

## The gas well that doesn't supply gas



**14 January 2025**

This is a case-study of a Yorkshire village who said 'no' to fracking. They said 'no' for eight years, until the Government put a temporary hold on fracking. When the site was abandoned, residents of Kirby Misterton quickly made use of the 3000m borehole and pumped hot water up, rather than injecting water at high pressure to fracture the rock (fracking) and extract the gas held within. *The One Show* on BBC One (14.01.25, from 16 min) today explained the context.

Watch BBC One for a five minute explanation here - [BBC One Show](#) from 16 min in, 14.1.25.



Geothermal energy is thermal energy extracted from the Earth's crust. It combines energy from the formation of the planet and from radioactive decay.

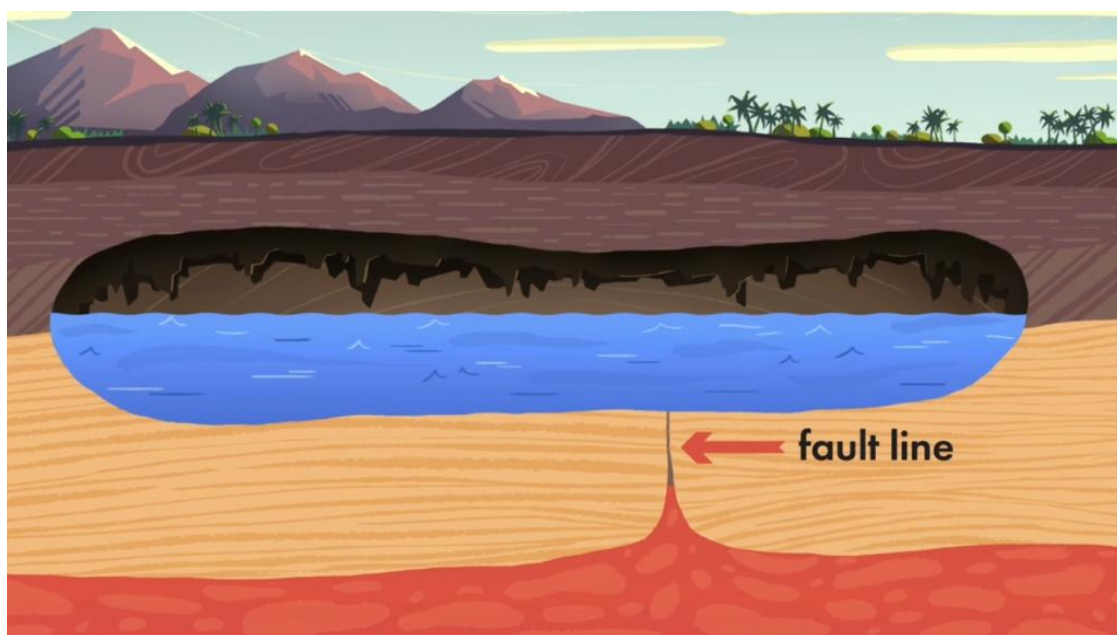
Geothermal heating, using water from hot springs, for example, has been used for bathing since Paleolithic times and for space heating since Roman times. Geothermal power (generation of electricity from geothermal energy), has been used since the 20th century. Unlike wind and solar energy, geothermal plants produce power at a constant rate, without regard to weather conditions. Geothermal resources are theoretically more than adequate to supply humanity's energy needs, but the UK, unlike Iceland, has not yet utilised this 'free' hot water, partly because it is so far below the surface. 85% of Icelandic homes are heated by geothermal energy, and in 2016 geothermal energy provided about 65% of [Iceland's primary energy](#).

But in 2025 the UK is finally catching up. Worldwide, policy support is lagging: more than 100 countries have policies in place for solar PV and/or onshore wind, but less than 30 have implemented [policies for geothermal](#). The potential is huge: even tapping less than 1% of [Africa's geothermal potential](#) would meet Africa's electricity needs in 2050 in all IEA scenarios.

### **The Kirby Misterton example:**

Tests have revealed the temperature at the bottom of the 3km deep well is about 110C and the firm is expecting to get up to 90C when transferred by liquid to the surface, which it says is sufficient to supply heat to up to 400 homes for about 40 years.

For a more comprehensive look at the Kirby Misterton story, listen to [Tom Heap at Sky News](#) as he visits the site to find out how the scheme will work.



A cartoon and [simple introduction to Geothermal Energy](#) as a renewable source.