

Engaging Sociology: Public Debate on Fracking in the UK

Canterbury Christ Church University

Panellists

Ian Driver is a Green Party Councillor at Thanet District Council and a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Thanet South.

Ian is a community campaigner with an interest in housing, regeneration and open government. Ian is an opponent of fracking and was involved in the campaign against exploratory drilling for coal bed methane gas in the former East Kent colliery area. He is married with 3 daughters and lives in Broadstairs.

Michael Hill C.Eng. MIET. Chartered Electrical Engineer. Member of the Institution of Engineering & Technology (old IEE) and an Expert Adviser to the EU Commission on Shale Gas.

Mike studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Loughborough University. He worked in oil and gas as a wireline engineer and then as an engineer on seismic survey crews in the 1990s. He's now a director of a small engineering consultancy specialising in process automation of oil and gas rig equipment. Since, March 2010 Mike has been researching regulations into onshore exploration and development. He has written several papers on regulating shale gas and has also been published in local and national media. Mike presented his most recent paper to the Royal Society at an IET meeting. His last article was published in The Lancet in June this year on the health implications of fracking. He has consulted/advised/given evidence to: The Dept. of Energy and Climate Change (U.K. Gov), The European Commission, local councils, The Royal Society, The Institution of Engineering & Technology, the UK Regulators, NGOs, protest groups, and industry. He has spoken at numerous conferences, Q&A Panels, public meetings and in the media. Mike's main role now in the fracking debate is as an expert adviser to the EU Commission BREF Committee MTWR (inc. shale gas). He lives in Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire, England.

Dr Nick Riley MBE is Director of Carboniferous Limited (e-mail: carboniferouslimited@gmail.com).

Nick has been fascinated by geology since he was about six years old and spent much of his childhood and youth on mine tips, in quarries and in stream & river beds in NW England. In 1977 Nick graduated in Geology and Zoology at Bristol University and then followed through with a PhD on the Worston Shales of N. England. He joined the Institute of Geological Sciences (now the British Geological Survey- BGS) in 1980. Nick has been an international expert on

Carboniferous rocks throughout his 33 year career with the British Geological Survey (BGS). In the 1990's he was a titular & voting member of the International Subcommittee on Carboniferous Stratigraphy. His expertise has been utilised in a variety of ways, including surface and subsurface mapping of UK Carboniferous strata; coal, oil, gas exploration & development in the UK and Former Soviet Union; large civil engineering projects, radioactive waste storage, Carbon Capture & Storage, underground natural gas storage & mineral exploration. From 2001 -2010 Nick was an adviser to UK government on Carbon Abatement Technologies and during that period he became BGS' first "Head of Science for Energy", he also advised UK research councils on energy research. In the European Research Area Nick co-ordinated "CO2 GeoNet", the European Research Network of Excellence on research into underground CO2 storage, from 2004-2009, and was the first President of the CO2GeoNet Association (2009-2011). He was Chair of the EC Support Action "CO2Geological Storage (CGS) Europe" until its completion in 2013. Nick advises national energy research programmes in Norway & The Netherlands. Nick's last position at BGS was as "Team Leader for unconventional gas". In this role he was a contributor and reviewer of the DECC report (published July 2013) on Carboniferous shale gas resources in northern & central England. At the end of June 2013 Nick decided to leave the payroll of BGS, but has retained his academic interests there as an Honorary Research Associate. In July 2013 he set up his own company "Carboniferous Ltd" which provides specialist expertise on Carboniferous geology across the energy, mineral and civil engineering sectors. In 2003 Nick was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen for "Services to UK Geoscience".

David Smythe is Emeritus Professor of Geophysics in the University of Glasgow.

David lives in France, where he continues his earth science research. He was instrumental in persuading Cumbria County Council to withdraw from the nuclear waste repository proposals in 2013, on account of the unsuitable geology in West Cumbria. He is currently advising several groups in France and the UK who are opposed to shale gas or coal bed exploitation by fracking, because of the unacceptable risk of contamination of drinking water aquifers.

Professor Paul Stevens is Distinguished Fellow at Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) in London.

Educated as an economist and as a specialist on the Middle East at Cambridge and the School of Oriental and African Studies; 1973-1979 teaching at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon interspersed with two years as an oil consultant; 1979-93 at the University of Surrey. Between 1993 and 2008, he was Professor of Petroleum Policy and Economics at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee, Scotland, a chair created by BP. He is now

Professor Emeritus at the University of Dundee and a Visiting Professor at University College London (Australia). Professor Stevens has published extensively on energy economics, the international petroleum industry, economic development issues and the political economy of the Gulf. He also works as a consultant for many companies and governments. In March 2009 he was presented with the OPEC Award in recognition of his outstanding work in the field of oil and energy research.

Julie Wassmer is a freelance writer, author and environmental campaigner. Based in Whitstable, Julie is the former vice chair and press officer of East Kent Against Fracking (EKAF) and supports a number of UK residents' groups opposed to fracking. She is also a member of the Environment Committee of CPRE Kent (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England).

Gerwyn Llewellyn Williams C.Eng FIMMM MEI is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and a Member of The Energy Institute.

Gerwyn started work at 15 years of age as an underground mining trainee. He worked the following 22 years for British Coal ending in a senior management post. On leaving British Coal Gerwyn founded a contracting company working for the local mining, steel and paper making industries; the company was eventually sold to a multinational group. He became Managing Director of part of that group for three years. Gerwyn then left and started an underground coal production company which purchased a number of small coal mines which were again sold. He became involved in gas exploration in the early nineties and founded what is now UK Onshore Gas Group of companies which holds Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences in South Wales, Somerset and Kent. His current post is Chairman of UK Onshore Gas Group.