

From: planningregister@northyorks.gov.uk
To: [Planning Control](#)
Subject: New comments for application NY/2025/0030/ENV
Date: 28 January 2026 10:32:23

New comments have been received for application NY/2025/0030/ENV from Mr Craig Farrell.

Comments:

Dear Members of the North Yorkshire Council Strategic Planning Committee,

I am writing as a local resident to formally request that the Committee defer its decision on Planning Ref. NY/2025/0030/ENV, Europa Oil and Gas's application for appraisal drilling at the Burniston Mill site.

I believe there are compelling and reasonable grounds for deferral at this time.

Firstly, Councillor Crane of North Yorkshire Council has formally sought guidance from central government regarding imminent legal and policy changes that may directly affect how this application should be assessed. It would be both prudent and responsible to await that response before reaching a determination.

Secondly, the Government has stated its intention to permanently ban all fracking, a commitment expected to be confirmed in the forthcoming Energy Independence Bill anticipated this spring. While the applicant describes the proposal as a "proppant squeeze," the technique has been widely criticised as a potential workaround to the existing moratorium. Given the likelihood of legislative clarification in the near future, proceeding now risks pre-empting national policy.

Thirdly, the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is currently under consultation until 10 March 2026. The proposed removal of the requirement to give significant weight to the benefits of onshore oil and gas extraction would materially alter the planning balance for applications such as this. As noted publicly by the local Member of Parliament, Alison Hume MP, if adopted, these changes would fundamentally affect how such proposals are assessed, making postponement both reasonable and justified.

In addition to the above, I respectfully request that, when the application is heard, the meeting is held locally in Scarborough, at a venue large enough to accommodate the significant public interest in this matter, such as Scarborough RUFC. Holding the meeting locally would ensure transparency, accessibility, and meaningful public engagement.

Finally, I strongly urge that all councillors involved in the decision-making process undertake a site visit before reaching any conclusion. The Burniston site sits adjacent to residential areas, the Cinder Track, farmland, and the Heritage Coast. Seeing the location first-hand is essential to fully appreciate the environmental, community, and landscape context that cannot be adequately conveyed through reports alone.

Given the scale of local concern, the proximity of forthcoming national policy decisions, and the potential long-term consequences of this development, I believe deferral is the most responsible course of action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Farrell