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North West Regional Group Meeting

Thursday 31st May 2012

Shale Gas in the UK: what, where, why, how?

Shale gas has developed over the past few years in the UK from a niche interest to a major potential source of indigenous gas- and an activity which has created much media interest. Ed's talk will give a wide-ranging introduction to the subject, using examples from the UK and US. The reasons for why shale gas is possible now will be discussed, including advances in technology, a need for security of supply and the current gas market. Some of the main geological influences on prospective shales will be highlighted, including the influence of organic content, porosity and mineralogy, and some of the techniques used to evaluate potential reservoirs. Some of the main potential target horizons in the UK will be investigated, along with an outline of some of the main environmental considerations commonly associated with shale gas exploration and production.

Ed Hough graduated in 1994 in Applied and Environmental Geology from the University of Birmingham. He has over 16 years worth of largely field-based research into UK geology, built up through working on numerous strategic surveys and commissioned activities for the British Geological Survey. Much of Ed's experience is based in north-west England, working within the Carboniferous Pennine Basin and also the Triassic and Quaternary cover, and he has published on subjects including: the use of geological data in the urban environment; the origin of sediment filled fractures in red bed sandstones; and geological factors influencing gas storage schemes. He has become increasingly interested in natural gas, having worked in a consultative capacity on gas exploration and storage initiatives. Current work is based in the Preston area, covering part of an area currently under active exploration for shale gas.

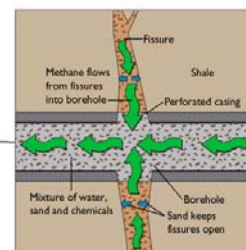
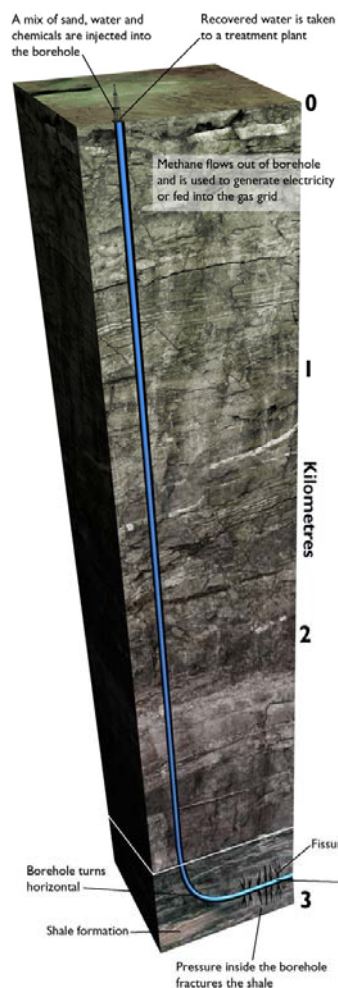
The talk will be suitable as an introduction to the subject for a wide range of professionals, students and the general public with an interest in shale gas.

This may be utilised for CPD purposes (Enhancing and maintaining skills and knowledge) with the Geological Society of London.

Image: <http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/features/story.aspx?id=1160>

Hydraulic Fracturing

Hydraulic fracturing or "fracking", involves the injection of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into horizontally drilled boreholes. The pressurized mixture causes the shale to crack. These fissures are held open by the sand particles so that methane from the shale can flow up the borehole.



Venue:

Williamson Lecture Theatre, Williamson Building, Manchester University situated on Oxford Road, Manchester, opposite the Manchester Museum.

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/medialibrary/maps/campusmap.pdf>

Lecture: 6:30pm (prompt) meeting in the foyer from 6:00pm

Organised by the North West Regional Group of the Geological Society of London

For further information please visit:

www.geolsoc.org.uk/nwrg

or email the Group Secretary, Nik Reynolds at:

geologicalsociety.northwest@gmail.com

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