

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Study Title: 'Fracking', Framing and Effective Participation**

You have been invited to take part in a research study about local community perceptions of shale gas development. The study will interview various local community members to get their views on shale gas and hydraulic fracturing locally and more generally, and on the opportunities for members of the public to have a say in decision-making on the matter. This information sheet is designed to help you to decide whether you want to take part.

**Participation is entirely voluntary.** If you do decide to take part you will be given this Information Sheet to keep and be asked to sign a Consent Form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw subsequently from the interview without giving a reason. If you do want to withdraw, use the contact details on this sheet to request this. All such requests will be granted so long as they are made prior to **July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019**, after which point fulfilling such requests may not be possible due to the publication of work stemming from this research. You have the right to access, correct or remove any personal data, again by using the contact details below.

**You have been asked to participate because** you live near in the Fylde region of Lancashire, near some of the company Cuadrilla's shale gas exploration sites.

**Your participation will involve** an interview that will last approximately 1hr and will be audio recorded with your consent. Questions will concern your views on shale gas and hydraulic fracturing both locally and more generally, and on the opportunities for members of the public to have a say on decision-making on the matter.

**What is the purpose of the study?** The purpose of the study is to contribute to the provision of an up to date, independent social science evidence base on the social impacts of shale gas development. This particular study seeks to understand how policy arguments in favour of shale development are seen by members of the community in an area where shale development is occurring, and how this same groups views opportunities to participate in engagement and decision-making processes.

**What are the possible benefits or risks of taking part?** We foresee no direct benefits or risks to participants from taking part in this research, but we hope that the results will contribute to a better understanding of local communities' views on these issues.

**How will the information I provide be used?** The audio recordings of this interview will be securely stored and selectively transcribed by the researcher. Personal data will be processed on the basis of the consent of the data subject in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your name and other personal data (information that could reveal your identity) will not be transcribed. This includes both information that could directly (e.g. name, address) and indirectly (e.g. if you mention where you work as part of an answer) identify you. The audio recordings and any personal data therein will be stored securely on a password-protected computer for the duration of the project. Only the research team will have access to these files and they will not be shared or archived. In order to enable any further analysis that may be required as part of the academic publication process, the audio files will be destroyed 1 year after the end of the project (end of the June 2022). Signed consent forms will be digitised and kept securely (encrypted), whilst the originals will be shredded.

The views you express in the interview will be used to produce insights about how local communities view shale development and opportunities to have a say on this matter. These insights, potentially including your words, will be published in academic outputs, for example journal articles and a project report. Wherever your words are used in writing they will be used anonymously and referenced to, for example, a 'PNR local community member'. At the end of this project, the data we have produced (e.g. the anonymised selective transcripts) will be archived in the UK Data Service data repository as open data (meaning that it will be openly available to anyone) and retained indefinitely. This will allow other researchers to access this data for their research purposes. Archiving data in this way has a number of benefits, including avoiding the unnecessary repetition of data collection and so using public funding more efficiently and reducing the burden on regularly studied communities. The archived material will be anonymous, meaning that any information that could identify you will have been removed.

Some demographic information will also be collected as part of the interview in order to enable comparisons between these interviews and survey work the team are also conducting in a separate part of the project. This information will be given a reference number (e.g. respondent 1) and kept securely and separately from the audio files. This information will not be archived and will be destroyed 1 year after the end of the project (end of June 2022). When linking interview quotes to demographic information in any publications, care will be taken to ensure confidentiality is maintained. Where a particular characteristic is rare in a particular location, reference to the characteristic and/or location will be sufficiently vague to preserve anonymity, and if this is not possible no reference will be made (e.g. identifying a quote as belonging to a male with a PhD from Roseacre village is too specific – there may only be one such person - instead we will refer to somebody with a higher level of educational attainment, or to somebody with a PhD from the Fylde region). At the end of the interview you will be asked if you want to take part in a survey about public attitudes to and perceptions of shale gas. This will enable a comparison between our qualitative interview data and quantitative survey data. If you agree we will ask for your contact details which will be securely stored separately from the research data (e.g. the audio files and demographic information), and destroyed once the final survey has been conducted (before June 2021).

**What should I do if I want to take part?** By signing the Consent Form you agree to take part in the interview.

**Who is funding the study?** The research is jointly funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Research Councils are publicly funded bodies that support research and innovation in the UK.

**Who has approved this study?** The research has been approved by the Social Sciences & Arts Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC) of the University of Sussex.

**Contact Information:** You have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office if you feel your personal data has been mishandled. For further information; to exercise your right to withdrawal; to exercise your right to access, correct or remove your personal data; to request a copy of any subsequent publications; or if you have any concerns about the way the study has been conducted, please contact: **Laurence Williams**, Research Fellow, SPRU, University of Sussex, Room 366, Jubilee Building, Brighton, BN1 9RH, [laurence.williams@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:laurence.williams@sussex.ac.uk)

**Thank You!**