I frequently walk in the countryside of North Yorkshire, and would be horrified to see the devastation created by fracking in this area, as would those who come and stay with me for a holiday. Both I and they would avoid any areas affected by such ruined beauty, not to mention concerns about contamination.

This peaceful countryside would be heavily industrialised if fracking went ahead, with intolerable noise for anyone close by. Wildlife, already decimated, would be wiped out in fracking areas.

In these times of plummeting costs of renewable energy, there is no reason for it, and in any case it should stay in the ground if the UK is to come anywhere close to meeting emissions targets.

Other countries such as France, Germany, Bulgaria, Holland and Scotland have put a moratorium on fracking, particularly because of the health impacts. Don’t let Britain become the sick man of Europe.

I recommend that the EFRA Select Committee should commission a new independent report of the impact of the shale gas industry, and institute an immediate moratorium on fracking.

September 2016