

Corporate report: Environment Agency Active Pension Fund annual report and financial statements 2016 to 2017

The report highlights:

- financial performance
 - governance
 - environmental footprint
 - progress towards the funds responsible investment strategy
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Corporate report: Environment Agency Closed Pension Fund annual report and financial statements 2016 to 2017

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Organic Farming study tour benefits from strong partnerships

Students on the distance learning PGDip/MSc course in Organic Farming have visited some of the leading UK organic producers – including Prince Charles' Duchy Farm – on their recent study tour.

Elmwood is ready steady (cook)

The Hospitality team at the Elmwood Campus of SRUC has been hitting the road recently with their Ready Steady Cook roadshow.

News story: Ineos is granted environmental permit for exploratory borehole in South Yorkshire

The Environment Agency has granted an environmental permit to allow Ineos Upstream Ltd to drill an exploratory borehole at a site in South Yorkshire.

The 'Standard Rules' permit allows the company to carry out drilling and waste management to take core samples of the rock at Common Road, Harthill. It does not allow fracking.

Standard Rules permits include fixed rules and conditions that cover common, low-risk industrial activities including low-risk testing. They are issued to companies only after they demonstrate that they understand and can manage the risks to people and the environment.

If the firm wishes to carry out additional activities on the site in the future, such as full well testing or hydraulic fracturing, it must submit a bespoke permit application that is tailored to those activities.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said:

Our regulatory controls for onshore oil and gas are in place to protect people and the environment. Standard Rules permits are common across industry and maintain high levels of environmental protection. They do not allow companies to carry out fracking – this activity requires a bespoke permit application which would be subject to a site-specific environmental risk assessment and extensive public consultation.

As with all decisions on whether to issue environmental permits, we will assess a company's proposals to ensure they meet strict requirements. If an activity poses an unacceptable risk to the environment, the activity will not be permitted.

A copy of the published permit can be found online at:

consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/ineos-upstream-limited-exploration-sites.