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Press Release

BGS release new resource estimate for the Bowland-Hodder Shale

The British Geological Survey today released it's resource estimate for the Bowland-Hodder Shale. The new estimate is 1,300 trillion cubic feet, and increase of over 200 % on the previous estimates. **Defend Lytham** warns that any excitement over this new estimate is likely to prove premature.

Firstly this is an estimate for gas in place - the key question here is "how much is economically recoverable?". The report itself states "not enough is yet known to estimate a recovery factor, nor to estimate potential reserves (how much gas may be ultimately produced)."

Secondly we need to be very cautious about relying on estimates that are based on seismic surveys and not on actual drilling data.

As Professor Richard Davies of Durham University said this morning on Radio 4 we have only one fracked shale gas well in the UK so far and in terms of scale, this is a little like sticking a pin into the ceiling of a very large room, it tells you very little about what's in there.

We have already seen reserve estimates in the mature shale plays in the USA downgraded by up to 60% this year, and in Poland the reserve estimates were recently downgraded by 90%.

Defend Lytham spokesman, Mike Hill, commented "*as stated at Defend Lytham's public meeting on the 25th June the figure for gas in place could well be very accurate but is meaningless without the figure for recoverability. This varies between 0.5% and 10%*"

Defend Lytham suggests that these new resource estimates should be treated with caution.

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