



Newsletter

May/June 2019

Not One Well

Behind The Scenes - Facing Up to UKOG

As you may know from the last newsletter we prepared a letter for all landowners in the area outlining the implications of leasing land for oil well sites and this was published by [On The Wight at this link](#).

UKOG contacted On The Wight and asked for the letter to be removed and wrote a rather angry response which you can read [HERE](#).

We responded with our rebuttal letter which, sadly was not published by On The Wight. We sent a copy of the letter to The County Press which you can read [HERE](#).

James Woolven from CP then researched and wrote a long article which made the headline page. [Click on either image to get the full story.](#)

Oil firm clashes with campaigners

Fight over IW oil site

THE OIL company set to drill at Arreton has come head to head with campaigners Frack Free IW in the fight over public relations. UK Oil and Gas (UKOG), which holds an exploration licence for oil and gas on the IW, has accused Frack Free IW of scaremongering and making false claims. Frack Free IW issued a letter to local landowners, highlighting potential risks of having their land for oil and gas. Stephen Sanderson, UKOG chief executive, said: "Frack Free IW has made some outrageous and malicious claims about what we plan to do on the island. "It is totally false that we are fracking, acid fracking, stimulating with acid and employing other 'aggressive' techniques that will pose a

By James Woolven

"We believe the protection of our natural environment and long-term water supplies should be more important than short-term profits. "We also feel it is important for all possible future scenarios to be considered before decisions are made." In its letter, Frack Free IW indicated UKOG may have downplayed the potential for future use of controversial extraction techniques. It pointed out there was a difference between conventional oil and light oil.

It also told landowners NFI insurance no longer covered environmental damage caused by oil works and that senior government officials had said if oil companies go bankrupt, the liability for clean-up operations could revert to the landowner. ● Cont. on page 6.



A picture taken by UKOG during a visit to the drill site at Arreton in February.



UKOG's site at Horse Hill, near Gatwick. Picture by UKOG.

Friday, June 7, 2019

UKOG's oil drilling plans

● Cont. from page 1.

The letter also warned landowners there would be 'massive' local opposition on environmental grounds to the establishment of new sites for fossil fuel extraction on the IW. UKOG's Mr Sanderson said: "Our operations are rigorously regulated by the Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive, the UK Government's Oil and Gas Authority and, of course, the IW Council as the mineral planning authority. "We adhere fully to the strictest regulations and we have an exemplary record of employing both high op-

By James Woolven

erational standards and high levels of openness in our dealings with residents and stakeholders. "We are solely pursuing conventional oil reserves, which, like our Horse Hill oil field near Gatwick Airport, we aim to flow naturally with- out the so-called 'stimulation' techniques erroneously referred to by Frack Free IW. "Crucially, our targets are not 'tight' reservoirs as Frack Free IW claims, as is evident by the record-breaking natural flows at Horse Hill. "Our sites are zero discharge, employing the use of impermeable membranes, which means all produced or

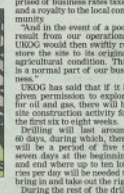
stored fluids, even rainwater, are taken from site by road tanker. No fluids can enter the ground underlying the site. "The company has promised that if it receives planning permission, it will establish a community liaison group to have dialogue with residents. Mr Sanderson said: "We will also ensure that residents will benefit from our success - we propose to share six per cent of gross revenues (i.e. before our costs and taxes) with the IW, comprised of business rates taxes and a royalty to the local community. "And in the event of a poor result from our operations, UKOG would then swiftly restore the site to its original agricultural condition. This is a normal part of our business. "UKOG has said that if it is given permission to explore for oil and gas, there will be site construction activity for the first six to eight weeks. Drilling will last around 30 days, during which there will be a period of five to seven days at the beginning and end where up to ten labourers per day will be required to bring in and take out the rig. During the rest of the drill-

ing operation, there will be one or two lorries a day. After the rig has gone, rigorous flow testing of the well would commence for up to a few months to assess the well's commercial viability. Any produced oil would initially be exported via road tankers, up to five per day. A spokesperson for Frack Free IW said: "If ever there was a time to think globally but to act locally it is now. "With the IW holding to be designated as a UNESCO biosphere and the council pledging to implement environmental action plans for a sustainable future, it should be unthinkable that new drilling operations on the Is-

land would be approved. "However, this is no time for complacency. UKOG's response to our letter indicates that they are very serious in their intentions to commence operations on the IW. "Frack Free IW is calling on all Islanders to get involved with this issue, to understand the impacts and to actively engage with the planning process when applications to establish drilling operations are submitted. "Now is the time for all who care about the future state of our local and global environments to stand firm in the face of operations that place profit before planet. "Clean fields, not oil fields."



Sylvia May of Frack Free IW.



UKOG chief executive Stephen Sanderson.

So this was all very advantageous for us because at least now UKOG have made some - but by no means all - of their intentions public and we have shown that all our reasoning was based on UKOG's own announcements.

UKOG meets Arreton Parish Council

In May the minutes of a meeting between Officials from UKOG and members of the Parish Council were published. **PLEASE read the full document [HERE](#).**

There are many worrying points from these minutes. Here are just a few.....

- The location of the 3 acre wellsite will be close to the both Arreton and to Merston Villages. **(Loss of green field spaces and industrial impact on residents, local flora and fauna ?)**
- "Any liquid from the drain/perimeter ditch water would be collected and taken off site for treatment/disposal by tanker to an Environment Agency waste approved disposal site." What levels of toxic chemicals and fluids will this site be generating that demand such a precaution. **(What chemicals and what local impacts?)**
- What happens if there **was accidental** spillage or overflow due to heavy rain causing flooding on the site?**(Contamination of surface and drainage water to fresh water supplies?)**
- UKOG likens Arreton to their Horse Hill Site, for which they are currently preparing planning permission for **4 more wells. (Will this be happening here in the future too?)**

- The site will function for 24 hours a day (***And lit 24 hours too***)
- Crude Oil exports would be by 35,000-litre tankers to a holding area **on the river at Newport or Cowes**, they are looking at possibly **five oil lorries - ten round trips to collect and deliver** (***Traffic congestion, increased emissions and accidents?***)
- They may be using East Cowes and Red Funnel for their heavy plant (***Impact on Localilty ?***)
- Gas generated from the well on site will either be **flared or used on site** (***Increasing CO₂ emissions***)
- ***Site monitored remotely?***

These are only a few points that are concerning us. There are many, many more to choose from

Please Take Action



We need to flood the IWC with our concerns about allowing oil extraction on the island now that we know UKOG is going to submit a planning application. Arreton is just the beginning. There are still locations across 200 sq kilometres of the island that are part of UKOG's licence.

So we are asking you to send emails to your local county councillor representative - you can find yours at this link- <https://www.iow.gov.uk/councillor/azCouncillors.aspx> and copy it to Cllr David Stewart **david.stewart@iow.gov.uk** Please also encourage others to do so. The more emails they receive the better. We need to make it clear to the IWC why we do not want oil wells on the Island.

Express your concerns for the whole island. **You can use reasons for your concerns from the minutes of the Arreton Meeting highlighted above and also environmental reasons from these other links below**

Government Declares Climate Emergency

On May 1st Parliament declared a climate emergency. Read more at this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48126677>

But our County Council has yet to acknowledge this.

Please send an email asking your representative to debate and acknowledge this at the next Full Council meeting in July



Isle of Wight to become UNESCO Biosphere

More positive news this week as the Isle of Wight has been recognised as a UNESCO biosphere reserve. **We CANNOT have oil fields on the island if we are to qualify for this status. You can use this fact in your email to IWC**

UNESCO say the IOW is one of the few places where people live alongside the natural landscape and wildlife - one of only 7 areas in the whole of the UK that have been awarded this status. To read more click the link below.

<https://www.unesco.org.uk/portfolio/isle-of-wight/>



And Finally.... MEDIA CAMPAIGN committee member urgently needed to help us create and manage our media action plan. If you are interested in getting more involved and confident in media skills please contact sylvia@frackfreeisleofwight.org

