



Joel Marshall
 Development Management
 Nottinghamshire County Council
 County Hall
 West Bridgford
 Nottingham NG2 7Q

29 January 2021

NCC Ref: V/4202

Dear Mr Marshall

Re: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Vary Condition 4 of planning permission 1/15/01498/CDM to extend the evaluation and restoration period of the site for a further 3 years until November 2023 and to relinquish drilling the horizontal well

LOCATION Land off Springs Road, Misson, DN10 6ET

APPLICANT Island Gas Limited

Thank you for consulting RSPB on this planning application. RSPB maintains its original response of not supporting hydraulic fracking (RSPB letter dated 23/12/2015) for the reasons set out in that letter, on our website and further updated and explained below by my policy colleagues. We also consider that extending the evaluation period of this site is inappropriate when there is a Government moratorium on hydraulic fracking.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/our-positions-and-casework/our-positions/climate-change/action-to-tackle-climate-change/uk-energy-policy/shale-gas-and-fracking/>

The climate imperative

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) most recent report has made it clear that globally we must reach net zero emissions by 2050¹; the RSPB is calling for a more ambitious target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 in the UK. The IPCC highlights that "*rapid, far-reaching*" and "*unprecedented*" changes to the way society operates are needed to tackle the climate crisis. It also highlights the devastating impacts on ecosystems of failing to achieve the emissions reductions needed to limit temperature rises to 1.5°C. A net zero future therefore requires urgent action in this decade to change our energy system, shifting from dependence on fossil-fuels to increased generation from renewable sources as well as greatly reducing our overall energy demand. Amid a nature and a climate emergency, the need to reconcile the challenge of increased low carbon infrastructure deployment and threats to biodiversity has never been more urgent.

¹ The 2050 target is supported by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC). The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. This target is supported by the CCC. Due to the magnitude of the threat and urgent need for action to limit global temperature increase the RSPB is calling for net zero by 2045.

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The RSPB is part of BirdLife International, a partnership of conservation organisations working to give nature a home around the world.

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen **Chairman of Council:** Kevin Cox **President:** Miranda Krestovnikoff
Chairman, Committee for England: Victoria Chester **Director, RSPB England:** Emma Marsh

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654
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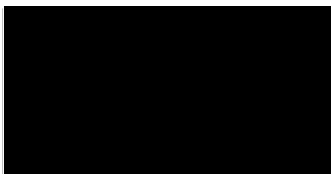
The UK Government, as host of the upcoming 2021 UN climate summit in Glasgow, has already expressed its ambition to be a global leader in the fight to save nature. As noted in the RSPB's [A Lost Decade for Nature](#), if these claims of leadership are to be credible, the UK will need to set out how it plans to fill the gap between rhetoric and reality in its own backyard. Governments must take the urgent action needed to change the fortunes of wildlife and reach greenhouse gas emissions targets as part of coordinated action for a sustainable energy transition.

Fossil fuels and net zero

Continued extraction and use of fossil fuels such as oil and gas is not compatible with a net zero future. These energy sources must be phased out as rapidly as possible. The UK Government's December 2020 [Energy White Paper](#) follows the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. Net zero and our effort to fight climate change are central to the white paper which states "*Our success will rest on a decisive shift away from fossil fuels*". The paper also highlights the importance of ensuring "*that the licensing of domestic oil and gas exploration and production continues to be compatible with our climate change ambitions*".

In their [6th Carbon Budget](#) also produced in December 2020, the Climate Change Committee, note that to achieve the Balanced Net Zero Pathway, fossil fuel emissions must be reduced by 75% by 2035 from 2018 levels. The RSPB supports the CCC in being clear that fossil fuels must be phased out to reach net zero targets. We support ambition to phase out coal in the 2020s and recognition that gas cannot be used as a bridge fuel if we are to reduce emissions in the necessary timeframe.

Yours sincerely



Carl Cornish MPhil CEnv CMIEEM
Conservation Officer