

Planning reference: P 2013 0660

Welsh Government reference: H6955/A/14/2218276

Description: Part of field west of Commonwood Farm and south of Borrass Road, Commonwood, Holt, Wrexham.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a local resident I would like to register my objection to the proposed exploratory drilling at Borrass Head. This test drill site is part of a much larger scheme and the decision made here will set a precedent for future proposed gas extraction sites across North Wales. All of which will degrade the diversity of our ecosystems, polluting the soil, air and water. The extent of the potential damage would be unmeasurable as environmental impact assessment has been deemed unnecessary by the Welsh Assembly. This is unacceptable. I love the river Dee and as so many proposed sites are along its length I worry about Dart Energy's plans to deal with the huge levels of contaminated water they will have to pump out of the coal seam in order to extract the methane. Dart has already been caught dumping benzene polluted water into the Firth of Forth

Can these companies be trusted not to contaminate our ground water? A breach of an aquifer would make water pollution an ongoing problem for us and future generations. At this time of global environmental and political uncertainty is polluting the very soil and water that will sustain us in a time of need a wise decision. Would it not be more pertinent to recognise our dependence on nature rather than continuing to exploit her.

We have seen in Lancashire the potential for seismic events related to this kind of gas extraction. Is destabilising the geology in an area with a long mining history a wise decision? Only a few years ago a whole area of land collapsed into old mine workings near Erddig. This to me is not an acceptable risk. People have been told they will not be able to insure their homes against damage from coal or methane extraction which would lead to the inability to secure a mortgage or sell your property. It is the tax payer that will pay for damage to property and the environment. Does this really make coal bed methane a viable and just source of energy?

The fact that these drill sites will be abandoned by the very companies who stand to profit from them is another outrage. Once profits begin to dwindle in a few short years they will leave us local people with another scar of environmental destruction. As the concrete decays all wells will eventually leak, many leak from the day they are installed releasing methane into the atmosphere. The very nature of coal bed methane extraction especially in an old mining area means movement of gas within the geology will be unpredictable and escapes of gas through the soil highly likely. What will be the effect on wild animals and livestock and the health and well being of us local people, our children and the generations who will follow us. You have a choice. The decision is between profits for the few and the health and well being of the many, between maintaining our current comfortable lifestyles by giving power and profits to huge corporations or backing our communities and increasing our ability to be resilient and independent. These plans are to our detriment, to our children's detriment and to the detriment of our ecosystems.

What of their rights of those who cannot speak? What of the voices of the children yet to be born and the voice of the Earth. What would they say?

I ask you to send a message to these companies, that our land and our people are not for sale. That we will find a way back to community and prosperity without them or their gas.

Please undertake an environmental impact assessment. We will be undertaking our own.

Do not trust Dart Energy.

Please keep me informed with developments in this case.

Best wishes

Harry Greaves
Wrexham resident