I am writing on a personal basis as a resident of Ryedale. It is a summary submission and I have avoided going into details, or referencing the many sources that can give substance to my points. As you can see from my address, I live just south of Sheriff Hutton and close to the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A modest drive has me and my family enjoying the North York Moors National Park. We have lived and worked here since 1990 and knew the area well before that. I am a retired GP.
I also live close to KM8 at Kirby Misperton where Third Energy wish to frack for shale gas. Over the past six weeks, while enjoying music events in the area, we have driven past it several times on the narrow country roads as well as the main roads. These events have been in the old churches around the moors, village halls and in several of the large houses as part of the Ryedale Music Festival and the North York Moors Chamber Music Festival, both of which are enjoyed by loyal and enthusiastic followers. During the past week I was talking to a someone from London who came upon a concert by chance while walking in the area. He was impressed by the quality and returns every year. There will be many like him who return because of a good experience.
The area relies on tourist trade as well as farming. It is an area that many people come to to enjoy rural pursuits and wildlife. As a member of Frack Free Ryedale I have many reservations about fracking and the potential for harm both to the landscape and to the health of residents and visitors.

Roads and communication.

The country roads are narrow, often single track with poor surface conditions. The main roads are busy and, at times, dangerous to drive with steep hills and turns. It is important that the roads are well maintained with careful thought to traffic management.
If fracking for shale gas is allowed to proceed, the implications for the road network are likely to be severe. There will be a very considerable traffic of heavy lorries and plant to and from the burgeoning number of wells that will be necessary if fracking is to be economically viable.
The potential for road accidents is substantial.

Damage to wildlife.

Fracking is noisy and involves light pollution. Both cause a reduction in wildlife activity and numbers. It is not just a case of one well site being assimilated. Fracking involves many wells and repeated drilling.
Tourists come to enjoy the wildlife. It is important to realise the intrusive extent of fracking as has been seen in America.

Damage to the natural beauty of the area.

Fracking will be intrusive and involve industrialisation of the countryside. There will be many wells: the companies have admitted an intention to have many well sites.
There is a potential for local damage from pollution, e.g. from spillage of fracking fluid, with degradation of farming and amenity land.

Pollution.
Fracking fluid that has been returned to the surface contains many toxic or radioactive chemicals. It is necessary for some of these to be dealt with in special centres - possibly Leeds from the area I write about. This will involve more journeys of heavy lorries on stressed roads and the potential of serious consequences if there is an accident. There is the potential to pollute aquifers and other water sources with obvious problems for visitors and residents. There are also reports of problems from air quality pollution from a number of sources.

Impairment of local industries and farming.

Transport will be difficult. Deliveries and communication may be impaired. Industries related to, or dependant on, our natural beauty will be affected. Farmland will probably be degraded. Traffic on the country roads may be impaired.

I understand that the committee's agenda is to consider ways of helping the tourist trade and my submission may be seen as an 'anti-fracking' tract. The tourist trade relies on our area of natural beauty and rural environment which will be seriously degraded if fracking proceeds. This means the necessity of taking a negative stance to the introduction of fracking for shale gas. I understand that government, or parliament, may consider such a stance outside your remit. I submit that the effect on the tourist trade and related industries is likely to be so severe that it is imperative that you debate such a stance.

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