

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Briefing

Energy Minerals Statement



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust believes that **all energy mineral extraction, including fracking, has the potential to cause direct or indirect impacts on wildlife**, through habitat loss, pollution, water usage and the effect of noise and vibration. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust therefore strongly believes that **any applications for the extraction of energy minerals should be accompanied by a rigorous environmental impact assessment** underpinned by accurate survey and research, in order that any adverse effects can be properly identified. Any impacts on wildlife should be first avoided, and where this may not be possible, mitigated or ecologically compensated. If this cannot be achieved to a satisfactory level that would ensure net gain in biodiversity then the application should be refused. **The exploration for and extraction of energy minerals is a hugely sensitive issue and very topical given the prominence of news stories relating to ‘fracking’.**

In August 2013, The Wildlife Trusts joined with other environmental and conservation groups to urge the Government to “**put the brakes on fracking**”. The groups, which include WWF, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, are concerned that if fracking were to be embraced to the degree currently proposed by the Government, the UK could be left with a gas-dependent energy system for decades to come, significantly compromising our ability to meet legally-binding carbon targets. The Wildlife Trusts have also been part of a coalition of environmental bodies that have produced a detailed [report](#) on the effects of fracking, including proposals for ‘frack-free’ zones.

What is Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust doing?

Locally, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust believes that fracking is a very sensitive issue and that it is essential that all applications for exploration or extraction of energy minerals are subjected to the full rigour of the planning system.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will continue to scrutinise planning applications in all parts of the county and stand up for wildlife by seeking to ensure that the protection of wild species and habitats is given a voice.

Key facts

- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, a registered charity, provides a voice for its 11,000 members within the planning system
- Each year Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust screens between 7,000 and 10,000 planning applications for threats to wildlife. We are the only organisation in the County that does this.
- In 2012/13 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust submitted over 350 detailed planning responses. We secured positive benefits for wildlife, including increased protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) in 87% of cases.
- In 2011 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust successfully defeated proposals for a waste incinerator in the heart of Sherwood Forest, which, if built, would have seriously impacted rare bird species and important habitats.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has been assured by Nottinghamshire County Council that the Trust will be consulted on all future planning applications relating to energy mineral exploration or extraction.

The Wildlife Trust is currently seeking a similar reassurance from the Environment Agency, which is responsible for the licensing of operations.

How is the Wildlife Trust responding to the application at Daneshill?

Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Exploration at Daneshill

The Wildlife Trust has called for a range of further studies to be carried out so that potential impacts on wildlife can be properly assessed.

2009 Application for Proposed CBM Exploration

In 2009 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust commented on an application for mineral exploration (coal bed methane) on land near Daneshill Lakes. The Trust's Head of Conservation Policy and Planning highlighted a number of serious inadequacies in the information provided with the application. The Trust raised concerns over the potential impacts (direct and indirect) on wildlife and highlighted the proximity of the exploration site to Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits SSSI and a number of designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

2012 Re-submission of Application

In 2012, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust was made aware that the application for CBM exploration had been re-submitted by Dart Energy. As the new application was based on the original submission and contained none of the additional information we had insisted was necessary, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust **objected** on the basis that there was inadequate information to undertake a proper assessment of the likely ecological effects - as required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

What can you do?

- **Email your MP**
Ask them to apply pressure to ensure that the planning system is revised to take into account the importance of the natural environment and to ensure that agencies responsible for monitoring environmental impacts, such as Local Authority Planning Departments, Natural England and the Environment Agency, are adequately resourced and not constrained from objecting to damaging development.
- **Support the Wildlife Trust's work**
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust works within the planning system to ensure that the concerns of its members are represented when key decisions affecting our towns, villages and landscape are made. The more supporters we have, the stronger our voice will be. To find out more about our work and how you can support us by donating or joining, visit www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

With around 11,000 members, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is the county's largest environmental charity run by local people for the benefit of local wildlife and wildlife habitats. Improving people's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural world is fundamental to our work. We manage more than 60 nature reserves covering more than 2,000 acres, liaise with farmers and landowners to promote and encourage conservation stewardship, campaign for the protection of threatened species and habitats and work to influence government policy and decisions affecting the future of wildlife. Our efforts are part of a nationwide network of 47 local Wildlife Trusts working in partnership to protect our precious natural heritage.

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Nottinghamshire

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future