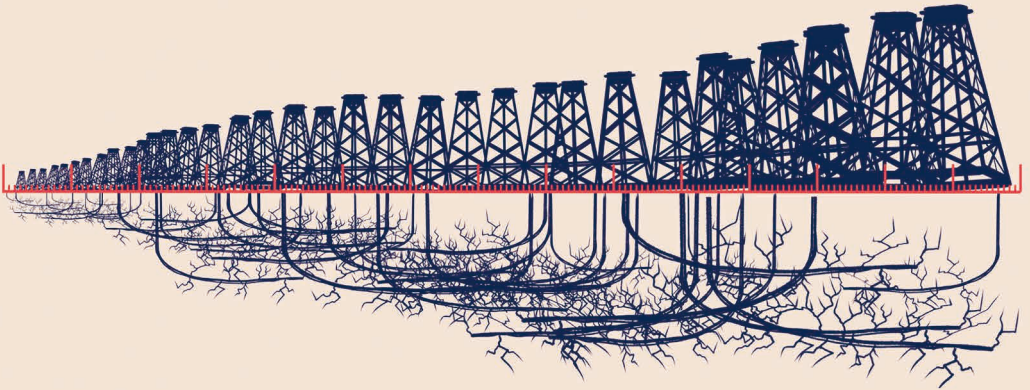


Fracking: Let Communities Decide.



The government is proposing massive changes to planning rules that could give the fracking industry a green light to cover swathes of the country in test drills.

If these changes went ahead, fracking companies could start drilling across the country without the need to apply for planning permission, threatening communities and the climate in the process.

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 **Friends of
the Earth**

When it comes to environmental impacts and disruption to local communities, councils are the ones who have to deal with the consequences of drilling and should have a say in whether it goes ahead. They are best placed to make informed decisions on planning, while representing communities' needs and interests.

'Permitted Development' - the category of planning that the government wants to move test drilling into - was designed for sheds, fences and minor home improvements, not for gas exploration. This is an outrageous affront to local democracy and threatens to slash community involvement in decision-making.

If fracking companies are allowed to quickly develop test drills without the need to apply for planning permission, the UK could be on the fast track to a large scale fracking industry before we know it.



Proposed exploratory drill site - Marsh Lane, Derbyshire. Credit: Drill or Drop

Currently, over 17 thousand square kilometres of England are covered by oil and gas exploration licences, and if the industry gets its way it could mean fracking over 6000 wells in just 15 years. That's more than one every day and could mean a widespread industrialisation of the countryside. Fracking poses risks to nature, groundwater, communities and the climate. Allowing the expansion of such a destructive industry would have catastrophic impacts.

The government and industry have already lost the argument on fracking. It's unpopular, risky, and has already been stopped in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Council after council have stood against fracking developments in their areas. These national planning proposals are a desperate last-ditch attempt to kickstart the industry in the UK - and it's the climate that will ultimately pay the cost.

How can we stop it?

This is too risky to ignore, and a threat on this scale requires a massive response, rooted in local community power.

The government is consulting on these plans over the summer, with a decision expected later in the year. This means we have a few months to make our feelings known, show we won't let our democracy be trampled on and send this unwanted proposal packing.

Join the campaign and get involved:

- **Talk about it** with your friends and family and spread the word in your community
- **Tell your MP** or local councillor about the problem and ask them to write to Energy Minister Claire Perry asking the government to drop its proposal.
- **Find more information** and ways to get involved at

www.letcommunitiesdecide.org

