

Applications for Permit Variations at Horse Hill oilfield

Press release

Second round of public consultation is now open.



Horse Hill Developments Ltd (HHDL) has applied for several permit variations as part of its operations at Horse Hill well site in Surrey.

These are to:

- Construct up to 4 new boreholes in addition to the 2 boreholes already constructed;
- Use 2 of the 6 boreholes as reinjection wells to support production;
- Carry out well treatments such as an acid wash and solvent treatments;
- Run 90-day well tests for each of the 4 additional wells before they are either added as production wells at the site, or abandoned;
- Undertake an injectivity test within one of the wells (HH-2z) and any other wells as dictated by HHDL;
- Incinerate natural gas at a rate not exceeding 10 tonnes per day during production operations. This to continue until it can be demonstrated that the incineration of natural gas is no longer considered Best Available Technique through a cost-benefit analysis.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said:

An environmental permit sets out stringent conditions that all oil and gas sites must adhere to. We will not issue an environmental permit for a site if we consider that activities taking place will cause significant pollution to the environment or harm to human health.

Public consultation lets people and organisations take part in our decision making. We welcome specifically, comments on environmental and health issues and where people have particular local knowledge. We take all relevant comments into account when making our

decisions.

When making permit decisions, we use information on the potential environmental and human health impacts of the activity.

In deciding whether or not to issue the permit, the Environment Agency will take into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

Public consultation

A second round of consultation is now open for public comments, before the Environment Agency makes the final decision on whether to issue the permit variations.

The consultation is now open and will run until Thursday 31 March 2022.

See [further information and details on how to take part in the consultation](#).

Previous public consultation on the permit variations took place between 22 March and 21 April 2021.

For further information, please email KSLE@environment-agency.gov.uk.

For further information on how we determine applications, the timescales involved and how we regulate onshore oil and gas, please see the following links: • [Environmental permitting: public participation statement](#) • [Onshore oil and gas exploration and extraction: environmental permits](#) • [Onshore oil and gas regulation – information page](#)

Public consultations

See [further information on how when and how the Environment Agency consults on permit applications and standard rules for environmental permits](#)

Published 4 March 2022

[Defence Secretary discusses shared security response in face of Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has met with Defence Ministers from the [Joint Expeditionary Force \(JEF\)](#) nations to provide plans for ongoing support for Ukraine against the invasion from President Putin's forces.

The ministers discussed what increased measures can be brought forward to support Ukraine against Russia's brutal assault and how the group will work together to promote European security, complementing NATO activity.

The Defence Secretary met with his counterpart Kalle Laanet in Tallinn, Estonia to discuss the crisis and the impact on wider security across Europe. Like the UK, Estonia has also sent a range of defensive and non-lethal aid to Ukraine to help the country defend itself, providing javelin anti-tank missiles and anti-aircraft ammunition as well as food and medical equipment.

Minister Laanet awarded Ben Wallace with the Ministry of Defence Cross of Merit, First Class – the highest decoration conferred by the Ministry – for his commitment to European defence and security.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, the Defence Secretary met with a number of his counterparts from the JEF nations to see off Danish Frigate HDMS Niels Juhl. The vessel is providing a naval escort to support the deployment of Danish land forces in Estonia, where they serve alongside UK troops as part of the recently strengthened [NATO enhanced Forward Presence \(eFP\)](#) battlegroup. The Danish ship will be joined by Royal Navy frigate HMS Northumberland and Swedish corvette HSwMS Karlstad before accompanying a supply ship delivering specialist vehicles and equipment.

Ben Wallace also held a bilateral meeting with the Danish Defence Minister, Morten Bødskov and laid a wreath at the Danish National Memorial in Kastellet, central Copenhagen.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

President Putin's invasion of Ukraine is an attack on our freedoms, our values and the security of Europe. He has sought to break our defensive alliances, which is why now, more than at any point in the history of the JEF, our partnership is so vital.

We are united in our resolve across the JEF nations to support Ukraine. Our values are Ukraine's values and we will continue to provide lethal and non-lethal aid, alongside sending additional forces to Estonia serving with our Danish allies.

The UK is playing a leading role in supporting Ukraine, including providing defensive anti-tank weapons and non-lethal aid including helmets and medical supplies. Britain [has also imposed comprehensive sanctions](#) covering Russian elites, companies and financial institutions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In response to the crisis, the UK has also [bolstered its contribution to NATO's eFP](#) in Estonia, where British and Danish troops have been deployed together alongside other NATO nations since 2018. The JEF supply mission will support this long-standing UK contribution.

The JEF is a coalition comprising of 10 nations working together to deliver

forces at high readiness across a range of roles, complementing NATO and European security. Its members are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Defence Ministers from all ten countries met less than two weeks ago in Belvoir Castle, issuing a [joint statement condemning Russia's aggression towards Ukraine](#).

The JEF has carried out successful exercises in recent months, including Exercise Joint Protector 2021. In the coming months, militaries will be working together across its core areas of the North Atlantic, High North and Baltic Sea Region, with a particular focus on the upcoming command and control Exercise Joint Protector later in 2022, followed by the Live Exercise JEF Warrior in 2023. JEF will also conduct an exercise demonstrating freedom of movement in the Baltic Sea in a show of the group's solidarity.

[PM call with President Vucic of Serbia: 4 March 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to President Vucic of Serbia about the situation in Ukraine.



Today the Prime Minister spoke to President Vucic of Serbia about the situation in Ukraine.

Both the Prime Minister and President Vucic reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, and the Prime Minister praised Serbia's decision to condemn Putin's war in the historic United Nations General Assembly vote earlier this week.

The UK would continue to support Serbia's efforts to promote stability in the wider region, the Prime Minister added.

The leaders agreed to continue to work together on a range of issues, including across the energy sector.

President Vucic thanked the Prime Minister for the UK's leading role during this time of crisis.

Published 4 March 2022

[Applications for care and supervision orders for children move online](#)

Every local authority across England and Wales is now using the Family Public Law service online to apply for a court order to safeguard the welfare of children.

Launched in 2020 as part of our reform programme, using the online service, MyHMCTS, allows local authorities, courts and legal representatives to access the court information they need at any time and from any location. It makes court proceedings relating to children quicker and more efficient, giving families greater certainty.

Adam Lennon, Deputy Director, Family commented:

COVID-19 has shown the importance of MyHMCTS in providing a modern, flexible service that meets the needs of busy local authority teams. We have already processed almost 6,000 applications through the new system and we know that instant access to documents means cases can progress quicker, leading to more timely decisions for children.

We're really pleased with the way the service has been adopted. We've worked closely with local authorities across England to understand the way they work and listened to their challenges. We used that information to plan a phased approach to introducing the service across the country at a pace that meets their needs.

Benefits of using the service

The service was developed in partnership with local authority legal teams. It provides the flexibility they need to progress cases and allows them to document every stage, improving transparency.

Legal professionals can upload documentation directly to the court file. This means all parties can view reports and court bundles, which contain all the

information relevant to the application, and collaborate on draft orders at the hearing to begin the process of deciding the future of the child. Orders can be approved faster as a result, giving more time for parties to comply with directions and providing families with greater certainty.

Existing court proceedings relating to children are also more efficient. Judges receive automatic notifications when applications are received so they can begin assessing information sooner.

The future of the service

As we continue to improve the service, this year local authorities will be able to make placement applications to request a child be placed with a named person. We'll give local authorities the option to select the court they want to issue applications to, so that they can choose the most appropriate court for their circumstance.

Later this year, local authorities will be able to issue standalone applications for secure accommodation for young people, applications for child assessment and applications to withhold contact with a child in care.

Solicitors will be able to issue standalone applications for discharge of care and applications for supervision or contact with a child in care. This will mean that they can apply in the same way as care proceedings and will not need to make paper applications at the local court.

For more information, you can contact publiclawandadoption@justice.gov.uk.

UK visa applications in Vienna for Ukrainian nationals

World news story

Guidance for Ukrainian nationals who want to apply for a UK visa in Vienna



British nationals and people settled in the UK can bring extended family members to the UK.

This means that people in the UK with parents, grandparents, adult children and siblings from Ukraine will be welcomed to the UK, subject to security checks.

See [UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals](#) for details of how and where to apply.

Please note, the British Embassy in Vienna, Austria, has no role in visa applications.

Published 4 March 2022