Frack Free Bridlington and Villages is a group of residents concerned about the potential adverse impacts of High Volume Unconventional Hydraulic Fracking. We are responding to this consultation because Bridlington and the surrounding rural area is very dependent upon the tourist industry. We are extremely worried about the damaging effect that fracking would have on rural tourism here and elsewhere in the UK.

Fracking would seriously effect tourism in our area (as well as many other parts of the country) in the following ways:

1 Fracking will industrialise our countryside.
   - This is evident from the proposals, now made public by the Oil and Gas companies, for a large number of sites (up to 30 well pads in 10x10 kmsq licence area), all linked by an extensive infrastructure with a very large movement of HGV traffic.
   - **Defra** confirms this statement: “Shale gas development may transform a previously pristine and quiet natural region, bringing increased industrialization.” and concludes that “As a result rural community 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.”
   - **Defra** also states that fracking "may reduce the number of visitors and tourists to the rural area, with an associated reduction in spend in the local tourism economy."

This widespread industrialisation (caused by fracking) is incompatible with EFRA’s aim of developing sustainable rural tourism.

2 Fracking will have a negative impact on businesses near to fracking sites because it will destroy the beauty and tranquillity of the area and create:
   - 24-hour-a-day noise
   - light pollution
   - air pollution (which may cause nausea and health concerns)
   - huge increases in traffic (each well requires thousands of HGV movements to and from the site.)

Obviously this will cause extreme harm to any business close to a well site, particularly hotels, B&Bs, and camp-sites.
3 Fracking will cause loss of employment

- Tourism provides millions of permanent jobs whilst fracking would provide only a few short-term jobs at each well site.
- Fracking would only provide a comparatively small number of short-term jobs most of which would go to specialists brought in by the industry.
- Most jobs on fracking well-sites would go to specialists brought in on fixed contracts, not local people.

Fracking on an industrial scale would threaten local business with the potential loss of thousands of permanent jobs.

4 Fracking may effect the quality and reputation of locally produced food in tourist areas.

- Many areas of the country rely on their reputation for high-quality produce to attract tourists. For example, local food fairs, farmers’ markets, farm shops, restaurants and cafes.
- If the local produce was contaminated, or even perceived to be at risk of contamination, tourist numbers would fall, leading to a drop in business and, again, loss of employment.

5 Nature and wildlife sites are under threat from fracking.

- Current legislation allows fracking sites to be situated just outside the borders of protected areas and wells can then be drilled horizontally underneath the protected areas. Therefore, National Parks, AONBs and SSSIs may be surrounded by fracking well-sites.
- The resulting noise, pollution and traffic would have a serious adverse effect on wildlife and their habitats.

Successful and sustainable rural tourism is heavily dependent upon the environment and the wildlife it supports. Fracking would destroy this amenity and inevitably lead to dramatic fall in the number of tourists visiting the area.

6 Water contamination through spillage, leaking wells would effect tourism in the following ways:

- wildlife could be poisoned
- streams could be contaminated and have a serious effect on the fishing industry
- farm animals and food grown in the area could be contaminated to the detriment of the rural food industry
- If contamination does occur it may be impossible to clean up, and at present it seems that local councils could be left to bear the cost.

For health reasons alone, tourists would not want to visit an area where water was contaminated and tourism in these areas would fall dramatically.

7 Fracking causes land and properties to lose value.
DEFRA states that: "House prices in close proximity to the drilling operations are likely to fall. There could be a 7% reduction in property values within one mile of an extraction site."

The fall of land and property values will discourage rural investment in areas where fracking may, or is, taking place.

8 Coastal Dangers and Contamination

- Oil and Gas Companies are now talking about disposing of waste water in the Sea. If this were to happen, for health reasons, the whole coastal tourist industry would be under threat.
- Gas storage is proposed for areas along the East Coast. This is a crumbling coast line, and with fracking nearby would be perceived as a serious potential danger.
- Underground Coal Gasification is also licence along the east coast and this, with the potential for contamination and explosions, would be an absolute deterrent to coastal tourism.
- Tourist are attracted to the coast for the birds and sea Life which are declining at a rapid rate. Fracking, ucg and the disposal of waste water would escalate this problem and tourism would fall as a result.

If fracking, ucg or the disposal of waste water were to take place, out at sea and near the coast, the potential risks to the environment, sea life and human health would enough to seriously and irreveriably damage tourism in coastal areas.

Conclusion

High Volume, Unconventional Hydraulic Fracking is only financially viable if done on an industrial scale. This is not compatible with EFRA’s aim of developing sustainable rural tourism.

Fracking for shale gas is very unpopular with the general public and rural tourism will be irreveriably damaged should the shale gas industry be allowed to go ahead.

We would like the EFRA Select Committee to demand an immediate moratorium on fracking until they have commissioned a new and independent report on the impact that the shale gas industry will have on the rural economy, including rural tourism.

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