

Your questions answered



KEY FACTS ABOUT OIL EXPLORATION IN YOUR AREA

You may be aware that Hutton Energy has applied to drill an exploratory well at our Harlequin 3 site between Radcliffe on Trent and Upper Saxondale. We hold Petroleum Exploration Development Licenses (PEDLs) across the East Midlands, and we know that this area has an extensive history of successful drilling for oil, which suggests that this site may be rich in natural resources.

This exploratory well will help us better understand the underlying geology and whether the rock strata below has the potential to produce commercially-viable amounts of oil.

This leaflet addresses some of the key questions you have asked us about our proposals.

• **How long will it take to drill the site?**

We expect it will take two weeks to construct the drill rig and four weeks to drill the well. The rig is only on-site during this period and will be taken down after drilling operations are completed.

• **If you find oil, what happens next?**

This is an exploratory well only. If we decide to make it a production well we have to apply for planning permission and a number of other permits. We will consult fully with local residents and their elected leaders as part of this process.

• **Will you be 'fracking' at the Harlequin 3 well?**

No - this is a conventional oil well. Fracking is a process largely used in gas extraction.

• **How many trucks (road movements) per week are needed to bring and remove the drilling equipment?**

At Harlequin 3 we anticipate between 20 to 30 truck movements to deliver the drill rig and roughly the same number of movements leaving the site after the four week drill period. Once a site is in production, just two HGVs per day will need to go on-site.

We anticipate two to three trucks a day to supply consumables needed during drilling and, if the site moves to production phase, then a further couple of trucks a day. In the context of the busy A52 which the site borders, this represents only a fractional increase in traffic load.

• **How much noise does the operation make during the production phase?**

The background noise generated by the A52 at peak times is likely to exceed the noise generated during our operations. We have identified a small area where our noise levels may marginally exceed the guidelines and have agreed mitigation factors to dampen the noise and bring it within guidelines. We try to keep noise levels to a minimum where we can, with equipment such as generators and compressors all housed in boxes on-site to reduce noise.

The production phase is almost inaudible and will cause little disturbance on an ongoing basis.

• **What impact will this have on house prices?**

Oil and gas has been extracted safely onshore in the UK for decades. Indeed, there are many such wells located close to neighbouring communities in Nottinghamshire as well as in areas of outstanding natural beauty. Locally, there are two producing wells in the village of Long Clawson.

We are not aware of the influence, positive or negative, such sites have had on house prices and no research has proven a causal link one way or another.

Interestingly, western Europe's largest operational onshore oil field is less than 800 yards from Sandbanks in Poole Harbour, which has Europe's third most expensive property (based on price per square foot).

• **How do you manage air quality?**

The air and air quality is tested before drilling and continuously throughout the lifecycle of the well. Ensuring air quality is tested prior to any development of a site means we have a 'normal' baseline with which we can monitor any changes.

• **Will you be flaring gas as part of this process?**

As with any conventional oil well there is a possibility we may encounter some gas during the drilling process. Any gas flaring itself is stringently regulated by the Environment Agency as part of our Mining Waste Permit and will be kept to an absolute minimum. Any flaring will take place in an enclosed flame chamber.

• **Your application talks about encountering radioactive material. Tell us more.**

Most sub-surface rock bears some low levels of radioactivity and the process by which extracted rock is collected, dealt with and regulated is long-established and safe. Levels can be very low – lower, say, than that found in some mineral water and considerably lower than that found in granite, used extensively in kitchen work tops and as the

key building material in west Cornwall and much of north east Scotland.

We will measure our rock samples and contain and dispose of any radioactive material according to government guidelines.

• **What is the anticipated lifespan of the well?**

If successful, we believe that Harlequin 3 could produce oil for ten years. Once the well ceases to be viable it will be closed and the site restored to its original use – in this case, arable land. There's one such site near the junction of Saxondale Drive and the A52, since returned to crop production. You'd never know an oil well had been there.

• **How are you regulated?**

We are regulated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive, as well as the conditions set out in our planning consent.

There are numerous standards and guidelines that we have to conform to, irrespective of the type of well drilled, and we're subject to regular inspections (both planned and unannounced) to ensure that we are fully compliant.

• **Are you drilling through the water table and what impact could this have?**

Although we drill through the water table, the well bore is carefully constructed using multiple concentric layers of steel and concrete to ensure that subsequent drill fluids and flowback cannot escape into the water table. The bore's integrity is constantly monitored and any early signs of stress immediately acted upon before they may become an issue. Monitoring is regulated by various authorities including the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive.

For further information or if you have any questions visit:
huttonenergy.com