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Mr Stuart Lane,
mail@fossilfreedorset.org.uk

Dear Sir,

My attention has recently been drawn to an edition of Dorset Eye in which my letter to the Dorset Echo has been “marked” by teacher, who I assume to be you. You might have extended me the same courtesy as I did you and dealt with me man to man, so to speak. I have to thank Nick Gosse, an oil company executive from Wiltshire for drawing my attention to your “marking”.

My background does not disqualify my perception of the misrepresentation of your criticisms of the operation at Kimmeridge. However your emboldened comments reveal much about your own ignorance of the facts surrounding methane and its fate in the atmosphere. The plank of your patronising comments is that methane accumulates in the atmosphere. Hence all discharges should be prevented.

Methane undergoes a chemical reaction with hydroxyl radicals in the atmosphere. It has a lifetime of just under 10 years. It simply is NOT a persistent pollutant. The irony of this is that the hydroxyl radical is formed from a singlet oxygen, a gaseous inorganic chemical with the formula $O=O$ which is in a quantum state where all electrons are spin paired. So no permanent build-up of methane. The methane all disappears to form carbon dioxide and water.

In the meantime the oil produced from Kimmeridge contributes some £750,000 to the Exchequer for public spending and an additional £200,000 per year for shareholders, many of who will be institutional investors such as pension funds and public authorities, not only wealthy landed gentry who so clearly you despise.. In the meantime you may split hairs over how much methane bovines emit but what you cannot escape is that cattle farmers receive subsidies. The oil and gas industry supplies much of the wealth to pay for them.

Yours Sincerely

Peter A Read

cc.

Dorset Echo

Nick Gosse

Richard Drax MP

Cllr Nigel Bundy

Caroline Nickinson (South Dorset Conservatives).

Dorset Eye