

Shale Gas in the UK

I have followed the recent information about shale gas exploration and extraction in Fullermoney with interest. I have expected that there would be comment about the exploratory work that has been going on over the last 18 months or so in Lancashire, UK – not far from where I live – but to the best of my knowledge there has been no mention!

To my knowledge gas has been commercially extracted for some years in a small unit at Elswick, near Kirkham – not shale gas. However a privately owned company, Cuadrilla Resources, has a licence to undertake shale gas exploration in the Blackpool, Preston and Southport region which it has recently done, apparently with some success.

Unfortunately this would seem to have been responsible for at least a couple of seismic events in April and May, this year. These have been investigated and a team of independent experts have produced a report that would seem to conclude that such events can be managed satisfactorily by careful monitoring.

Cuadrilla Resources seem to be taking a very open approach to their work and there are several comprehensive reports readily available to all on their website cuadrillaresources.com. These reports and others make very interesting reading and would seem to be very relevant to the recent Fullermoney discussions including those about the seismic effects.

A report in the FT, posted on the Cuadrilla website on 22 September 2011, states that Cuadrilla claim that ‘its licence area held enough “gas in place” to supply Britain’s entire gas requirement for more than 50 years – at least in theory. In practice only a fraction is likely to prove recoverable.....’