

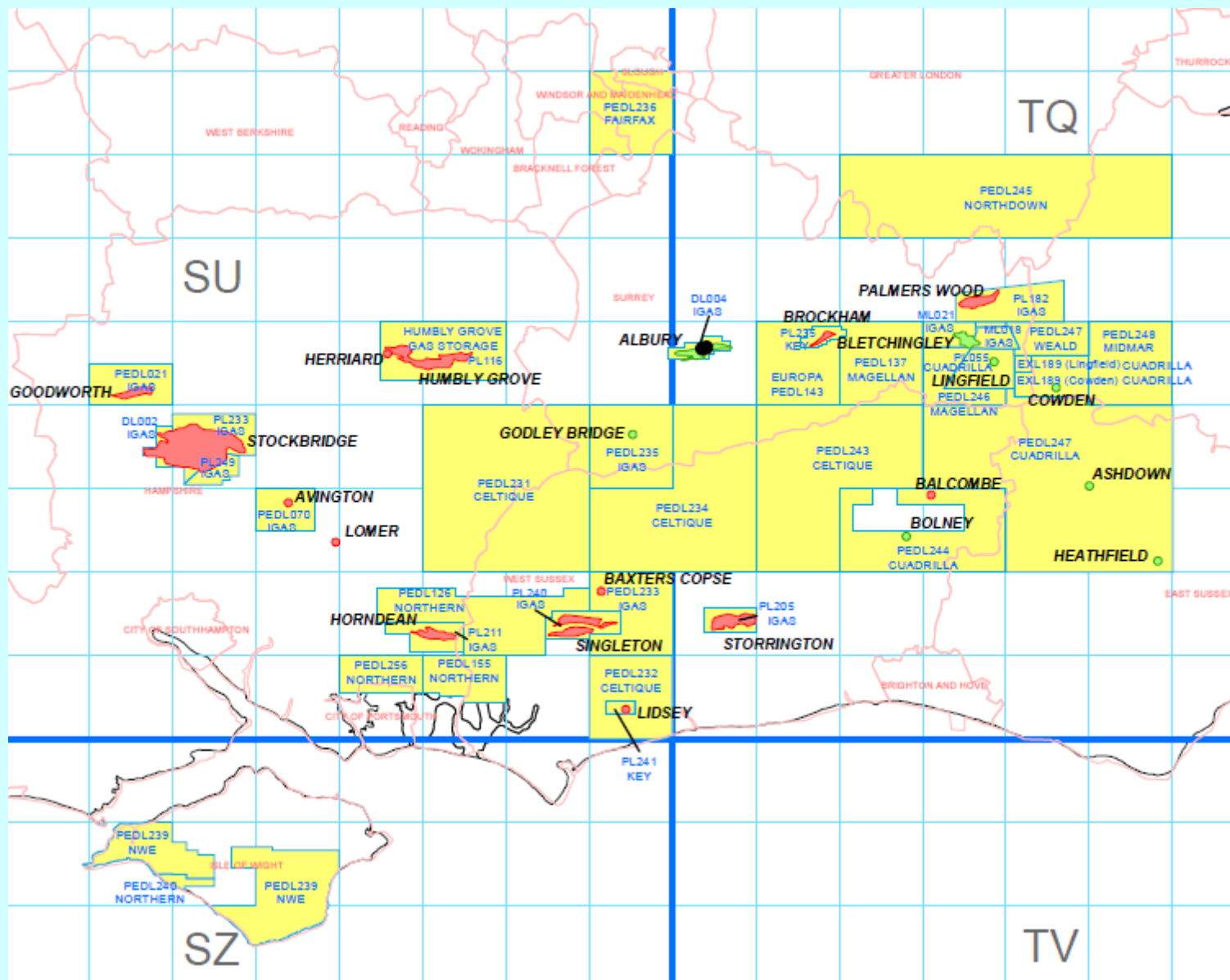


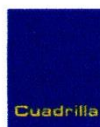
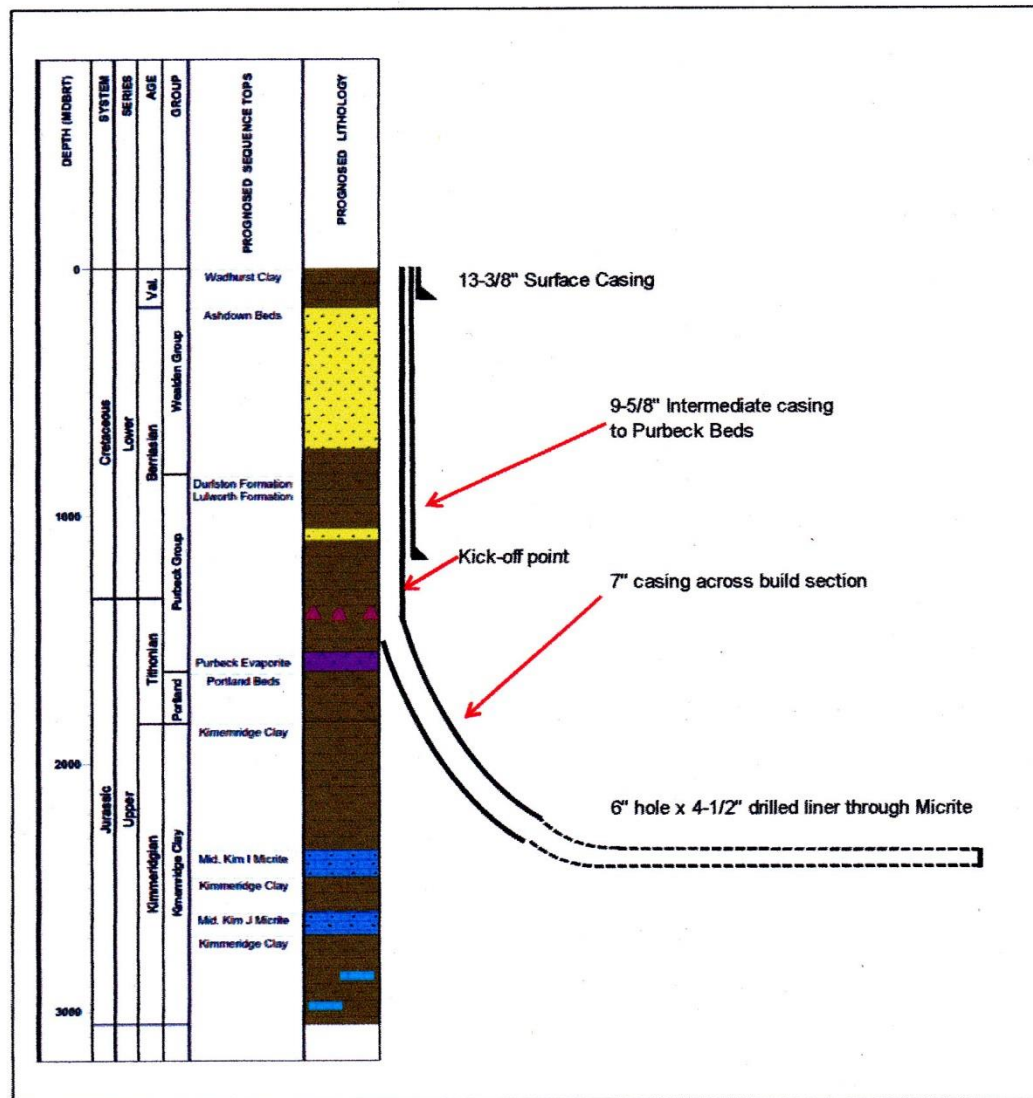
Winchester Action on Climate Change/FoE

United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester, 8th October 2013

PLANNING AND REGULATING FRACKING

Richard Bate, *Green Balance*





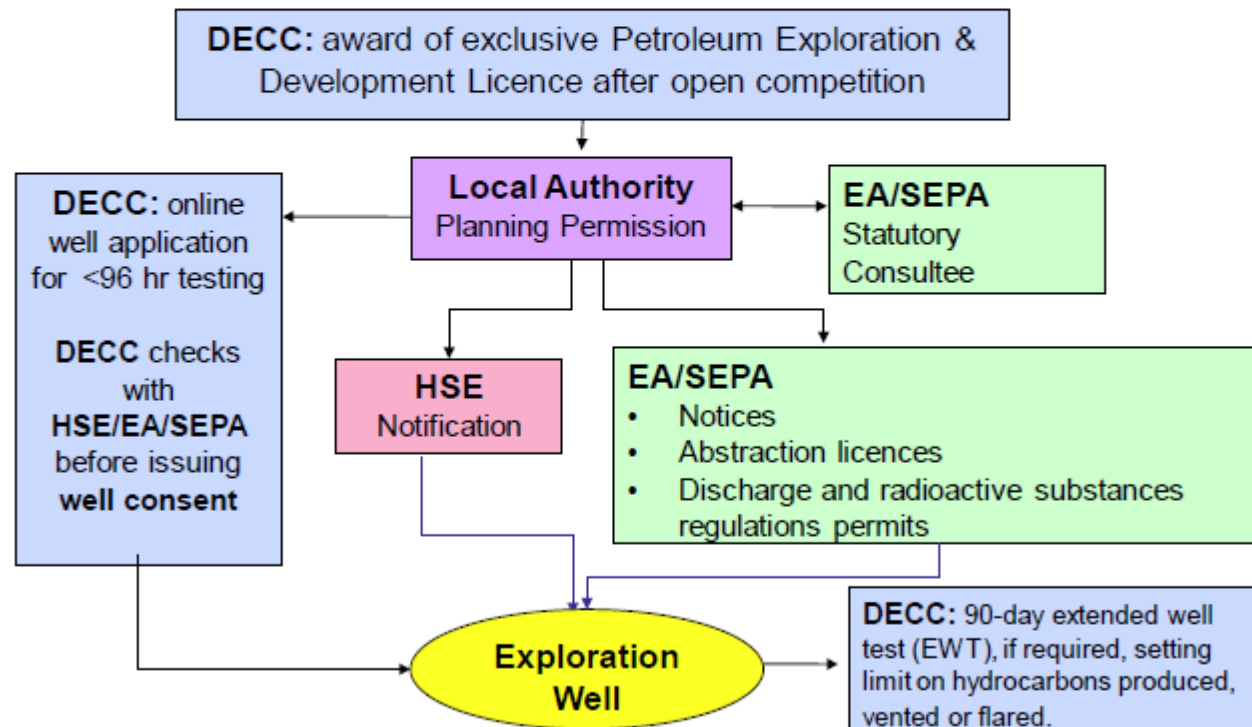
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Appendix 1 UK Regulatory Process (Exploration/Appraisal Wells)

Steps through the regulatory process Exploration and Appraisal Wells



Key regulators for shale gas

- a) **Department of Energy and Climate Change** – issue Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences, gives consent to drill under the Licence once other permissions and approvals are in place, and have responsibility for assessing risk of and monitoring seismic activity, as well as granting consent to flaring or venting;
- b) **Minerals Planning Authorities** – grant permission for the location of any wells and wellpads, and impose conditions to ensure that the impact on the use of the land is acceptable;
- c) **Environment Agency** – protect water resources (including groundwater aquifers), ensure appropriate treatment and disposal of mining waste, emissions to air, and suitable treatment and manage any naturally occurring radioactive materials; and
- d) **Health and Safety Executive** - regulates the safety aspects of all phases of extraction, in particular responsibility for ensuring the appropriate design and construction of a well casing for any borehole.

National Planning Policy Framework

“122.local planning authorities should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions themselves where these are subject to approval under pollution control regimes. Local planning authorities should assume that these regimes will operate effectively. Equally, where a planning decision has been made on a particular development, the planning issues should not be revisited through the permitting regimes operated by pollution control authorities.”

Shale gas: principal issues for MPAs (1)

- dust
- air quality
- lighting
- visual intrusion into the local setting and the wider landscape caused by the placement of any building or structure within the application site area, including flaring
- landscape character
- internationally, nationally or locally designated wildlife sites, protected habitats and species, and ecological networks
- nationally protected geological and geomorphological sites and features
- archaeological and heritage features

Shale gas: principal issues for MPAs (2)

- traffic (staff, materials and equipment)
- water supply to the site (pipeline or tanker)
- waste water and gas transport from the site
- structures for storage of water and gas
- risk of contamination to land (and thereby water supply)
- soil resources
- the impact on best and most versatile agricultural land
- flood risk
- land stability/subsidence
- site restoration and aftercare
- any other material consideration – but not climate change!

Exploration, appraisal, production

National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 147:

“Minerals planning authorities should also:

- when planning for on-shore oil and gas development, including unconventional hydrocarbons, clearly distinguish between the three phases of development (exploration, appraisal and production) and address constraints on production and processing within areas that are licensed for oil and gas exploration or production.”

Deciding planning applications

Key procedural elements:

- pre-application discussions
- planning application
- environmental impact assessment
- statutory and other consultations
- representations
- officers' report
- committee or Council decision
- legal agreements and conditions

Will the price of gas come down?

“We don’t want British families and businesses to be left behind as gas prices tumble on the other side of the Atlantic.”

George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Autumn Statement 5 December 2012

on whether shale gas could drive down customers' energy bills:

“We’ve done an analysis and it’s a very small...at the most it’s a very small percentage...basically insignificant.”

Mark Linder, Bell Pottinger for Cuadrilla (Independent, 12.6.13)

“I do think it’s a bit odd to say you know that it will bring the price of gas down. That doesn’t look like sound economics to me. It’s baseless economics.”

Lord Stern, London School of Economics (Independent, 3 .9.13)

Will shale gas displace other fossil fuels?

“We conclude that if a significant amount of shale gas enters the UK market (whether from domestic sources, imported from another European country, or from the global market via LNG) it will probably discourage investment in more expensive – but lower carbon – renewables.”

HC Energy and Climate Change Committee, *Shale Gas*, 23.5.11

“We must not and will not allow shale gas production to compromise our focus on boosting renewables, nuclear and other low carbon technologies. UK shale gas production must not be at the expense of our wider environmental aims – indeed, if done properly, it will support them.”

Edward Davey, Secretary of State for Climate Change, 9.9.13

“without global climate policies (of the sort already advocated by the UK) new fossil fuel exploitation is likely to lead to an increase in cumulative greenhouse gas emissions and the risk of climate change.”

Prof David MacKay and Dr Timothy Stone, ‘Potential greenhouse gas emissions associated with shale gas extraction and use’, 9.9.13, DECC



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