughton in Bloom co-ordinator

My mum actually lives on Appleby Gardens – which is fairly close to the drilling site I believe. We had no concerns at all to be honest – the company has been open and transparent from what I can see – it never sought to hide away. I have sat in council meetings where no one has issued any concerns. Since it has been in operation my thoughts have not changed.

Neil Simpson, WOCF committee member and local resident

At the beginning of 2024 I took over one of the raised beds on the Broughton Allotment site. I live with a disability which limits some physical activities. The building of the raised beds has given a workable space that allows me once again to be actively involved. It is not only the gardening side but also being part of a community of like-minded people. The summer house, a disabled-friendly toilet and the newly refurbished cabin provide our gardening community with the excellent facilities for social interaction. All these facilities have been made possible through the support of the Wressle Drilling Operation. Thank you.

Viv Sharland, Broughton allotment site user and local resident



Outdoor sports equipment boosts community health and wellbeing

There were rumours around the village that there were plans for 'fracking' for oil on the outskirts of the village. There were meetings and social media posts and rumours of traffic disruption and an increase in heavy lorries to and from the site. Eventually there were even protesters camping near the drilling site. I didn't really take part in any of this although I was concerned that fracking would not be a suitable process for this area with worries about water contamination and geological disturbance.

However, it became clear that rather than fracking, the drilling would be more conventional and similar to oil drilling which has taken place in Lincolnshire previously (there are still 'donkey pumps' working at Glentworth.)

The site was outside the village on agricultural land – you could just about see it if you looked up from the river. I didn't notice a great increase in traffic apart from occasionally when equipment was being moved. Other than the caravans of the protesters there was nothing to see.

While I agree that we need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, oil is still an important part of modern life, and you could say it's better using local oil if it's readily available than importing from abroad.

I did learn that local organisations could apply to the WOCF. Broughton in Bloom benefited from this and was able to buy equipment and infrastructure which could never be afforded otherwise to support the job of making the area more attractive. A number of other organisations were also supported with grants.

Anne-Marie Taylor, local resident

Prior to the Wressle oil site being established, I had concerns about the noise produced from the site, the effect on local people and wildlife and the impact of pollution on our local area.

However, the impact on us is limited as we don't hear noise from the site and have not noticed any impact on the community of Broughton. You don't know it's there.

Emily Sutton, local resident

I never had any concerns about the drilling operations. I attended several CLG meetings and had all my questions answered. Apart from the odd lorry around the area I haven't seen any impact.

The WOCF has seen over £200,000 invested in the local community over the past two years.

Sean Clixby, CLG member and BCSA chair

If I'm honest I have no idea, I didn't even know it was ongoing, so no concerns here. I'm also sat with my grandma and grandad, and they said they've had no concerns either!

Courtney Robinson, local resident



Beekeeping at the local primary school



A number of years ago the residents of our small town were facing the prospect of a company wanting to drill for oil, fracking and all sorts of things were being rumoured around our town.

Of course nobody wanted this on our doorstep, the noise! The disruption! Potential pollution! Increase in traffic! HGVs coming through our town...

Well, none of this materialised. It is human nature to jump to conclusions and form opinions even if they are unsubstantiated.

The drilling operations have happened with very little negative effect on our community, but adversely they have had a very positive effect!

Why has there been a little negative effect? Well first of all there were vehicle movements delivering plant and materials to site. These vehicle movements were managed as to minimise any disruption. There are daily movements and these are spread during the day so hardly noticeable.

There was no noticeable increase in noise.

Our community has benefited immensely due to the WOCF, which has invested thousands of pounds in good causes.

Broughton Wombles litter picking group were the first to benefit from this fund, allowing us to purchase litter picking equipment.

I am also a member of the BCSA which has also benefited from funding along with multiple not-for-profit charities, clubs and organisations.

Broughton Scouts, Guides, Men in Sheds, angling club, football teams (kit and contributions toward an all-weather football pitch), litter pickers, amateur dramatics, allotment association to name a few.

Broughton in Bloom has benefited in such a way that in the past five years we have won North Lincolnshire CPRE Best Kept Small Town and East Midlands Best Kept Small Gold awards.

In my opinion, the operator has always been open and honest about their intentions. They have always been prepared to discuss things in a timely manner.

Wayne Gammon *CLG member, BCSA committee member and local resident*

The Wressle well site has now been operating for some time and it's fair to say that it has had very little noticeable impact on the local community – many people wouldn't even know it's there. Any early concerns have been eased by how quietly and responsibly the site has been managed.

Although our Girlguiding group hasn't visited the site itself, we've been fortunate to benefit from the Wressle Oil Community Fund, which is managed by the BCSA. This fund provides valuable financial support to local community groups, helping organisations like ours to offer new opportunities, experiences and adventures for young people.

We're extremely grateful for this support, which helps us continue to provide a safe, welcoming, and inspiring space for girls and young women to grow in confidence and develop new skills. It ensures all young members can take part in Girlguiding regardless of their current family financial situation.

Overall, the Wressle Well site has proven to be a considerate and community-focused neighbour – quietly operating in the background while making a real difference to local groups through its generous community fund.

Louise Price. *CLG member, 1st Broughton Guides and Brigg Division Rangers*



Orientation kit is being shared between local schools

Prior to the Wressle site being set up, it would be fair to say that I did have a number of reservations, particularly in respect of the prospect of increased traffic and heavy vehicles, noise and what the site might look like in the middle of a rural area (and near to where we frequently walk in the woods and countryside).

I can now say that in all honesty I have noticed no negative impact whatsoever in any of these respects. If you did not know that the site was there you would not know.

The massive positive impact to the local community in respect of grants to many of the local groups has been significant and has helped many of these groups provide ongoing support and services during financially challenging times.

*Diane Rees, Guide leader
and resident of Broughton*

I had the opportunity of a guided tour around Wressle drilling operation a little while ago, and unless you were aware the site is there, there is no visual evidence of the operation taking place.

I was very impressed by the well-maintained site and the operation that is running. Their staff were all very knowledgeable and very interesting to converse with. The traffic associated with the operation that passes through Castlethorpe village to the main routes takes care and consideration passing through the village which is appreciated by the residents

I support the ongoing operation and improvements to the site in the future and feel that the positives of the ongoing works at the site are a benefit for Broughton and Wressle residents and the surrounding area.

*Janet Lee, Broughton Town Councillor,
Broughton & Scawby Ward Councillor*



Craft materials and new play equipment supports pre-schoolers

Personally, I have not been impacted by the site and to be honest I am not 100% sure where exactly it is! You cannot see or hear it from the road and there is no increase in traffic or anything.

The only thing I have ever seen is the protestor caravans that appeared early on but this was not the doing of the Wressle site.

What I can say is that the town and people of Broughton have benefited greatly from the generous grants given by the WOCF with the help of BCSA. This has helped so many community groups to be able to buy supplies, fund projects and buy much needed equipment that they would struggle to do otherwise. I am involved in two groups that have benefited. 1st Broughton Brownies where we managed to buy equipment which will help us not just now but well into the future. I am also involved with the Allotment Association which has funded some fantastic projects to enhance the allotment site to benefit all allotment users and include members of the community.

Catherine Connah, local resident and Rangers leader

I had a lot of initial fears about an increase in HGVs accessing the site and potentially increasing the amount of traffic coming through the towns. Those fears have been unfounded and we haven't noticed any problems.

The community fund has been invaluable for our community and my running club. We have been able to afford new equipment and bolster the club's offering, whilst simultaneously being able to improve health and wellbeing, improve services and community drives within the locale.

Steve Portess, WOCF committee member and running club co-ordinator

Most people are unaware of the oil well. The site is very well screened apart from the floodlights which can be seen when passing by in the evenings. The protests at the site entrance and the planning meetings are a distant memory for most people.

The route the tankers use is an HGV route so the increase in traffic levels is not significant. The vehicles are always clean and well maintained. The drivers are without exception very courteous. When working on the verge they cross to the other side of the road.

I believe the unitary authority are monitoring any possible pollution of private water supplies. A watercourse passes by the site and it has been confirmed that there have been no pollution incidents at the last CLG meeting. On visiting the site, it was very clean and tidy, appeared well run, with excellent health and safety practices very much in evidence.

Paul Tattersfield, CLG member and former councillor



Raised beds help older and disabled people access gardening