

Comments from Michael E. Chaloner, Secretary of the Richmond Constituency Green Party, on the points raised by the inspector regarding hydrocarbons.

1. Policy M17 (4) (i) – there needs to be a recommended buffer for residential properties to make the situation clear and simple for the hydrocarbon extraction industry, housing developers and owners. The figure of 500 m or more is reasonable considering the level of noise and air pollution that a Fracking site can be expected to produce. It is essential to make the buffer large enough to be on the safe side when we in the UK have so little experience of Fracking.
2. Policy M16 (a) and explanatory text – Conventional hydrocarbon gas extraction is based on pumping out the gas, while unconventional extraction is based on fracking using water under high pressure to force the gas out.
3. No comment
4. Policy M16 (b) (ii) -National Park/AONB are places that people use to get away from various forms of pollution and into a healthy and an attractive environment. Any potential threat to them should be resisted for humanity and wild life. Damage to them can become permanent. Even placing a gas pipe under them has the potential for serious pollution due to leakage.