

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MINERALS LOCAL PLAN (TO 2036)
EXAMINATION HEARINGS 2020 (date tbc)

HEARING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND
MATTER 3: Minerals Provision Policies

Below we set out a brief response to the Inspector's supplementary questions 44, 45, 48 and 49. Please note, our position on some matters which the Inspector's questions raise is set out more fully in our previous statement and representation.

Policy MP12

Question 44: Should the policy include detailed criteria for assessment of environmental impacts for each stage of development?

Yes. This the inclusion of detailed criteria for assessment of environmental impacts for each stage of development would be helpful in our view, given the wide ranging impacts of oil and gas development. Please refer to our previous statement for our recommended wording changes.

Question 45: Should the policy recognise specific impacts that can result from hydraulic fracturing?

Yes. It is essential in our view that the policy recognises that hydraulic fracturing gives rise to very specific and wide ranging impacts compared with conventional hydrocarbon extraction. Please refer to our previous statement for suggested policy wording amends and a fuller explanation of why we believe these changes are needed.

Question 48: What would be required to demonstrate the need for development and what is the justification for this requirement?

Neither Policy MP12 nor the supporting text recognise that we cannot continue to extract and use fossil fuels if we are serious about tackling the climate emergency and setting a course to meet the UK net zero carbon target by 2050. The extractive industry must play their part, along with all other sectors, if we are to meet this target. It is therefore our view that any assessment of need must be made within this context, namely the imperative to end the extraction and use of fossil fuels.

We suggest that consideration be given to identifying suitable text and policy amends to address this omission.

Question 49 The wording of paragraph 4.105 reflects that in the 2012 Framework (paragraph 147). The 2019 Framework does not refer to addressing constraints that apply within licensed areas. The wording of this paragraph should be reviewed.

The wording of this paragraph, and the supporting text of which it forms a part, should be reviewed to reflect the 2019 Framework. We suggest new wording be identified which takes account of the Framework as a whole, in particular, paragraph 148 which highlights the need to for the planning system to "help shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure."

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Kate Gordon MRTPI, Senior Planner

Richard Dyer, Campaign Organiser – East Midlands

Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland · Tel 020 7490 1555 · Fax 020 7490 0881 · Website
www.foe.co.uk

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