

Biscathorpe Oil Well Proposal – some reasons to say No

- Allowing this application will lead to the production of further fossil fuels that can only exacerbate the problem of global warming caused by the emission of greenhouse gasses resulting from the burning of these fuels. Global warming affects the local environment of Biscathorpe as much as the rest of the planet.
- The application is for a temporary well site but there is nothing temporary about the company's intention. They expect to find commercially producible quantities of oil and gas, with activity continuing for many years, probably decades.
- Flaring of gas during the exploration, testing and oil production phases are a waste of resources and add to greenhouse gas emissions with no mitigating benefit.
- The site is a pristine location in the heart of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- The development will adversely affect the setting of a listed building, St Helen's Church.
- The access roads are entirely unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles, both during the construction phase and subsequent production phases.
- Traffic movements will disturb the tranquillity of the area and present a hazard to walkers on the long distance footpath, The Viking Way, which shares the same single track lane as will be used by heavy goods vehicles.
- The two fords, an essential and unique feature of this beauty-spot, are unsuitable for heavy goods vehicle traffic.
- The sole land-uses in the vicinity are tourism and agriculture under environmental stewardship.
- The gas flares and the site lighting will produce constant and considerable light pollution in an otherwise very dark area of the county.
- The surrounding land and possibly the site itself, likely contains a wealth of archaeology, largely as yet un-surveyed.
- The ecology in the vicinity is rich and varied, providing habitats for several species that are key to the local biodiversity.
- Bats and their prey species may be adversely affected by lights in an otherwise dark area.
- The site plan shows that the interceptor ditch is designed to drain into the River Bain tributary rather than all be removed by tanker as stated in the Application Statement.
- There is no Risk Assessment regarding major accidents included in the Documentation.
- The risk associated with a major accident has a high consequence, jeopardising the ecology of most of the River Bain and the Lower River Witham.

Other reasons to say No are available.

Think Globally, Act Locally (at Biscathorpe)

The International Committee on Climate Change has issued its starkest warning yet. If we are to stand a sporting chance of avoiding catastrophic global warming, then about 80% of the fossil carbon, oil, gas and coal, that has already been discovered, must not be burnt but must instead be left safely underground.

There can be no justification to search for further oil and gas when we already have proven reserves in place that far exceed our allowable carbon budget. To permit exploration, here at Biscathorpe or elsewhere, is to deny the reality of man-made climate change, to fly in the face of all scientific advice, to deny the right to life of future generations.

We can all change our lightbulbs, insulate our lofts and stop flying but it will make no difference to greenhouse gas emissions since the oil we do not burn will simply be burnt elsewhere. The only thing that counts is keeping the fossil fuel underground, unburnt. So, acting locally, we are opposing the planning application for an exploratory oil well at Biscathorpe.

Lincolnshire also has significant gas resources in the shale of the Gainsborough Trough, the land north of Lincoln and west of the A15 towards Gainsborough. The same oil company that wishes to drill at Biscathorpe, Egdon Resources Plc., intends to frack these shales to obtain the gas. It is the same story in the Humber Basin, an area that includes the Humber Estuary and the Lincolnshire Marsh from North Somercotes northwards, where fracking could destroy the landscape if the oil companies get their way. A further enormous carbon resource lies in the deeply buried coal seams below the Lincolnshire coast. Here Europa Oil intends to use Underground Coal Gasification to partially burn the coal in place and then produce the resulting gas. The local environmental impact of these projects will be disastrous for our neighbourhoods.

Exploiting these sources of fossil carbon can only make global warming worse, resulting in catastrophic climate change. It may provide wealth for the companies in the short term but it can only spell disaster for our grandchildren. If you care about the next generation, please join us in opposing all forms of new fossil fuel extraction in Lincolnshire.

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Transition Town Louth www.bit.ly/BainValley