

THE WEEKLY PROFIT

FROM THE SACRIFICE ZONE

Sue Gilbert
Issue 45

Without prejudice

5th February 2019



Our English Countryside at Sunset



Flaring at sunset, The New Scientist

Derbyshire Times

Derbyshire MP criticises fracking firm for complaining about 'unworkable' planning policies

Liam Norcliffe 5th February, 2019

<https://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/derbyshire-mp-criticises-fracking-firm-for-complaining-about-unworkable-planning-policies-1-9576560>

MP Lee Rowley has criticised a company which wants to carry out fracking in north Derbyshire for complaining about 'unworkable' current planning policies. Industry giant Ineos has been granted planning permission to explore for shale gas reserves in Marsh Lane, near Eckington. If successful, it could eventually lead to fracking at the site.

MP for north east Derbyshire, Lee Rowley, has supported residents of Marsh Lane and Eckington in their campaign against the plans.

“It’s a step in the right direction that even Ineos are starting to realise that fracking is unworkable in the UK,” Mr Rowley said. “I’ve long said that it won’t work in north east Derbyshire and, given the sheer scale of the number of wells that would be required, I don’t think it will work across the country as a whole.



Government's fracking policy will cause energy crisis, says UK's richest man

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/04/ineos-chairman-jim-ratcliffe-criticises-government-fracking-policies>

Adam Vaughan. 04.02.2019

“They are playing politics with the future of the country. We have a non-existent energy strategy and are heading towards an energy crisis that will do long term and irreparable damage to the economy and the government needs to decide whether they are finally going to put the country first and develop a workable UK onshore gas industry,” said Ratcliffe, [who is leaving the UK for tax-free Monaco](#).

Labour said the intervention “smacked of desperation” and was made by a “fracking corporation who knows that time is up”.

Ineos argued the UK had chosen to bet “the future of our manufacturing industry on windmills and imported gas from countries which are potentially unstable”.

A government risk assessment last week concluded that UK gas supplies were “resilient to all but the most unlikely combination of high demand and supply disruption”.

Jamie Peters, a campaigner at Friends of the Earth, said: “Today’s outburst feels like a final desperate plea from an unwanted, struggling industry. Jim Ratcliffe is right that the UK needs a new energy policy, but one that’s based on energy-saving and renewables, not fracking and more fossil fuels.”

Why do Ineos want the shale gas for their feedstock? For Plastic?

We want to become a leader in UK shale gas development because we believe it is the only way for UK manufacturing industry to stay competitive. **INEOS is one of very few businesses that can use shale gas as both a fuel and a feedstock and we are already spending hundreds of millions of pounds to import shale gas from the USA.** We also know that UK shale has the potential to make up a significant proportion, if not the totality, of UK gas requirements going forward. This means the UK could have energy security for the first time in many years.

<https://www.ineos.com/businesses/ineos-shale/faqs/>

UK ocean plastic pollution crisis: Every seal, dolphin and whale washed up on British shores had plastic in their stomachs, report says

Evening Standard

<https://www.standard.co.uk/futurelondon/theplasticfreeproject/plastic-pollution-single-use-plastic-a4053361.html>

- **JESSICA TAYLOR** 31.01.2019
 - **Every single animal washed up on Britain's shore that was examined by scientists in a new study had traces of plastic in its stomach.**
 - In results that have been described as "ominous" by anti-plastic campaigners, all of the 50 beached seals, whales and dolphins included in the study presented microplastics.



The Guardian

www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/04/the-guardian-view-on-fracking-the-end-cant-come-soon-enough

Editorial

The Guardian view on fracking: the end can't come soon enough

Launching a new fossil fuel industry was a bad idea, and a coalition of localists and environmentalists appears close to defeating it

Fracking was always a bad idea, because of climate change. Cutting carbon emissions means reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. To develop a new gas industry is to do the opposite, and arguments that shale gas is needed to “bridge” a gap in energy supply when existing nuclear power stations are decommissioned, and before they are replaced, are largely spurious. **The idea that the UK's energy security is threatened is similarly unfounded.** Unlike eastern European countries that rely on gas from Russia, our imported gas comes mostly from Norway. The government's most recent assessment concluded that supplies are resilient. Dramatic recent falls in the cost of renewables have greatly strengthened the case against fracking, as well as providing one of the few glimmers of hope in a darkening global climate picture.

Is it true that Claire Perry has been nominated for a Green Heart Hero Award? Due to work done to create a future where the UK no longer contributes to climate change?

How does this reconcile with support for the fossil fuel fracking industry?



Extreme concern over impact fracking could have on owl population in Nottinghamshire

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/extreme-concern-over-impact-fracking->

There is an exploratory drilling rig close to Misson Carr Nature Reserve

Concerns have been raised over the impact fracking could have on Nottinghamshire wildlife, at a site considered to be one of the most important for owls in the county.

An exploratory drilling rig operated by IGas is located 120 metres from Misson Carr Nature Reserve, a designated site of special scientific interest.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, which has worked closely with local campaigners to block fracking plans, says it is "extremely concerned".

Head of Conservation at the trust, Janice Bradley said: "As a designated site of special scientific interest (SSSI) Misson Carr and its wildlife simply shouldn't be put at risk due to this sort of extractive operation.



Drill or Drop?

<https://drillordrop.com/2019/02/04/uk-fracking-tremor-rules-absurd-and-unworkable-says-ineos-campaigners-accuse-company-of-aggressive-and-misinformed-attack/>

Ruth Hayhurst 4th February 2019

The UK's biggest shale gas licence-holder has accused the government of "shutting down shale by the backdoor" with rules on fracking-induced earth tremors.

In a press statement this morning, Jim Ratcliffe, owner of Ineos Upstream, called on the government to "make shale workable or shut it down". It should not, the statement said, "use politically expedient, slippery back door manoeuvres to end shale".

Opponents of the industry described it as "a suicide note from a desperate industry" and again threatened legal action if the government changed the rules on earth tremors.

"The 0.5 limit isn't where anyone believes there will be damage or even disturbance.

"It is the point where we think we have a transition between fracking-related micro-earthquakes and the onset of stimulation of natural fractures which can move and generate seismic events which may be much larger depending on the scale of the fault and the associated geology."

Emeritus Professor Peter Styles

“This aggressive and misinformed attack by Jim Ratcliffe on the government who have already reiterated that they have no plans to change the traffic light system on fracking, only goes to show how very desperate this fossil fuel, climate-change-exacerbating industry has become.

“Coming from a man who now lives in Monaco, and wants to frack in the UK – not for energy security – but to produce yet more plastics, is quite unbelievable.

“Previous seismic events at Preese Hall in 2011 caused damage to the wellbore and also reported damage in surrounding properties: these seismic events were greatly below the magnitude 4 that Ratcliffe is promoting.

“It would indeed be a “foolish” politician who made adjustments to these levels, as Claire Perry MP has stated recently, but it would be a risk that communities would not accept and would readily take legal action upon.

“Cuadrilla agreed to these levels, and were key to their inception. Begging the government to shift the goalposts at this point is both ludicrous and unacceptable.

“We’d like to know where the recommendations of Professors Baptie, Styles and Green disappeared to: they previously wrote that the traffic light system should shut-down at 0.5ML with a three-day delay and implement a 10-day delay if seismicity levels reached greater than 1.5ML, not the 18 hours that the regulations currently state.”

Frack Free Lancashire

**End the Madness
Ban Fracking**

