My husband and I regularly walk in North Yorkshire. It is a beautiful area with many draws to the area including the success of the Tour de Yorkshire and I find it utter madness that we might risk impacting on tourism by allowing fracking to go ahead.

Surely we want to continue to enjoy the beautiful countryside that we have and encourage others to come and enjoy it.

This countryside will be impacted by the blots on the landscapes caused by the wells; the peace of the area will be destroyed by the noise and light pollution and the roads that many walkers and cyclists use will become dangerous because of the HGVs which will need to use these narrow roads.

I really feel for the people who live and work around Kirby Misperton who are going to have their lives severely disrupted by the government’s incredibly short-sighted decision to issue licenses. When fracking has been banned in other countries such as Germany, it is hardly going to be a selling point for tourists coming to North Yorkshire. Even Defra’s draft Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts Paper, published in July 2015, states that: “Shale gas may transform a previously pristine and quiet natural region, bringing increased industrialisation. As a result, rural economy businesses that rely on clean air, land, water and/or a tranquil environment may suffer losses from this change, such as agriculture, tourism, organic farming, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.” Are we willing to risk the impact on the natural environment, the risk to water supplies, the impact on people’s mental and physical health and the impact on tourism to chase something which will cause even further climate change? The amount of methane leaking from wells in the US is evident and will contribute to causing catastrophic climate change.

Please do the right thing and stop this

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