

WHAT IS A SEISMIC SURVEY?

Seismic surveys are being carried out across the UK by companies looking to profit from onshore reserves of shale and coal. Underlying rock formations are detected using shock waves reflected back to the surface. In vehicle accessible areas, "thumper" trucks are used to create the shock waves. In other areas explosive charges may be buried in the ground and detonated. Hundreds of detectors (geophones), spread across the surface and connected by miles of cabling, are used to pick up the reflections. Monitors may also be placed in specially drilled wells.

WHY ARE SEISMIC SURVEYS A THREAT?

Seismic surveys provides fracking companies with data, allowing them to secure investment and retain their licenses. The survey process itself often causes damage, stress and disruption. When Cuadrilla surveyed Lancashire in 2012, many residents complained about contractors trespassing in their gardens to lay cabling and plant explosive charges. If your area is surveyed you are one step closer to a drill rig arriving.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Fracking companies do not want to go to the trouble and cost of obtaining permission for access. Typically they may inform the council and send letters to some residents. They do not have any right to access your land without prior agreement! If you are surprised by contractors on your land you should refuse access, document any activity, damage, times, dates, locations and take pictures. By getting organised and informed ahead of the survey, you and your neighbours can make it harder for fracking companies to get what they want.



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