

# 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** – could 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**, as people have done in huge numbers all across the country wherever fracking has been proposed. The government has realised that they are never going to persuade rural communities to accept fracking, so they are now trying to find some way for the fracking industry to start drilling **without consulting local people**.

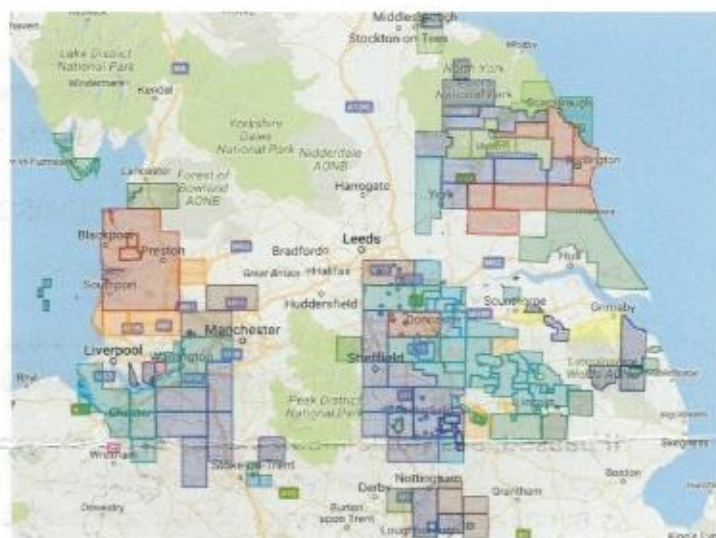
**Only 18% of the UK supports fracking, compared to 85% who supports renewables.**

Government Energy and Climate Change  
Public Attitudes Tracker: Wave 25

**And that's not all. Turn over to see what else they're 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 all control of fracking projects from democratically elected county councils and local communities, which may 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** (a controversial method of extracting gas from shale rock by pumping a mixture of water, sand and chemicals down a well at high pressure) has been **banned in many countries**, including Scotland, Ireland and France, because of **public health and environmental concerns**. Numerous peer-reviewed research papers have shown that fracking can cause **serious health problems** for people who live near well-sites, including **premature births, miscarriages, birth defects, childhood asthma, migraines** and other illnesses.

People who live near fracking well sites also have to cope with higher levels of **noise, air and light pollution**, large numbers of **HGV movements** on rural roads, increased risk of **earthquakes** (particularly in areas where there has been coal mining in the past), 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 **increase climate change** at a time when we should be moving rapidly towards a low-carbon economy based on clean renewable energy. Fracked gas will also be used to make **single-use plastic products**, which are causing a **global pollution crisis** in our oceans and rivers.

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

- Visit [www.letcommunitiesdecide.org](http://www.letcommunitiesdecide.org) to get involved in the campaign and access online resources.
- Email **James Brokenshire**, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, at [james.brokenshire.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.brokenshire.mp@parliament.uk) demanding that the government withdraws its plans to treat fracking as permitted development and a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
- Email **Claire Perry**, Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, at [claire.perry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:claire.perry.mp@parliament.uk) asking her to do the same.
- Contact your **MP** and **local councillors** to voice your concerns about permitted development and NSIP, and ask them to contact James Brokenshire and Claire Perry on your behalf.
- The Government is planning to run **public consultations** on their permitted development and NSIP proposals in the summer. Check [www.frackfreeunited.co.uk](http://www.frackfreeunited.co.uk) for updates and guidelines.
- Sign **The Frack Free Declaration** on the Frack Free United website.
- Join your local **anti-fracking community campaign group**.
- **Do your own research**. Google 'fracking problems' and 'fracking + health' to find out more.



Frack Free United

[www.frackfreeunited.co.uk](http://www.frackfreeunited.co.uk)