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Date: 23 January 2017

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By email only to: stephen.bell@turley.co.uk

Dear Mr Bell,

Application to Drill a Vertical Core Well at Land Adjacent to Brambleymoore Lane, near Marsh Lane, Eckington

Request for Screening Opinion under Regulation 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2015, as amended

Thank you for your letter dated 2 January 2017 regarding the above screening request.

The proposed application site at Brambleymoore Lane falls within the Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) of three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These are Moss Valley SSSI, Moss Valley Meadows SSSI and Moss Valley Woodlands SSSI. The IRZ guidance provided by Natural England indicates that, for planning applications for oil and gas extraction, Natural England wishes to be consulted. Whilst it is acknowledged that the current request for a screening opinion is not a planning application, this Authority considers it appropriate to consult Natural England at this point in order to establish whether there are likely to be any significant environmental impacts on the three SSSI as a result of the proposals. We are still awaiting a response from Natural England on this issue.

In addition to the above, it is noted that the information related to the potential noise impacts contained within the screening request at section 1(f) (page 12) is currently very limited. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide a brief indication as to what the predicted day time, evening and night time noise levels are likely to be and any baseline background noise information that you may possess.

In light of the above, the Mineral Planning Authority will not be able to issue the requested screening opinion within the time frame specified in regulation 5(5) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, as amended.

I would therefore formally request your agreement to an extension of time for the screening opinion until 14 February 2017. I thank you in anticipation of your co-operation, please could you acknowledge receipt of this email and confirm your agreement to the extension of time, in writing, as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely

Rob Murfin
Head of Planning Services