

WHY IS A FRACKING WELL PAD LIKE A GARDEN SHED?



Fracking well pad at Kirby Misperton, North Yorkshire



A garden shed

BECAUSE SOON YOU WON'T NEED TO GET PLANNING PERMISSION FOR EITHER OF THEM!

The government wants to make fracking as easy as putting up a shed.

Permitted Development is the part of UK planning law that allows people to carry out improvements on their home or property – such as loft conversions, putting up a fence, adding a small conservatory or **putting up a garden shed** – without having to apply to the local council for planning permission.

The government is now proposing that **exploratory drilling for shale gas** should also be considered as **Permitted Development**, which means that oil and gas companies **would not need to apply for planning permission** from the local council to construct an exploratory fracking well pad (which could look similar to the one in the photo above). Building a **1.5 hectare fracking well pad** – which could result in **noisy day-and-night drilling for up to eight months** and require over **sixty HGV journeys a day** – may therefore end up being treated the same in planning terms as putting up a garden shed.

These proposals are a **serious assault on our local democracy**, as they would prevent **county councils and local communities from opposing fracking in their area**, which people across the UK have been doing in huge numbers wherever fracking has been proposed. The government has realised that they are never going to persuade rural communities to accept fracking willingly, so they are now looking for a way for the industry to start drilling **without the consent of local communities**.

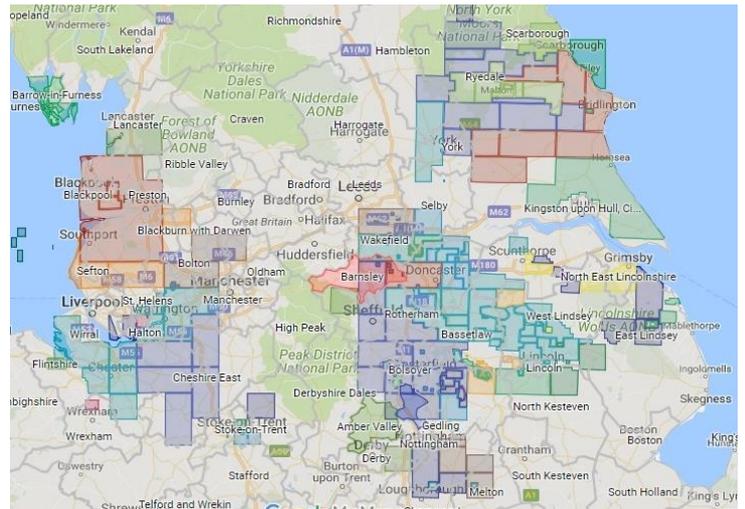
Only 18% of the UK supports fracking, compared to 85% who supports renewables.

Government Energy and Climate Change
Public Attitudes Tracker: Wave 25

And that's not all. Turn over to see what else they are planning.

The government wants to decide which parts of England get fracked.

The government is also proposing that fracking in England should be treated as a **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project** (or NSIP for short), like HS2 or the UK motorway network. This would mean that planning applications for **full-scale multi-well commercial fracking** would be decided by a **government-appointed planning inspector**, not the local planning authority. This would effectively remove control of fracking projects from democratically elected county councils and local communities, which could result in **thousands of fracking wells** being drilled all across the country and the **industrialisation of the British countryside**.



Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs) in the north of England where fracking could take place.

Why are local communities so determined to stop fracking?

Fracking is a controversial method of extracting gas from shale rock by pumping a mixture of water, sand and chemicals down a well at high pressure. Fracking has been **banned in many countries and states**, including Scotland, Ireland and France, because of **environmental and public health concerns**, and there are moratoria (temporary bans) in many other places. Numerous peer-reviewed research papers from other countries indicate that fracking may cause **serious health problems** for people living near well-sites, including **premature births, miscarriages, birth defects, asthma, migraines** and other serious illnesses.

People who live near fracking well sites may also have to cope with higher levels of **noise, air and light pollution** and large numbers of **HGV movements** on rural roads. There could also be an increased risk of **earthquakes** (particularly in former coal mining areas), and possible **contamination of local water supplies**. **Property prices near fracking wells may fall** and people might find their homes more difficult to sell. Burning fracked gas and methane leaks will also **increase climate change** at a time when we should be moving rapidly towards a low-carbon economy based on renewable energy. Fracked gas will also be used in the manufacture of **single-use plastic products**, which are causing a **global pollution crisis** in our oceans.

What can you do to help stop this attack on local democracy?

- The government is running two **public consultations** on fracking, Permitted Development and NSIP. Please visit frackfreeunited.co.uk/permitted-development-and-nsip/ for campaign updates and guidelines on how to respond to these consultations. The submission deadline is October 25th.
- Contact your **MP** and **local councillors** to voice your concerns about Permitted Development and NSIP. Ask them to respond to the public consultations and raise the issue with ministers and their councils.
- Visit letcommunitiesdecide.org to get more involved in the campaign and access online resources.
- Email **Claire Perry**, Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, at claire.perry.mp@parliament.uk asking that the government withdraws its plans to treat fracking as Permitted Development and NSIP.
- Email **James Brokenshire**, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, at james.brokenshire.mp@parliament.uk asking him to do the same.
- Sign the **Frack Free Declaration** on frackfreeunited.co.uk.
- Join your local **anti-fracking community campaign group!**