



BASSETLAW AGAINST FRACKING



BASSETLAW FARMERS! ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT FRACKING?

This leaflet was prepared by concerned local residents who have joined together to create Bassetlaw Against Fracking.

Underneath Bassetlaw lies one of the world's largest shale-gas fields, the Bowland Shale. IGas Energy Plc has been granted a licence to carry out exploration and development in this area. The government has stated that fracking is safe if regulations are adhered to; yet no evidence exists to support this case. Emerging evidence from the US, Australia and the UK suggests that there is a real potential for damage to the environment and public health.

FARMERS ARE PROTESTING!

- 140 farmers and supporters in Belcoo, Enniskillen recently took part in an anti-fracking tractor run. Opposition has been growing following the announcement that fracking company Tamboran are to begin test drilling in the area. Northern Ireland farmers also highlighted their opposition with a protest at this summer's G8 conference. John Sheridan, a farmer and official with the Ulster Farmers' Union, said: "The food and drink industry is worth close to €30bn in Ireland and fracking could ruin that industry."
- In Canada, the NFU has called for a moratorium on fracking which members believe is "a danger to water, food and farmland."
- In Poland, farmers in Zurawlow and Kashubia have been blockading land earmarked for exploratory drilling.
- In Australia, farmers in the *Lock the Gate Alliance* have worked together to protect farmland and keep out the gas industry.



WHY ARE THEY PROTESTING?

Gas Field Haze and Crops Don't Mix

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) are concerned that "the possible impact upon local agricultural production and the agricultural industry more widely is still uncertain...DECC has not identified the need for monitoring of the impact on agriculture, and that long-term responsibilities (for compensation, restoration and aftercare of sites) may be reassigned, possibly defaulting to the **landowner.**"

Emissions from drilling pads, truck traffic servicing the well pads, compressors and other equipment related to the drilling give rise to "gas field haze" with high levels of ozone. This can result in weaker, stunted plants, inferior crop quality, and decreased yields. Crops that suffer from this are beans, beets, carrots, corn, peas, potatoes, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, turnips and grains.



**"The overall impact of the oil and gas boom is like a death sentence for the soil."
(Eugene Kelly, Colorado State University)**

***"The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself."
(FD Roosevelt)***

Livestock and Gas Fields Don't Mix

A study by Penn State College found that between 2007 and 2010 in counties with 150 or more gas wells, cow numbers decreased by 18.7% on average, compared with only a 1.2% decrease in counties with no fracking wells.

A further study documents 24 cases based on interviews with farmers living near gas wells in 6 states in the USA strongly implicates exposure to gas drilling operations in serious health effects on humans, companion animals, livestock, horses, and wildlife. **Professor Robert Oswald says his findings of deaths and deformities in American livestock are so alarming that Britain should halt the practice 'until its impact is assessed.'** Problems were gastrointestinal, respiratory, reproductive, neurological and urological. Many of these farms were in areas still

producing vegetable crops, meat, eggs and dairy products without testing of the plants, animals or the products.

Professor Oswald told The Ecologist: “[British] farmers living in intensively drilled areas should be very concerned about potential exposures of their crops and herds to shale-gas contaminants in the water, air and soil.”

Water

The amount of water needed to drill and fracture a horizontal shale well is about 5 million gallons. Many wells are fractured more than once. Thousands of wells will be needed to extract the amount of gas the operators believe is recoverable in the UK. This may lead to competition with agriculture for water. Unlike agriculture’s water usage, water used for hydraulic fracturing is contaminated and permanently removed from the water cycle. **Well failures and spills regularly occur with serious consequences for water and soil quality.**

"The shale gas industry would represent an additional water user which could increase water stress in times of shortages. The NFU responds to each water company’s drought plan and we strongly argue that in times of water shortage agriculture must be a priority.” (NFU)

Agri-Tourism and Fracking Don’t Mix



The CPRE in their Policy Guidance note on Shale Gas state: "we are concerned to ensure the impact of shale gas development does not have a damaging effect on rural tourism or farming.”



Many farmers attempt to supplement their business with tea, cakes and ice cream for people on a day out, farm shops, caravan parks and small animal parks. Individual gas wells would likely have little impact on such tourism. However, widespread drilling could do substantial damage. Over time, increased traffic, air and noise pollution, industrial accidents, negative visual impacts from multiple rigs, sheds, storage facilities, pipes, access roads, compressor stations, disruptions to wildlife and fears over lake and stream pollution will change the character of their region. The ability to attract day visitors may be damaged in the long term – outlasting any temporary benefits of gas drilling.



Fracking can hurt small farms. If people knew that your market produce was grown or reared in a contaminated area, would they still buy it?

What YOU Can Do

1. Please, get INVOLVED, make yourself aware of the facts

Contact Frack Free Notts. and Bassetlaw Against Fracking to keep updated. All links and references can also be found on these websites:

www.bassetlawagainstfracking.co.uk www.frackfreenotts.org.uk
www.frackfreesouthyorkshire.co.uk

2. RAISE your CONCERNS with your elected representative

Write to your Parish Council about your concerns

Write to your Bassetlaw District and Notts. County Councillors

Write to your Bassetlaw MP John Mann, Stanley St, Worksop S81 7HX.

Tel: 01909 506200. Email: mannj@parliament.uk

Your County Councillor for North East Bassetlaw is Liz Yates:

Cllr.liz.yates@nottsc.gov.uk Tel: 01777 860219; Work: 0115 9773755;

All the addresses and email addresses are available at

www.frackfreenotts.org.uk and www.bassetlawagainstfracking.org.uk

3. OBJECT to the planning application

IGAS WILL APPLY FOR PLANNING PERMISSION TO EXPLORE FOR SHALE IN THE NORTH EAST BASSETLAW AREA IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014. THERE WILL ONLY BE 21 DAYS TO LODGE AN OBJECTION.

We will be running drop-in session in village halls to help people object to the planning application. Or we can write you by email if you prefer. Just contact us at bassetlaw.against.fracking@gmail.com or frackfreenotts@gmail.com and leave your details, in confidence.

Useful Internet Resources – Local Information

- www.nebf.org.uk www.evertonvillage.org.uk
- <http://themissonhub.wordpress.com/tag/fracking>