

**UPDATE SHEET****MINERALS/WASTE MO/2016/1563****DISTRICT(S)** MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**Land at Bury Hill Wood, Coldharbour Lane, Holmwood, Surrey RH5 6HN**

**The installation of perimeter security fencing consisting of 2 metre (m) high Heras fencing and 3m high deer fencing; an office and wc at the site entrance; and office, welfare accommodation, water fuel and a generator, all ancillary to and in association with appeal decision APP/B3600/A/11/2166561 dated 7 August 2015.**

**Paragraph text**

Paragraph 204 of the Officers report should be amended to say:

*“The development proposed in this application forms part of the exploratory well-site project and is therefore considered to be an inevitable precursor step, falling within the meaning of the words ‘mineral extraction’ as they appear in the NPPF and in Mineral Core Strategy policy MC3”*

**Government Policy and Material Considerations**

On Thursday 17 May, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy released a Written Statement (“the Statement”) on energy policy<sup>1</sup>. The Statement states it is a material consideration in plan making and decision taking with regards to hydrocarbon development. Whilst the Statement primarily focuses on shale gas exploration, it has messages which cover hydrocarbon development generally. These include:

- *The UK must have safe, secure and affordable supplies of energy with carbon emissions levels that are consistent with the carbon budgets defined in our Climate Change Act and our international obligations. We believe that gas has a key part to play in meeting these objectives both currently and in the future.*
- *Gas still makes up around a third of our current energy usage and every scenario proposed by the Committee on Climate Change setting out how the UK could meet its legally-binding 2050 emissions reduction target includes demand for natural gas.*
- *The ongoing decline in our offshore gas production has meant that the UK has gone from being a net exporter of gas in 2003 to importing over half (53%) of gas supplies in 2017 and estimates suggest we could be importing 72% of our gas by 2030.*
- *However, we believe that it is right to utilise our domestic gas resources to the maximum extent and exploring future the potential for onshore gas production from shale rock formations in the UK.*
- *The Government expects Mineral Planning Authorities to give great weight to the benefits of mineral extraction, including to the economy.*
- *Applications must be assessed on a site by site basis and having regard to their context.*

**Further letters of representation**

A further letter of representation has been received on this application raising the following concerns:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-05-17/HCWS690>

- Surprised the Officer report is recommending approval of this application as it is the same application that was successfully challenged by LHAG in High Court on the grounds that this is not appropriate development in the green belt.
- If this application is approved, it can be reasonably expected that LHAG would challenge it again, and the High Court would rule in their favour again. As a local resident paying council tax to you I oppose such frivolous decision making.
- Whether you impose five, 20 or 100 conditions on this development to try and make it compliant, this will not change the fact that it is inappropriate development in the green belt. I am categorically opposed to this application. It is a very unwelcome intrusion on this area and everyone who enjoys it.
- The argument about this development being temporary is absolutely ridiculous. In this case the reality of the situation, which is that Europa are drilling this well to take it to the appraisal, and probably production stage, should be recognised above the flawed planning guidance.