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|  | Contentious issue - (Perenco seismic survey, Purbeck) |
| **(11 February 2019)** **Draft update 6 August 2019**  |

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| **Quotable key messages:** |
| Perenco have contacted the National Trust requesting permission to undertake a 3D seismic survey in Dorset, which would include National Trust land at Purbeck.The Trust’s primary concern is to protect the special places which we look after for everyone. It will consider all applications from oil and gas companies to conduct seismic surveys on a site-by-site basis and consider any objections specific to those locations. The Trust will object (as far as we reasonably can within the parameters of the law of the land) to proposals for fossil fuel exploration and production on, beneath or near National Trust land where we judge the local impacts to be unacceptable. *Under the current legal regime, where the impact of exploration activity is small, we cannot totally prevent any exploration activities associated with National Trust land, and have no alternative but to grant a licence agreement. However, this should not be taken to imply our consent for future fossil fuel production.* Our position on fossil fuels:We aim to play our part in restoring a beautiful and healthy natural environment. Climate change is the greatest long-term threat to the places of natural beauty and their wildlife that we look after. In order to limit the impact of climate change on our environment we will continue to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, increase the amount of renewable energy we use, and support the wider shift to efficiency and cleaner sources of energy. We do not support the exploration for or production of new or additional fossil fuel resources and reserves because globally there are already more usable and accessible fossil fuels identified than can be burned within safe climate change limits. ***Additional quotable messages:***The Trust aims to restore a beautiful and healthy natural environment and feels climate change is the greatest long term threat to this. We would like to see a reduction in our dependence on fossil fuels and a shift toward cleaner sources of energy and save money on its energy bills, which can be invested back into conserving the nation’s special places. The Trust will object to exploration and extraction of fossil until it judges the impacts of that activity are not significantly detrimental to our conservation plans locally.The approval of any future surveys would need to highlight exactly where the survey trucks will go, which tracks they will use, timings and would need to be compatibility with our conservation aims. |
| **Q&A’s** |
| **Q. Why is the National Trust against fracking?** **A.** We have a presumption against fracking on our land because natural gas is a fossil gas.The mining process on land not owned by us could also give rise to potential environmental and landscape impacts and we would object if they adversely affected our places. Carbon capture and storage technology might one day address the greenhouse gas problems of burning a fossil fuel but this is still a long way off. If evidence becomes available regarding our environmental and landscape concerns relating to the extraction process, that might address these. Evidence about the impacts of fracking may therefore change over time but until that happens, we fundamentally object to fracking on our land.The Trust is also working in coalition with a number of fellow sector organisations who together have set out 10 Recommendations for Government via our ‘Are We Fit to Frack’ report: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/are-we-fit-to-frack>**Q. Does this mean the National Trust will allow seismic surveys at other sites?****A.** Our primary concern is to protect the special places which we look after for everyone. As such, we will consider all applications from oil and gas companies to conduct seismic surveys on a site-by-site basis and consider any objections specific to those locations. But to reiterate, we oppose fracking on our land. **Q: I heard in the news that we’ve invest in fossil fuel companies, is this true and is this related to your decision?****A:** No. It’s important to clarify we do not invest in 'fossil fuels and mining' companies, but in the CAF UK Equitrack Fund, which is a UK equity index tracking fund run for charities. We adopt a policy of not investing directly in companies which derive more than 10% of their turnover from the extraction of thermal coal or oil from oil sands. We also engage with companies to improve their environmental performance and see our role as one of actively influencing behaviour and driving environmental improvements.**Q: Is the National Trust accepting payment from Perenco?****A:** Where the Trust is unable to prevent survey work on our land we do not accept payment for this but we do look to recover the full costs of any mitigation measures and the costs of administering the necessary licence agreements. This ensures that the charity is not financially disadvantaged by survey work which we do not support and which has no benefit to the charity. |