



## Position on Fracking

March 2014

### Context:

The potential for exploiting shale gas through the process of Fracking is becoming an issue of increasing importance to the Government as it attempts to establish greater energy security for the nation. Because of the potential implications of this technology on the countryside of Wales CPRW has adopted the following position.

**CPRW does not in principle support the development of any form of energy generation which relies on carbon based fuel sources as this would be contrary to the sustainability principle of seeking to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.**

Notwithstanding this opposition in principle and in the light of the lack of detailed evidence and experience of the potential operational consequences and impacts of fracking, CPRW has also adopted a further Precautionary and unconvinced approach based to this form of energy generation based on and because of:

- **The uncertainty of the potential consequences and side effects of fracking on the quality and continued integrity of local ground water resources.**
- **The additional strain fracking is likely to have on scarce water resources.**
- **The lack of any nationally approved regulatory controls to govern the manner in which operational activities associated with fracking are undertaken.**
- **The lack of any provisions to govern the monitoring, remediation and restitution of areas subject to fracking.**
- **The lack of national policy guidance to relating to the transmission of the gas recovered at a site into the national gas transmission system.**
- **The lack of any clear Welsh government policy on fracking.**
- **The lack to date of any public engagement in the processes of deciding where and how fracking should take place in those areas of Wales where there may be potential for it to be undertaken**

CPRW also urges all relevant Local Authorities to urgently produce Supplementary Planning guidance explaining how they will deal with any applications for shale gas extraction submitted to them for planning consent.