



## INJUNCTION INJUSTICE

**Support for fracking and unconventional oil and gas extraction is at a record low; less than 20% of British people support the process.**

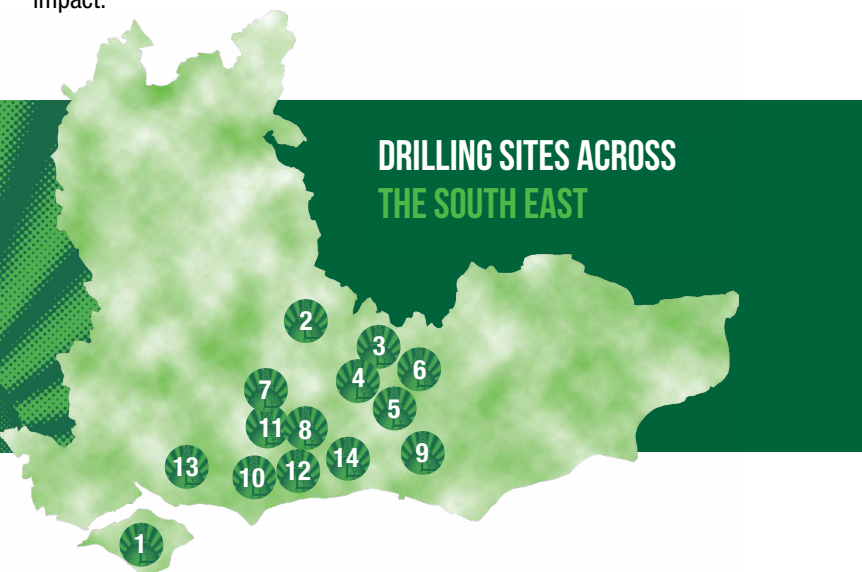
Despite or perhaps because of this; oil and gas firms are increasingly seeking authoritarian injunctions against protesters. The latest bid comes from UK Oil and Gas (UKOG) who operate several sites in the South East.

UKOG has no social licence for its environmentally-destructive drilling operations and, instead, is seeking a draconian injunction to bludgeon local people's right to peaceful and lawful protest.

I have visited the brave campaigners from across the South East who have taken to the courts to challenge this latest injunction injustice. To them, I continue to offer my wholehearted support and admiration.

They are fighting against a desperate industry. Ministers' love affair with unconventional oil and gas exploration is not shared by a public that overwhelmingly supports renewable alternatives. Rather than accept this, the government is bypassing local democracy while reports of heavy-handed policing continue to rise with accusations of collusion between police and fracking firms.

But an authoritarian crackdown on British citizens' rights to protest will not squash fracking opposition. People's legitimate concerns aren't going away – and their chief concern is the destructive environmental and climate impact.



### ISLE OF WIGHT

#### 1. Arreton, Isle of Wight

UK Oil & Gas PLC (UKOG) plans to apply for permission to start appraisal work at the onshore Arreton site (PEDL331) on the Isle of Wight. The firm surrendered its offshore licence (P1916) in 2017. Frack Free Isle of Wight and the Isle of Wight Green Party, along with local residents, are working to resist UKOG's plans for the Island.

### SURREY

#### 2. Albury Park Wellsite, New Road, Albury

Surrey County Council approved plans in 2018 for 15 years of gas production at this Green Belt site (DL004) in the middle of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Delegated powers were used to approve the extension under the radar. IGas Energy PLC expects to be exporting electricity to the grid from gas generated at this site in 2018.

#### 3. Feltons Farm, Old School Lane, Brockham

Angus Energy PLC caused controversy at the site (PL235) by drilling a sidetrack well without permission from Surrey County Council; the breach was spotted by local campaign group Brockham Oil Watch. Councillors granted retrospective permission for the sidetrack in August 2018, despite the chair of the planning committee labelling Angus the 'least reliable hydrocarbon operation the council has dealt with'. Councillors also granted Angus permission for a three-year appraisal period. Campaigners are convinced that Angus will start commercial production under this permission, which is what the firm has consistently told its investors.

#### 4. Bury Hill Wood, Leith Hill, Dorking

Europa Oil & Gas (Holdings) PLC's planning permission for oil exploration at this highly controversial Green Belt site (PEDL143) in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty expired in August 2018. An application to extend it is expected. The Environment Agency granted a permit in July 2018 despite receiving over 103,000 objections. The traffic management plan remains a sticking

point. Keith is a regular visitor to the site, supporting the local community's decade-long battle to resist drilling.

#### 5. Horse Hill, Horley

Keith has visited this site, near to Gatwick (PEDL137) to meet local residents and campaigners on many occasions; hearing deep concerns about the potential use of high-pressure injections of water and chemicals to extract the hundreds of millions of barrels of oil UKOG claims it will extract. An application for flow testing and new wells was granted in autumn 2017; a 150 day flow-testing period is now underway.

#### 6. King's Farm, South Godstone, Bletchingley

Planning permission was granted in 2016 for another 15 years of oil and gas production at two Green Belt sites operated by IGas (ML021) using delegated powers, bypassing proper local democratic scrutiny. Bletchingley Central (oil) and nearby Bletchingley-2 (gas) are within half a mile of nearby homes.

#### 7. Godley Bridge, Nr Wormley, Surrey

There are two licences under the Godley Bridge banner. UKOG operates the PEDL234 licence adjacent to the firm's Broadford Bridge site; the licence requires a new exploration well is drilled and tested by December 2019. PEDL235 includes the Godley Bridge-1 well; a non-producing Portland sandstone gas discovery. IGas holds a 50% interest but will divest a 25% stake to Onshore Petroleum Ltd. The licence was extended to 2021, despite no progress having been made. The decision appears to have been made against the Oil and Gas Authority's (OGA) own rules.

### WEST SUSSEX

#### 8. Broadford Bridge, Wood Barn Farm, Billingshurst

UKOG began work at the site (PEDL234) in spring 2017 but experienced various problems which included drilling a new side-track well due to flooding; it produced poor results. The firm also

breached planning permits by working at weekends without permission. The site is touted as one of the best prospects in the Weald with claims it is the Kimmeridge "sweet spot". The licence was moved to the appraisal term in May 2018 and requires UKOG to drill two more exploration wells. UKOG is seeking an extension to their retention period from 6 weeks to 18 months to allow further time to analyse the data along from this and the firm's Horse Hill site near Gatwick. UKOG has indicated that 'new sidetrack and stimulation' techniques are being considered. Campaigners strongly opposed the decision to allow 'unconventional processes' to be used to extract Kimmeridge oil on a licence granted for Sherwood Sandstone gas exploration. Keith has visited the site to support peaceful protests and to call for a policing review amid complaints about officers using heavy-handed tactics at this site and others across England.

#### 9. Lower Stumble, Balcombe

One of the most infamous sites in the South East is the Balcombe site (PEDL244). Angus, the new site operator (with fracking company Cuadrilla still the majority owner), claimed it would flow test by September 2018. Despite receiving council and OGA permission, there is still no environmental permit for the storage of crude oil. There is also a condition for a community liaison group to be established; still awaited. Campaigners, including Brighton MP Caroline Lucas, have been monitored by the Metropolitan Police for their involvement in earlier protests. The monitoring has been described by human rights groups as 'an outrageous affront to the rights to freedom of speech and protest and an assault on privacy.'

#### 10. Lidsey Well, Lidsey Road, Aldingbourne

The Lidsey site near Bognor Regis (PL241) operated by Angus was granted permission for 10 more years of oil production in April 2018. Angus completed drilling of a second well in 2017 and has recently brought Lidsey 1 back into production. The firm denies its operations are unconventional despite drilling into the Kimmeridge. Angus angered locals when its lorries used an unauthorised route.

#### 11. Singleton oil field, Cobblers Row to Middlefield, Singleton

IGas was granted planning permission in 2016 for the drilling of two new oil wells in already dug out access trenches at the existing South Downs National Park site (PL240), the installation of new oil storage tanks and gas exports from the site. The permission allows for oil extraction until 2031.

#### 12. Baxter's Copse, Petworth

UKOG own a 50% interest in this site (PEDL233), directly adjacent to the Singleton oil field. IGas is the operator. The initial term of the licence expired in 2018. Due to the operator not having carried out any exploration, the OGA instructed IGas to formalise the expiry of the licence in July 2018. No substantive works have been carried out to date.

#### 13. Storrington Well Site, Pulborough Road, Cootham

IGas will pull out of the site (PL205) after selling 100% interest to Onshore Petroleum Ltd in May 2018 despite having been granted a further 15 years of hydrocarbon production in 2017. Locals had opposed the application on the grounds that it indicates plans for fracking and 'unconventional' extraction.

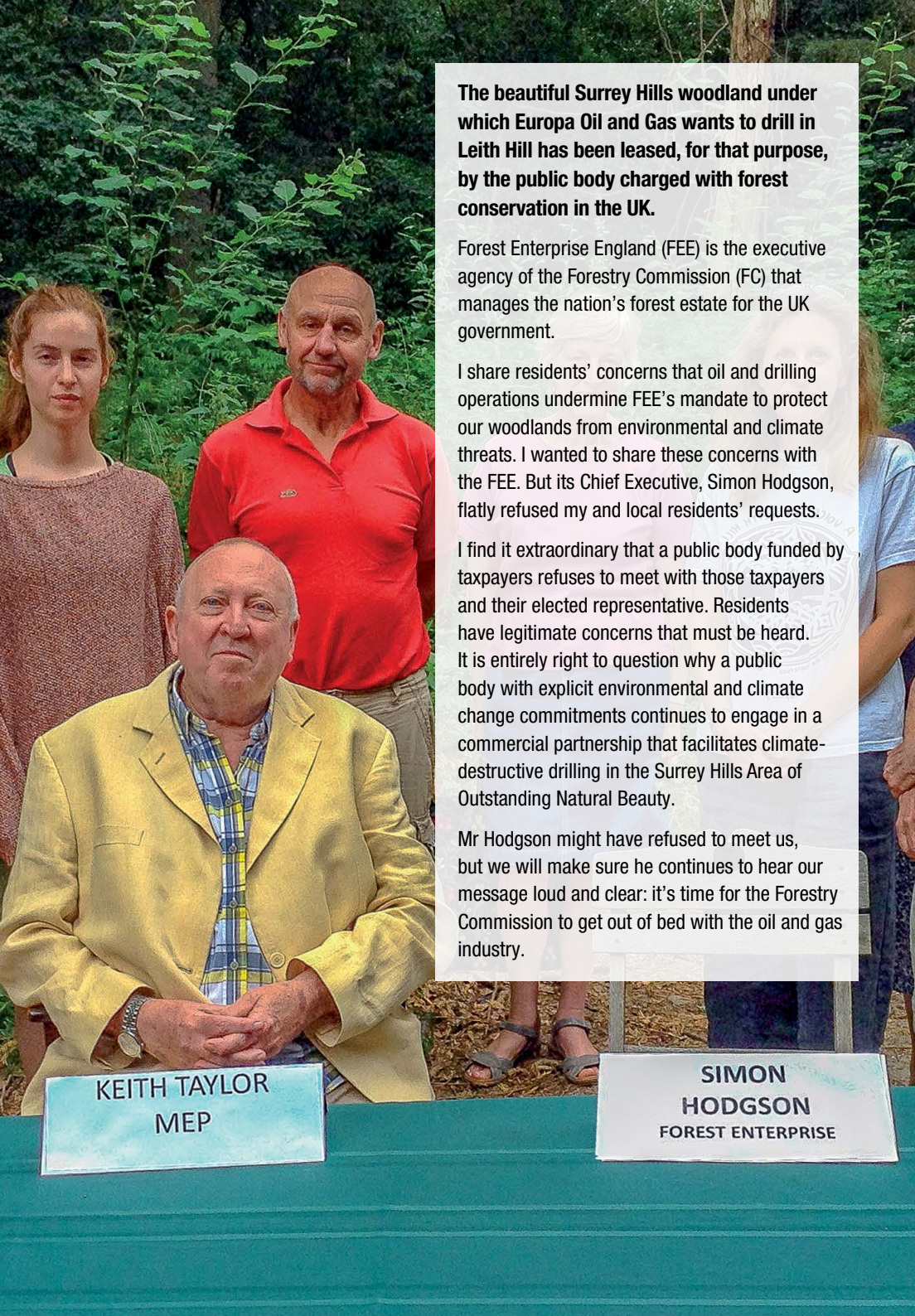
#### 14. Markwells Wood, near Rowlands Castle, South Downs National Park

Landowners withdrew UKOG's access permission in July 2017 following objections by Portsmouth Water and the Environment Agency to its plans, citing aquifer and drinking water concerns. In July 2018, UKOG was ordered by the South Downs National Park Authority to leave and restore the site. UKOG had submitted an application at the end of September 2016 but withdrew it in May 2017, two days before a Planning Committee decision was due. Apparently the firm had been told it was likely to be refused. UKOG is currently in breach of its original planning conditions, as it has failed to restore the site.

### FIND YOUR LOCAL CAMPAIGN!

Visit [frack-off.org.uk](http://frack-off.org.uk) to find and join an anti-fracking or anti-drilling campaign group in your local area.





**The beautiful Surrey Hills woodland under which Europa Oil and Gas wants to drill in Leith Hill has been leased, for that purpose, by the public body charged with forest conservation in the UK.**

Forest Enterprise England (FEE) is the executive agency of the Forestry Commission (FC) that manages the nation's forest estate for the UK government.

I share residents' concerns that oil and drilling operations undermine FEE's mandate to protect our woodlands from environmental and climate threats. I wanted to share these concerns with the FEE. But its Chief Executive, Simon Hodgson, flatly refused my and local residents' requests.

I find it extraordinary that a public body funded by taxpayers refuses to meet with those taxpayers and their elected representative. Residents have legitimate concerns that must be heard. It is entirely right to question why a public body with explicit environmental and climate change commitments continues to engage in a commercial partnership that facilitates climate-destructive drilling in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Mr Hodgson might have refused to meet us, but we will make sure he continues to hear our message loud and clear: it's time for the Forestry Commission to get out of bed with the oil and gas industry.

**KEITH TAYLOR**  
MEP

**SIMON HODGSON**  
FOREST ENTERPRISE

# WHAT IS ACIDISATION?

We've all heard of the 'F word' by now, but acidisation has been a well-kept secret. Like hydraulic fracturing in shale, acidisation is a 'stimulation technique' used to release oil and gas from unyielding rock such as limestone and sandstone. Acidisation involves injecting solutions of acids and other chemicals into the ground and is a process that could be employed across the South East. The oil and gas industry divides acidising or acidisation into three 'tiers'.

- 'Acid wash' is a weak acid solution that cleans the wellbore at low pressure.
- 'Matrix acidising' cleans and dissolves pathways through rock near the wellbore at a pressure insufficient to fracture the rock.
- 'Acid fracking' is done at high enough pressure to fracture the rock, creating longer pathways.

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Acidising uses a higher concentration of chemicals than hydraulic fracturing. Fracking fluid for shale typically consists of water with 0.5% chemicals. Matrix acidising and acid fracking fluids can contain up to 18% chemicals.

Acidisation shares many of the negative effects of hydraulic fracturing: traffic; air pollution; flares; intensive water use; potential drinking water pollution; spills, leaking wells and faults; large volumes of toxic liquid waste, and stress on communities.

Planning applications tend to be loosely worded. They may mention unspecified 'stimulation techniques'. Companies may propose an 'acid wash', but later decide to 'matrix acidise' a well

during testing and, in some cases, acidise more vigorously, at pressure, during the production stage.

## WHAT ACIDS AND CHEMICALS?

In limestone, the main acid used is hydrochloric, typically used in concentrations of up to 15%.

In sandstone, it's hydrofluoric, a highly corrosive acid and a powerful contact poison, typically used at much lower concentrations of up to 3%.

There will also be biocides, polymers to make the liquid gloopy, corrosion inhibitors, detergents, solvents and other potentially harmful chemicals. However, oil and gas firms routinely keep secret the exact chemicals and acids they plan to use.

## IS IT 'CONVENTIONAL'?

'Conventional' sounds safe. 'It's what we've always done,' the industry might claim. But there is no legal definition of 'conventional'.

For geologists, 'conventional' fossil fuel extraction means without 'stimulation'. Therefore, like hydraulic fracturing, acidisation is an 'unconventional' extraction technique.

## HOW IS IT REGULATED?

There have been attempts to regulate it or ban it in California, Florida and elsewhere in the USA. But, in the UK, the government has moved in the opposite direction by attempting to define acidisation as 'conventional'. The regulations that are in place are far from 'Gold Standard.' Oil and gas firms are regularly in breach of their terms yet suffer no significant consequence.

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# A GUIDE TO DRILLING, ACIDISATION AND FRACKING IN THE SOUTH EAST

**"Oil and gas drilling, along with acidisation and fracking, is a dangerous form of climate change denial. It is an affront to local communities and flies in the face of the scientific consensus. Yet the Government is intent on fast-tracking fracking and other forms of fossil fuel extraction across the UK.**

**Our beautiful region is set to become pock-marked with unsightly and dangerous wells. Fossil fuels need to stay in the ground if we're to have any chance of mitigating the worst effects of catastrophic climate change. This unconventional extraction of gas and oil is wholly incompatible with the government's commitments under the Paris climate agreement.**

**I want a Britain that values quality of life and works to build a secure future for our children – I am joining campaigners, demonstrators and local communities across the South East in opposing these destructive plans."**

**KEITH TAYLOR GREEN PARTY MEP FOR THE SOUTH EAST**

KEITH TAYLOR GREEN PARTY MEP FOR THE SOUTH EAST

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