Developing Deep Science Laboratories from the Shale Gas Legacy

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Since 2011 there have been 11 dedicated exploration wells constructed to evaluate the potential of shale gas in the UK.

This project will investigate the feasibility of repurposing existing shale gas exploration wells onshore the UK as long term deep science facilities

Typically >2000m deep, they could provide a research infrastructure to investigate higher pressure and temperature subsurface systems than current research facilities in the UK

Project Aims:

- Characterise the shale gas wells that could be repurposed as research facilities.
- Explore the range of Earth science, geoenergy and low background science research possibilities for each well.
- Examine the community perspective of the changing usage, considering public attitudes and community responses to subsurface research



Relevant borehole by depth. Grey – research borehole; Black – permanently abandoned; green – suspended or partially abandoned