



LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE UPDATE – 14 MARCH 2022

- Attached county map showing location of applications

ITEM 5.1

Council for Protection of Rural England (CPRE)

The following matters are being brought to the attention of the Planning and Regulations Committee (summarised):

- In the seven years since the original application was approved the proposal has significantly expanded, had the application been newly presented now it would be doubtful that it would be granted. Egdon are “playing” the planning system and have never made any genuine attempt to meet deadlines.
- Planners must be satisfied that the proposed variation to drilling ‘can or will be adequately addressed by taking the advice from the relevant regulatory body’.
- The start date for working would coincide with the bird nesting season and a condition precludes working in that period, this would mean a high risk of over-run. Will planners enforce restoration at the end of the 12-month period or allow further extensions of time?
- The ecological appraisal is out of date and since the introduction of the Environment Act an up-to-date appraisal with a BNG Plan should be submitted prior to determination not a pre-commencement requirement.
- The war developing in the Ukraine does not alter facts relating to the climate and ecological crisis which we must continue to address with reduced reliance on fossil fuels.
- The screening opinion issued for the well site is incomplete, as it does not include the cumulative effects of both sites and there is no screening opinion for the security site. The application should be withdrawn, and a full screening opinion sought.

Sir Edward Leigh MP

Comments brought to his attention by his constituents be addressed. In those instances, the comments have been addressed within the published report and the constituent's comments reflect the representations the constituents had made separately in respect of both planning applications.

Head of Planning Response

Screening Opinion

PL/0167/21 – the proposed wellsite – a screening opinion was issued in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations and this development proposal falls below the relevant thresholds and is identified as being within the exclusion criteria set out in the regulations.

PL/0168/21 – the proposed security compound – by the application of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 'Screening Matrix', it is considered that the development proposal falls outside of the scope of the regulations.

Environment Act 2021('the Act')

Whilst elements of the Act relating to Biodiversity Net Gain have been translated across to incorporate into Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The timetable for full implementation is currently subject to consultation. Notwithstanding, the Act provides the following direction to planning decisions under Schedule 7A - PART 2 - Condition of planning permission relating to biodiversity gain

'General condition of planning permission

13. (1) *Every planning permission granted for the development of land in England shall be deemed to have been granted subject to the condition in sub-paragraph (2).*
- (2) *The condition is that the development may not be begun unless—*
 - (a) *a biodiversity gain plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and*
 - (b) *the planning authority has approved the plan'.*

Local Residents - A petition has been submitted with 1,135 signatories requesting that the County Council protect the landscape and end local communities years of anxiety by rejecting Egdon Resources proposal to explore for oil at North Kelsey.