

Shale Gas exploratory bore holes



Leading a programme of planning applications and appeals for Shale Gas exploratory drilling

CLIENT

INEOS Shale

LPA

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council & Derbyshire County Council

STATUS

Ongoing

SERVICES

Planning & Expert Witness

Our role

- Government has granted a number of licences which oblige the licence holders to explore for and, if possible, extract natural gas from on-shore areas of the UK.
- The UK is a net importer of gas and needs a stable supply of gas, which is not subject to supply security risks; poorer environmental regulation; additional transport costs; and which generates direct economic benefits for the UK.
- We are co-ordinating a multi-disciplinary team to deliver a number of planning applications across the South Yorkshire / East Midlands area. These are currently for exploratory vertical bore holes, but depending on the results, may progress to appraisal and production.
- Applications of this nature are very controversial and have attracted a great deal of public objection, numbering in the thousands for each application. Public exhibitions have also been well attended.

Results

- We have successfully managed the preparation, submission and negotiation of the applications.
- These applications are the first to be submitted by the largest licence holder in the UK.
- We adopted an innovative approach to preparing the applications to streamline the process, allowing the anticipated volumes to be submitted.
- Due to the controversial nature of this project, some sites are now in the appeal system to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate.