

No oil drilling at Waddock Cross in Dorset - Planning reference: P/VOC/2023/02762

### **Quick brief**

The decision on the application to drill for oil at Waddock Cross in Dorset might be made at the Dorset Council planning meeting on January 26. The deadline for comments is December 17th.

Visit <https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>, search using the reference above, and post your comment. If that's unsuccessful send it to [planningminerals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:planningminerals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk).

Please use your own words.

Main points:

Object to a ten year extension to the expired Egdon Resources operation at Waddock Cross.

Choose your own reasons which could include:

- In a climate crisis we don't need more fossil fuels extracted with the greenhouse gas emissions that will result - this is not an insignificant amount
- Dorset Council has plans and targets to reduce climate impacts and this proposal is in conflict with them
- The site isn't even commercially viable or Egdon Resources would have got on with it instead of mothballing the site in 2014. Now is the time to restore the site.

Thank you for objecting. There is more detail below for those who find it useful.

Best wishes

Vicki Elcoate, Sarah Finch and Kirsty Clough

(Dorset Climate Action Network and Weald Action Group)

### **Detailed background**

Egdon Resources is applying for the Waddock Cross oil site in Dorset to be granted a planning extension for the further exploration and production of oil. The site has been dormant since 2014. It had a planning permission granted in 2013 which expired in 2023 – it now wants to extend the permission to 2033.

In September Dorset Council's Planning Officers recommended the plans for approval, saying it was within the transition period to Net Zero in 2050. The Officers also said the greenhouse gas emissions weren't significant at a county or national level and decided that an Environmental Impact Assessment wasn't necessary. New information submitted by Egdon Resources shows a much bigger quantity of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the oil production (Scope 3 emissions) than previously submitted to councillors for a decision.

This follows on from the Supreme Court decision in 2024 which requires fossil fuel applications subject to EIA to assess the Scope 3 emissions of their plan (ie the emissions from the combustion of the oil).

There is no suggestion that fracking would be used at the site, which is a conventional site near to Wytch Farm (the largest onshore oil producer in Europe).

Egdon Resources claim that the site could produce up to 138,180 tonnes of crude oil over 8 years of production - and that emissions arising from the oil production could release around 510,200 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. This doesn't include transport emissions. The oil company says this is "insignificant" in relation to the UK Carbon Budgets.

Reasons to object:

- The potential emissions arising from the application are unacceptable in a climate crisis. The challenge of keeping global average temperatures within safe planetary boundaries means that all additional emissions are significant.
- Locally, the plan undermines targets to reduce emissions in Dorset Council's Climate Plan and its Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy 2023-25 Refresh.
- Commercial viability has not been proven and the site should already have been restored. Specifically the application is in breach of the restoration policy HY1(g) in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Mineral Strategy 2014.
- No legitimate evidence of need has been provided. Any oil extracted is unlikely to bring direct benefit to the UK in terms of energy security. Around 80% of UK crude oil is exported.
- The development risks disturbing the adjacent sensitive ancient woodland of Oakers Wood (classified as an SSSI where Natural England has highlighted potential harm to lichen and bats) and is in breach of Dorset Council's Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy 2023-5 which emphasizes the avoidance of harm.

Please object in your own words by visiting the Dorset Council planning portal and search using the reference above:

<https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>

You can read other objections in the documents tab when you find the planning application.

Thank you!