We have lived in Cawton, Ryedale in North Yorkshire for the past 16 years, which is in an area that is currently threatened by fracking and are responding to this enquiry because we are deeply concerned about the damaging effects that fracking would have on our local community and also further afield in Yorkshire and the rest of the UK. There are many issues we have real concern about including:

1. The irreversible industrialisation of our countryside if fracking is introduced
2. The negative impact on homes and businesses near well-sites.
3. A huge increase in heavy traffic on country roads.
4. The health impacts of fracking on both local residents and visitors to the area
5. Fracking will reduce employment in the rural tourism sector.
6. Fracking will affect the reputation of food produced in these areas.
7. Fracking will negatively impact on wildlife in the countryside
8. Water contamination from fracking.
9. Reduction of property prices.

and lastly the impact that this industry will have on an area that relies heavily on the tourist industry

Rural tourism is vital to Ryedale’s economy, with 4.5 million visitors a year helping to provide 6,500 jobs in Ryedale alone. Tourism in the whole of Yorkshire generates more than £6.3 billion per annum and supports 11% of its workforce, which is equivilant to 243,000 jobs.

With INIOS saying that they are planning up to 396 wells on 30 sites in each 10x10 km2 licence block, we have great concerns how would this affect the county’s vibrant tourism economy.

Both of us who are now retired have worked and volunteered for the National Trust at Nunnington Hall and Rievalux Terrace, both of which are in Ryedale and both within areas where fracking sites are proposed. We are very concerned about the impact that fracking would have on our tourist economy which has been growing steadily in the 14 years we have been involved with these properties. We have seen a continual rise in our visitor numbers over the years allowing us to continue the conservation and preservation of these national important historic sites helping to develop the local economy and we fear that this will be reversed if fracking at any level is allowed to develop in this or any other area. So many of our visitors comment on the natural beauty that they experience in Ryedale and it is hard to comprehend why such an invasive industry would be allowed to develop in such a place.

CONCLUSION.

So many of our visitors comment on the natural beauty that they experience in Ryedale and it is hard to comprehend why such an invasive industry would be allowed to develop in such a place. It is clear that widespread fracking will have a
very damaging effect on tourism in rural areas, and I believe that the shale gas industry is one of the greatest threats facing rural tourism in England.

It is not difficult to imagine the very negative impact that fracking would have on the many thousand of visitors that come to Nunnington and Rievaulux each year and of course to the whole of the region.

WHY WOULD PEOPLE WANT TO VISIT AND COME ON HOLIDAY TO AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY THAT HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED BY SUCH AN INVASIVE AND DANGEROUS INDUSTRY WITH LARGE LORRIES CLOGGING UP THE ROADS

I feel that Defra has a duty to oppose such developments within government, and should instead be working to promote sustainable, low-impact tourism in order to preserve the English countryside.

I recommend that the EFRA Select Committee should commission a new independent report of the impact of the shale gas industry on the rural economy, including rural tourism. Until such a report is produced, the EFRA Select Committee should demand an immediate moratorium on fracking and other forms of unconventional gas production.

August 2016