

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 2017

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## 'Only 10 years of North Sea oil and gas left'

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Hamish Macdonell

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September 20 2017, 12:01am, The Times



Geologists from the University of Edinburgh have calculated that only 10 per cent of the recoverable oil and gas remains in the North Sea

PA:PRESS ASSOCIATION

The North Sea oil and gas industry will be almost finished within a decade, according to a controversial academic report.

Geologists from the University of Edinburgh have calculated that only 10 per cent of the recoverable oil and gas remains and, at current rates of extraction, those reserves will be virtually dry within a decade.

The geologists also analysed the economic feasibility of fracking and concluded that the controversial shale gas extraction method would not be viable in Scotland and only of marginal use in England.

If these predictions prove realistic, they will be a

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BEN MARLOW



### North Sea renaissance

Finally, signs of hope in the North Sea – perhaps. The region has been written off many times in its long history but the severity of the most recent downturn prompted widespread suggestions that it was in a “death spiral”.

Only this week came a new piece of research from Edinburgh University, claiming the North Sea oil industry is entering its final decade of production, soon forcing the UK to import all the oil and gas it needs.

This, however, seems like a remarkably bearish view when contrasted against a flurry of investment into the region.

Yes, the North Sea’s heyday when output rivalled the mighty Saudi Arabia has long since gone. Fields are old and depleted, output has dropped by a third since the turn of the millennium, and employment has tumbled during this latest crisis.

However, the painful cost-cutting efforts have had the desired effect. This year, the likes of Total, Shell and BP have ploughed \$12bn (£8.8bn) into the region.

Statoil has plans for a new field it believes could surpass the output of Opec member Ecuador.

Other areas, long considered out of reach, are being explored for the first time. Activity is among the highest in the world.

It’s probably not quite enough to justify Alex Salmond’s claims during the 2014 Scottish independence referendum campaign of an impending second boom but the scale of investment means it’s too soon to write off the North Sea.

*‘Thousands of European steelmaking jobs have been lost to China’s trade practices’*



## Challenge from gas imports

IN response to the claims by Professor Roy Thompson of Edinburgh University that onshore oil and gas exploitation is "barely economically feasible" in the UK ("Study warns North Sea oil and gas will end in 2027", The Herald, September 20), I should like to make the following rejoinder.

An analysis of 25 shale gas systems in the United States isn't a good basis for sweeping assertions about Scotland. Mr Thompson has suggested the total organic carbon (TOC), one of the determining factors in hydrocarbon viability, for Scottish shale is two per cent. If he had referred to the British Geological Survey 2014 report on Scottish shale gas he would have seen that Scottish deposits in the West Lothian Oil-Shale area have a significant number of deposits between seven and 30 per cent and that there are a significant net thicknesses of shale with TOC contents of more than two per cent TOC.

Where we as an industry and Mr Thompson agree is that the UK faces a future of growing gas imports. At present, 50 per cent of our gas comes from outside the UK – a significant turnaround from 17 years ago when we were a gas exporter. This is set to rise to 80 per cent in the next 17 years and has massive implications, both economically and environmentally.

Oil and gas history is littered with stories of "it's not going to happen because ..." and we have often been surprised. The imperative to find out what is below our feet is what drives our industry.

**Ken Cronin,**  
Chief Executive,  
UK Onshore Oil and Gas,  
40 Dukes Place, London.



## Fracking row over claims by professor

By **ILONA AMOS**

Oil industry leaders have hit out at claims made by a Scottish academic that fracking will not be economically viable in Scotland and the UK.

The backlash has come in response to a report by the University of Edinburgh's Professor Roy Thompson which suggests fracking for unconventional oil and gas would be uneconomic. It states: "Scottish shales may well have a success factor of zero."

But Ken Cronin, chief executive of membership body UK Onshore Oil and Gas, has accused the scientist of jumping the gun. "It is far too early to be making such definite proclamations about the feasibility of shale gas in the UK."



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Oil's well

The managers of the Norwegian Oil Fund announced on Tuesday that it has reached one trillion dollars. They now own about 1.3 per cent of all the world's largest companies and their income from these investments was \$57 billion last year.

A trillion dollars makes every Norwegian worth almost \$200,000 on top of having the best pensions in Europe.

With these investments their prosperity will last for ever.

What a contrast with our own sorry case, where every penny of oil revenues has been

squandered by Westminster with not a thought for future generations.

The politicians who allowed this to happen should hang their heads in shame.

Meanwhile a think-tank at Edinburgh University says that oil in Scottish waters will run out in ten years.

This ten-year ending has been forecast every five years or so since 1975 and has always been used by Unionists as a reason why Scotland cannot afford to be independent. However, this latest forecast has been widely derided by the Oil and Gas Authority who point out that there are many massive new developments going on, involving billions of pounds of new investments by major companies such as BP, who are planning production from Scottish waters to last until at least 2050.

It is strange how Norway's oil is a blessing whereas Scotland's oil, according to Unionists, is always just about to run

out and is pretty worthless.

**JAMES DUNCAN**

Ratray Grove, Edinburgh



# Letters to the editor

## Shale analysis not strictly accurate

SIR, – In response to your report about Professor Roy Thompson of Edinburgh University's claims that onshore oil & gas exploitation is 'barely economically feasible' in the UK, I should like to make the following rejoinder.

An analysis of 25 shale gas systems in the U.S. isn't a good basis for sweeping assertions about Scotland. Professor Thompson has suggested the total organic carbon (TOC), one of the determining factors in hydrocarbon viability, for Scottish shale is 2%. If he had referred to the British Geological Survey 2014 report on Scottish shale gas he would have seen that Scottish deposits in the West Lothian Oil-Shale area have a significant number of deposits between 7% and 30% and that there are a significant net thicknesses of shale with TOC contents well over the 2% TOC.

Where we as an industry and Professor Thompson agree is the UK faces a future of growing gas imports. Today, 50% of our gas comes from outside the UK – a significant turnaround from 17 years ago when we were a gas exporter. This is set to rise to 80% in the next 17 years and has massive implications, both economically and environmentally.

Oil and gas history is littered with stories of 'it's not going to happen because...' and we have often been surprised. The imperative to actually find out what is below our feet is what drives our industry.

Ken Cronin, chief executive, UK  
Onshore Oil and Gas



## UK oil and gas almost gone

THE UK's oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, according to new research.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates about ten per cent of the nation's original recoverable oil and gas remains.

If the predictions are correct, the UK would soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, scientists have warned.

Academics behind the work are now urging the UK government to use more renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

Professor Roy Thompson from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences,



**OUTPUT:** North Sea oil

who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking."



## Researchers claim oil and gas reserves could run out within 10 years

THE UK's oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, a new study has claimed.

The research into offshore outputs estimates about 10% of the originally recoverable oil and gas remains.

If the predictions prove correct, the UK would soon have to import its oil and gas. Study leader Professor Roy Thompson, of the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

"There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

The research predicts oil and gas reserves - 11% and 9% respectively - running out within 10 years.

Scottish Tory energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: "If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the North-east economy.

"It's more essential than ever that both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what's left in the North Sea, and assist those who've suffered as a result of the downturn."

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: "The future for renewable energy is bright in Scotland and we have a record on growing the sector of which we are proud.

"Scotland's offshore oil and gas industry also has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining.

"This year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times," he added.





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# UK’s oil and gas reserves ‘may only last a decade’

Sep 20, 2017 Jonny Bairstow Coal, Gas & Oil , Top Stories 0



Image: Thinkstock

The UK’s current oil and gas reserves may last only a decade.

That’s according to a new study from scientists at the University of Edinburgh, who say only around 10% of the UK’s original recoverable oil and gas remains.

The analysis also finds fracking will be barely economically feasible in the UK because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

It claims the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs or move towards greater use of offshore wind and solar energy.

The researchers strongly suggest the UK Government should take stock of the projected shortfall in energy resources and work out how this might be addressed.

Roy Thompson, Professor of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh, said: “The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

“We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.”

Renewables, UK, energy, oil and gas, reserves

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# OGUK challenges scientists' gloomy North Sea prediction

Written by [Mark Lammey](#) - 20/09/2017 7:25 am

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Industry body Oil and Gas UK (OGUK) has challenged scientists' gloomy prediction that North Sea oil and gas reserves will run out in 10 years.

OGUK chief executive Deirdre Michie said new capacity was still being added to the basin and that some of the largest fields will still be producing in 2050.

Ms Michie was speaking following the publication of research which suggested that North Sea industry was on its last legs.

Prof Roy Thompson of Edinburgh University's school of Geosciences said an analysis of production decline in offshore fields showed the industry is entering its final decade.

The study, published in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, said that only 10% of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remained.

Prof Thompson, who led the study, said the UK needed a "bold transition to renewables, energy storage, improved insulation and energy efficiencies".

The forecast will come as a surprise to many in the oil and gas industry, as a number of projects with long lifespans recently came on stream, or will do in the near future.

BP's Quad 204 project started producing in May and is expected to deliver 450million barrels of oil equivalent through to 2035 and beyond.

Statoil's Mariner field, slated for first oil next year, could pump out 250million barrels over a 30-year period.

BP's Clair Ridge project is designed to continue producing until 2050.

And Hurricane Energy is working towards sanctioning the Greater Lancaster Area development west of Shetland, which analysts have suggested could hold 1 billion barrels.

Ms Michie said: “Significant new capacity has been added to the UKCS. Nine new fields began production in 2016 and a further seven started producing in the first half of this year – most of which will still be producing in 2030.

“A further 12 are due on-stream by the end of next year. Some notably large developments will still be producing towards 2050.”

Jeremy Cresswell, emeritus editor of Energy, said: “I wonder if Prof Thompson took into account the apparently very large multi-billion-barrel resource identified through the drill-bit by Hurricane Energy.

“There are currently oilfields in Scottish waters whose lifespan estimates are still measured in decades, like Mariner and the Quad 204 complex.

“And should Hurricane’s 2019 production trial of its Lancaster discovery turn out to be a success and west of Shetland basement resources are demonstrated to be economically viable, then future potential developments like Lancaster and the contiguous Halifax well could be producing 40 to 50 years from now, the carbon agenda permitting of course.”

A UK government spokesman said: “We do not recognise these figures. Research by the independent Oil and Gas Authority shows that in 2035, North Sea gas will still meet around a quarter of UK demand with oil from the same source meeting around a third.”

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: “Scotland’s offshore oil and gas industry has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining.”

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## UK oil and gas reserves may last only a decade, study claims

20 SEPTEMBER 2017

The UK oil industry is entering its final decade of production, research by scientists at the University of Edinburgh suggests. A study of output from offshore fields estimates that close to 10% of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains, 11% of oil and 9% of gas resources. The study also claimed that fracking is unlikely to be economically feasible in the UK because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

If the study's predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, the authors said. Instead, they recommended a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

Professor Roy Thompson from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.



Stock image

"We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

A UK government spokesman said: "We do not recognise these figures. Research by the independent Oil and Gas Authority shows that in 2035, North Sea gas will still meet around a quarter of UK demand with oil from the same source meeting around a third."

Deirdre Michie, chief executive of Oil and Gas UK, said: "There are up to 20 billion barrels of oil and gas resources still to be recovered on the UK Continental Shelf, based on production forecasts provided by the Oil and Gas Authority."

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21st September

# Letters: Challenge from gas imports

Correspondents



Oil rigs are left in the Cromarty Firth on February 2, 2016 off Invergordon. Photograph: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images.

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IN response to the claims by Professor Roy Thompson of **Edinburgh University** that onshore oil and gas exploitation is “barely economically feasible” in the UK (“Study warns North Sea oil and gas will end in 2027”, The Herald, September 20), I should like to make the following rejoinder.

An analysis of 25 shale gas systems in the United States isn't a good basis for sweeping assertions about **Scotland**. Mr Thompson has suggested the total organic carbon (TOC), one of the determining factors in hydrocarbon viability, for Scottish shale is two per cent. If he had referred to the British Geological Survey 2014 report on Scottish shale gas he would have seen that Scottish deposits in the West Lothian Oil-Shale area have a significant number of deposits between seven and 30 per cent and that there are a significant net thicknesses of shale with TOC contents of more than two per cent TOC.



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Where we as an industry and Mr Thompson agree is that the UK faces a future of growing gas imports. At present, 50 per cent of our gas comes from outside the UK – a significant turnaround from 17 years ago when we were a gas exporter. This is set to rise to 80 per cent in the next 17 years and has massive implications, both economically and environmentally.

Oil and gas history is littered with stories of “it’s not going to happen because ... “ and we have often been surprised. The imperative to find out what is below our feet is what drives our industry.

Ken Cronin,

Chief Executive,

UK Onshore Oil and Gas,

40 Dukes Place, London.



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20th September

## North Sea oil and gas production will end withing next decade, academics have warned

Alan Simpson



North Sea oil and gas production will end withing next decade, academics have warned

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New research has revealed that just 11 per cent of the UK's oil reserves, equivalent to 3.3 billion barrels, has still to be recovered and it will run out by 2027.

The **Edinburgh** University study warns the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it requires and will leave the country facing an unprecedented energy crisis.

Scientists examined the nation's likely potential for shale gas **fracking** and carried out a fresh survey of the country's oil and gas production.



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S oil Sciences,

His calculation shows that UK oil production has nearly reached the end of the Hubbert curve and will run out within ten years.

Researchers are now calling for a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, including offshore wind and advanced solar energy.

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“We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems.

“There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.”

However, some experts have questioned the validity of the research.

Professor Alexander Kemp, professor of Petroleum Economics and Director of **Aberdeen** Centre for Research in Energy Economics, refuted the findings insisting that even at the current low oil price there were still around 11 billion barrels left “which can be recovered profitably”.

He added: “A further 7 billion can be recovered if oil prices go up and there are big fields such as Bressay and Rosebank off Shetland which can be developed and it certainly will be still going on to 2050.”

Industry body Oil and Gas UK said “there are up to 20 billion barrels of oil and gas resources still to be recovered on the UK Continental Shelf”.

It also predicted that “some notably large developments will still be producing towards 2050.”

But Scottish **Conservative** energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: “If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the north east economy.

“It’s now more essential than ever that both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what’s left in the North Sea, and assist those who’ve suffered as a result of the downturn.”

Scottish **Labour**’s economy spokeswoman Jackie Baillie said: “This is a worrying report about our oil and gas sector.

“It would be deeply regrettable if the predictions in this report come to fruition and we see oil and gas reserves only last another decade.”

A Scottish **Government** spokeswoman said: “The future for renewable energy is bright in Scotland and we have a record on growing the sector of which we are proud.

“Scotland’s offshore oil and gas industry also has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining, and this year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times.”



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# North Sea oil and gas to run out in ten years, experts warn



Scientists have warned that oil and gas reserves in Scotland and the UK will run out in the next ten years.

By

**ILONA AMOS**

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Published: 15:36

Updated: 17:30

Tuesday 19 September 2017

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**according to new analysis by Scottish academics.**

A study of output from offshore fields estimates that only around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains – about 11 per cent of oil and nine per cent of gas resources.

The research, by scientists at the University of Edinburgh, has also found that fracking will be barely economically viable in the UK, especially Scotland, because of complicated geology at potential sites.



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have warned.

Now they are calling for the UK government to take swift action, before the last remnants out.

They say greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and state-of-art solar energy technologies, is needed to replace hydrocarbons.

Study leader Professor Roy Thompson, of the university School of GeoSciences, said: “The country urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

“We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy, with integration between energy systems.

“There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.”

The latest study represents a fresh investigation into the country's oil and gas production and an examination of the UK's likely potential for exploiting unconventional fuels.

The analysis takes into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and

Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows that discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the point of peak oil recovery in the late 1990s.



The findings suggest reserves of traditional oil and gas will run out in the next ten years.

But offshore industry leaders have rubbished the claims.

Estimates from the Oil & Gas Authority suggest there are up to 20 billion barrels of offshore oil and gas still to be recovered on the UK continental shelf.

“Production has increased over the last two years and we expect that to continue to rise,” Deirdre Michie, chief executive of the trade association Oil & Gas UK.

“Nine new fields began production in 2016 and a further seven started producing in the first half of this year – most of which will still be producing in 2030. A further 12 are due on-stream by the end of next year. Some notably large developments will still be producing towards



“Advances in technologies are also presenting fresh opportunities and helping make discoveries commercially viable.”

The Scottish Government has also disputed the findings, saying offshore oil and gas has a “bright future”.

this year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times.”

Scottish Labour economy spokeswoman Jackie Baillie said the report is “worrying”.

Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting a mix of water and chemicals at high pressure into underground rock formations to extract oil and gas trapped within. It has seen a shale gas boom in the US and a rush to replicate the move as North Sea reserves run out.

The latest research backs up recent warnings by Professor John Underhill, chief scientist at Heriot-Watt University, who highlighted how the UK’s “deformed” geology is likely to present a major barrier to harvesting unconventional oil and gas.

He says folds and faults in rock formations deep underground, caused by movements of earth’s tectonic plates millions of years ago, mean places identified as harbouring substantial shale oil and gas reserves may be unsuitable for commercial drilling.

“The inherent complexity of the sedimentary basins has not been fully appreciated or articulated and, as a result, the opportunity has been overhyped,” he said.

A moratorium on fracking has been in place in Scotland since 2015 in response to environmental concerns, with a final decision from the Scottish Government due before the end of this year.

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## George Osborne issues coded apology for saying he wanted to 'chop up' Theresa May

George Osborne has delivered a coded apology to Theresa May days after it was reported the former Chancellor wanted her to be "chopped up" in his freezer The remarks - reported in a profile of Mr Osborne in Esquire magazine

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Celtic fans unveiled a banner aimed at their rivals, poking fun at their liquidation in 2012.

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ecky • 2 days ago

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charles wardrop • 3 days ago

Are the politicians remembering fracking, which, in any businesslike country would be on the agenda, except for in the dopey, deluded Greens, whose influence extends damagingly beyond common sense?

But, then, perhaps the vital SNP objective of separation from the UK strengthens their flimsy, foolish cause?

Does the SNP depend on their support?

Does devolution achieve anything useful for ordinary folk or is it just an expensive, futile indulgence for gasbags to our national resources, to no real benefit beyond their personal enrichment?

^ | v • Reply • Share >

SamuelColdstream • 3 days ago

What about the many multi-billion projects in the deep waters West of Shetland and in the Orkney/Faroe Basins?

The Norwegian State oil giant Statoil is leading the way in hydrocarbon exploration and production in these water.

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alastairg • 3 days ago

This is a shoddy piece of journalism. The article concerned (easy to find online) was published in a geological magazine

an individual who does not have a background in petroleum geology or the North Sea industry. He's not an expert: article is not a scientific paper.

The article doesn't say that production will end in a decade, It says:

"Once due allowance is made for the Piper Alpha effect the North Sea can be seen to be a mature basin. Today the straightforward way to assess Scotland's likely remaining offshore oil wealth is a forward projection of the data of I Using this approach I estimate an ultimate resource of 31 x 109 Bbl, with 11% still remaining to be recovered over t decade." The author makes his projection by extrapolating from a graph of historical production - ignoring the new coming online recently (which have already increased production) and major new projects underway, such as Clair Mariner and Culzean.

That's poor and simplistic methodology. If Professor Thompson (or Ms Amos) had bothered read the article carefu and/or looked at independent production forecasts from experts such as Edinburgh-based Woodmac, they might h avoided this embarrassment.

But she wasn't alone. A second journalist's piece on the same article was also posted by the Scotsman. I made simil comments on that and I see it has now been taken down.

1 ^ | v . Reply . Share >

**City Loon** → alastairg • 3 days ago

Thanks for the clarification on the background. Prof Thompson was interviewed on the radio yesterday and very evident he was not an expert on the oil and gas industry. It was also very evident he was trying to make for the development of green energy which was probably the driving force behind his conclusions.

^ | v . Reply . Share >

**alastairg** → City Loon • 3 days ago

Yes. Disappointing that scientific rigour appears to have been cast aside by a Professor. As the old sa goes: Why let the facts get in the way of a good story?

^ | v . Reply . Share >

**Berlin Calling** • 3 days ago

Weren't we were warned of this in the seventies?

^ | v . Reply . Share >

**Joe Smith** • 4 days ago

North Sea oil and gas to run out in ten years, experts warn

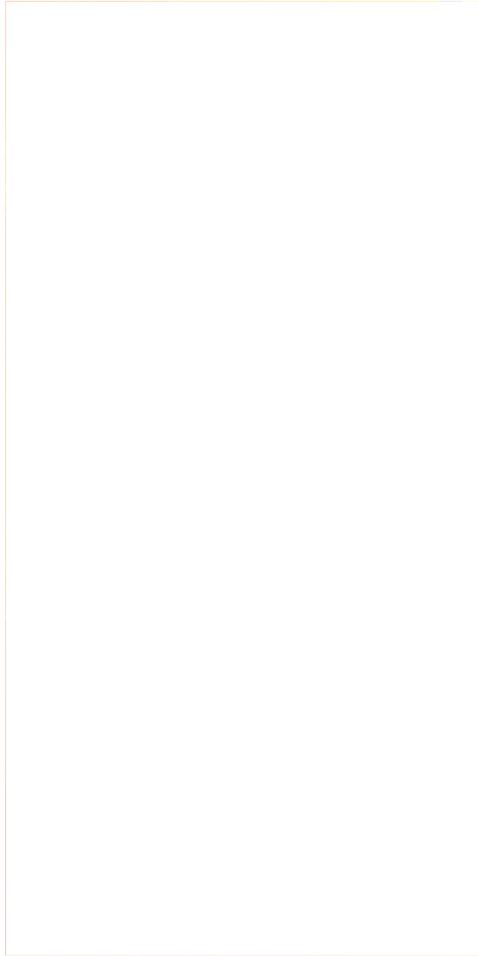
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No tae worry we have a huge gas bag that wull keep us supplied fur the next hundred years - it's cawed Alex Salmon

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# OIL WE'VE GOT LEFT Scotland's oil and gas supplies could vanish in just 10 years as our North Sea reserves run dry, experts warn

Researchers at Edinburgh University are urging Westminster to increase its use of renewable energy sources as reserves plummet to just ten per cent

By Christine Lavelle, Scottish Political Reporter  
19th September 2017, 11:05 pm



1 COMMENTS

**SCOTLAND'S oil and gas supplies could vanish in just ten years as our North Sea reserves run dry, a shock study has warned.**

Researchers claim the UK will be forced to rely on foreign imports as the industry enters its final decade of production.

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Study says North Sea oil supply is near its end

2

And experts at Edinburgh University are urging Westminster to increase its use of renewable energy sources – including offshore wind and solar technology – as reserves plummet to just ten per cent.

Study leader Professor Roy Thompson said: “The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

“We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy.

## VIDEO

**YOU'RE SNOT ON** Watch as Leigh Griffiths appears to wipe his BOGIES on Rangers flag

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Professor Thompson sends warning to Westminster

"There needs to be an emphasis on renewables, energy storage, insulation and energy efficiencies."

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Tory Alexander Burnett warned the end of the offshore industry would be "devastating" for the north east and blasted the Nats for claiming oil cash could support an independent Scotland

Labour's Jackie Dowie added: "It would be deeply regrettable if the predictions come to fruition."

But a Scottish Government spokesman insisted the oil and gas industry had a "bright future".

He added: "The basin has up to 20 billion barrels remaining — and we've seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil. Westminster needs to use powers to protect jobs and investment."

The UK Government also slammed the study, saying they "didn't recognise the figures".

They added: "Energy imports are falling and research shows that by 2035, gas from the UK will account for 24 per cent of demand while oil from the same source will account for 31 per cent."

christine.lavelle @the-sun.co.uk

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They said going out of Europe is a disaster, but in 2014 if we'd voted for independence they said going out of Europe was OK.

Even their most diehard supporter must surely question just how are the SNP ever going to bridge that deficit if they gain independence. The only answer from them to any such question is "we just will....right?"

The same reply when asked about currency, getting back into the EU, sorting out the mess they've made of the police, education, health and transport.

Thank the stars common sense prevailed and independence was killed off.

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# SCOTTISH SUN SAYS The end of Scotland's North Sea oil and gas supplies could be an opportunity

There are opportunities waiting to be seized, unheard-of jobs waiting to be created. We will move on, past the oil industry, to something we probably haven't even thought of yet

COMMENT

By The Scottish Sun  
20th September 2017, 12:38 am



2 COMMENTS

**THE Edinburgh University study pointing to the death of North Sea oil inside ten years is chilling news.**

Chilling because of what it means for jobs and income, but also for what it means for the UK's energy supplies and the business of keeping the lights on.



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## End of North Sea oil could mean new jobs and opportunity

According to the study, [the North Sea is down to the dregs of oil](#) and gas with just ten per cent of recoverable reserves remaining.

And, after a decade, the UK will be reliant on imported gas supplies to run our cookers

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unlikely to prove fruitful.

The report should come as a welcome warning.

Scotland's renewables-generating capacity is striding forward.

The cost of electricity from offshore wind has dipped below that of nuclear power, while petrol-driven cars are being gradually pushed towards the scrap heap.

Only last week an experimental, wave-driven machine successfully generated pure hydrogen from sea water.

It burns to give a powerful, explosive heat and, instead of planet-destroying chemicals, leaves pure water behind.

There are opportunities waiting to be seized, unheard-of jobs waiting to be created. We will move on, past the oil industry, to something we probably haven't even thought of yet.

But it is desperately ironic that this news comes on the very day that the Norwegian oil fund hit a trillion dollars.

Not a million dollars, not a thousand million dollars, but a million million dollars saved up from Norway's share of the North Sea oil bonanza.

**Ours is all gone and, in ten years' time, they will still have a trillion dollars. All we will have is the clean-up.**

**What an arts!**

### investigation

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### VIDEO

**YOU'RE SNOT ON** Watch as Leigh Griffiths appears to wipe his BOGIES on Rangers flag

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**SHARP ELBOWS** Caixinha says he told Brown 'loud and clear' Morelos elbow was out of order

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Why Brits Are Rushing to Beat the end of the Solar Panel Subsidy

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Scottish Scientist

3 days ago

Here are some of Scotland's post-oil energy opportunities, the details of which are spelled out on the Scottish Scientist Wordpress blog.

### Scottish Scientist

Independent Scientific Adviser for Scotland

scottishscientist.wordpress.com

- \* Wind, storage and back-up system designer
- \* Double Tidal Lagoon Baseload Scheme
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Iain Mckenzie

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Try telling the people of Motherwell, Linwood, Bathgate etc that closing their main industries was an opportunity.

Yes some will find jobs but the reality is the north east of scotland will be decimated. Thousands will be forced to move out of the area causing a collapse in property prices and building. Hotels are already charging a third of what they used to.

With less money around, shops will close and rising unemployment and shrinking revenues will see a declining spiral as the north east reverts back to the remote jobs wasteland it would have been without oil. Just look at all the similar areas that never had oil.

### EXCLUSIVE

**YAPPY EVER AFTER** Cute Scots dogs get MARRIED at barking-mad ceremony led by pug vicar PUG

**TERROR FEARS** Celtic fans to be shielded by army during Champions League clash in Brussels

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**SNUB OUTRAGE** Pet activists say probe into Scottish SPCA after Ayrshire Ark was snubbed

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE MOURN IDENTITY** OAP has spent 14 years gatecrashing strangers' funerals and taking food

**HOTEL BLAST** Gas explosion at a Blackpool guesthouse leaves several injured

# UK oil and gas may only last a decade more

**COURTNEY GOLDSMITH**

*@courtneyoelg*

THE UK could soon be forced to import all the oil and gas it needs as new research suggests the country's reserves may only last a decade more.

A study of output from offshore fields by the University of Edinburgh estimated that around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains in place.

Meanwhile fracking, the process used to extract gas from shale deposits, was found to be "barely economically feasible" in the UK because of a lack of sites with suitable geography.

Researchers have warned that if the study's predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs. They recommend moving towards a greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar technologies.

Deirdre Michie, chief executive of Oil & Gas UK, said there are up to 20bn barrels of oil and gas still to be recovered in the North Sea based on production forecasts from the Oil and Gas Authority.



# Oil production in UK may be in its final decade

**STUDY:** Research urges government to look at renewable sources of energy

CONOR RIORDAN

The UK's oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, according to new research.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates about 10% of the nation's original recoverable oil and gas remains.

The research predicts both oil and gas reserves – standing at 11% and 9% respectively – will run out within 10 years.

If the predictions are correct, the UK would soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, scientists have warned.

Academics behind the work are now urging the UK Government to use more renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

Professor Roy Thompson from Edinburgh University's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

"We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy.

"There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

The study, published in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, found the UK has small potential for fracking.

This was because many possible sites are in densely populated areas, with low quality source rocks and complex geological histories.

Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the industry's peak in the late 1990s.

Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: "If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the north-east economy.

"It's now more essential than ever that both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what's left in the North Sea and assist those who've suffered as a result of the downturn."

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: "The future for renewable energy is bright in Scotland and we have a record on growing the sector of which we are proud.

"Scotland's offshore oil and gas industry also has a bright future and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining. This year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times.

"However, it is the UK Government which retains most of the policy responsibility for the industry and which must use those powers to create the appropriate climate to protect jobs and investment."





**There is only around 10% of the nation's reserves of gas and oil left offshore, according to new research.** Picture: Kris Miller.



# UK set to run out of oil and gas within 10 years

By **George Mair**

THE UK's oil and gas reserves may only last for another 10 years, according to new research.

Scientists at the University of Edinburgh warn that the UK must move "urgently" towards greater use of renewable energy.

They also claim the UK has only "minimal potential" for fracking, due to a lack of sites with suitable geology.

The study, published yesterday by the Edinburgh Geological Society, estimates around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas is left – around 11 per cent of oil and 9 per cent of gas resources.

The analysis also found fracking is likely to be too restricted to become an effective industry in the UK.

Many possible sites are in densely populated areas with low quality source rocks, according to the scientists.

If the predictions are correct, both oil and gas



**Tory Alexander Burnett called oil figures 'devastating'**

reserves will run out within a decade.

Professor Roy Thompson, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

"We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy."

Scottish Tory energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: "If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the north-east economy. It's now more essential than ever that

both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what's left in the North Sea, and assist those who've suffered as a result of the downturn."

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: "The future for renewable energy is bright in Scotland and we have a record on growing the sector of which we are proud. Scotland's offshore oil and gas industry also has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining."



# North Sea oil will run out in ten years, experts warn

By **Rachel Watson**

Deputy Scottish Political Editor

THE North Sea oil and gas industry is entering its 'final decade of production,' experts have warned.

According to new University of Edinburgh research, only 10 per cent of the original recoverable oil and gas remains untapped.

The study, led by Professor Roy Thompson, opens with a quote from former first minister Alex Salmond, who in 2013 predicted that: 'There can be little doubt that Scotland is moving into a second oil boom.'

During the 2014 referendum campaign, his government estimated oil and gas revenues of up to £7.9billion in 2016-17. But the report dismisses such optimistic claims as not 'tenable', and predicts that oil and gas reserves will run out within ten years.

Professor Thompson said: 'We must act now... there needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation.'

Scottish Tory energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: 'What cannot be ignored in the wake of this report is how the SNP used North Sea oil to sell a lie to the people of Scotland.'

The Scottish Government said the industry has 'a bright future', adding: 'With the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining.'



# Oil reserves set to run dry in 10 years

THE Scottish oil industry is entering its final decade of production, researchers have warned.

A study has revealed UK oil and gas reserves may only last another 10 years, with only 10 per cent of recoverable oil and gas left.

The authors of the report have warned that if the predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs. The analysis also found that fracking will be "barely" economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh found that the UK only has minimal potential for fracking.

The report said: "Fracking is likely to be too restricted to become an effective industry, which would require thousands of wells."

Researchers are calling for a move towards greater use of renewable energy, including offshore wind and advanced solar energy.

Professor Roy Thompson, of the university's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and fracking.

"We must act now and drive the shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems.

"There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."



**URGENT** Roy Thompson



## Study says UK faces an energy crisis

ALAN SIMPSON

THE UK is facing an unprecedented energy crisis and will soon have to import all the oil and gas it requires, according to new research.

The Edinburgh University study warns the North Sea oil and gas reserves will run out by 2027.

Scientists examined the

nation's likely potential for shale gas fracking and found that the method will be "barely" viable in Scotland because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

Researchers are now calling for a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, including offshore wind and advanced solar energy.

Professor Roy Thompson, of the University of Edinburgh,

said: "We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems."

The findings take into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and lifespan, alongside the break-even costs for fracking.

But some experts questioned the validity of the research.

**Full story: Page 2**



## This industry will still be playing a vital role for many more decades

### COMMENT

#### DEIRDRE MICHIE

IT is high time we stopped talking down this industry and instead got right behind it.

Yes, the downturn has grabbed the headlines of late, prompting some to think the demise of our industry is nigh.

And the low oil price business climate is still causing big challenges for some companies in our sector.

But there is so much we should be talking up about the UK oil and gas industry and the

value it generates for the whole of the UK.

Last year, oil and gas provided 76 per cent of the UK's primary energy – 60 per cent of that was met by domestic production.

And that need is not going away.

Global oil and gas demand is forecast to rise by 25 per cent between now and 2035, which means this industry will continue to have a crucial role in helping to satisfy the world's energy needs.

We also have a part to play in helping the UK achieve its climate change targets. Natural

gas is an affordable, lower-carbon fuel that can fill energy gaps.

Ours is an industry that is becoming more efficient and competitive and which has almost halved its unit operating costs in just two years.

We have a supply chain that spans the length and breadth of the country – servicing domestic activities and exporting almost £12 billion of goods and services to other basins around the world.

And we support around 300,000 UK jobs.

Suggesting UK oil and gas

reserves may last only a decade

is rather surprising – particularly when it's estimated there are up to 20 billion barrels of oil and gas still to be recovered from the UK Continental Shelf.

And it's also not the case.

Between 2014 and 2016, production has gone up by 16 per cent.

Nine new fields began production in 2016, with a further seven in the first half of this year.

A further 12 fields are due onstream by the end of next year, increasing the contribution from recent developments to around 600,000 barrels of oil and gas equivalent. Most will still

be producing into the 2030s and 2040s.

By the end of 2018, more than one-third of total production will come from assets that have started production since 2016. Some notably large developments will still be producing towards 2050.

Government, industry and the Oil and Gas Authority are committed to maximising economic recovery from the UK Continental Shelf and much is being done to deliver towards that goal.

Millions of pounds are being spent on helping boost

exploration by increasing understanding of under-explored areas in the UKCS and reassessing the potential of existing ones. A more flexible licensing regime has also been introduced.

Last year alone £17bn worth of oil and gas was produced from the UKCS.

These are the facts. The focus on developing as much of our natural resource as possible is

an opportunity that industry and government must work together to deliver.

*Deirdre Michie is chief executive of Oil & Gas UK.*



# Study warns North Sea oil and gas will end in 2027

**ALAN SIMPSON**

NORTH Sea oil and gas production will cease within a decade, academics have warned.

They say their research has revealed that just 11 per cent of the UK's oil reserves, equivalent to 3.3 billion barrels, has still to be recovered and it will run out by 2027.

The Edinburgh University study warns the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it requires and will leave the country facing an unprecedented energy crisis.

Scientists examined the nation's likely potential for shale gas fracking and carried out a fresh survey of the country's oil and gas production.

It found that fracking will be "barely" viable in the UK, especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

They explained that many possible sites are in densely populated areas, have "low quality source rocks" and "complex geological histories".

The findings take into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and lifespan, alongside the break-even costs for fracking.

Around 43 billion barrels have so far been extracted from the North Sea, while investment in the sector reached a record high last year of more than £14 billion.

Industry estimates suggest there are up to 24 billion barrels remaining.

But using an economic test known as the Hubbert curve, which measures the production rate of a resource over time, the Edinburgh University research suggests these estimates are overly optimistic. Using

the curve, which was devised in 1956 by geologist M. King Hubbert and accurately predicted that US oil production would peak in 1970, Professor Roy Thompson, of Edinburgh University's School of GeoSciences, believes just nine per cent of gas and 11 per cent of oil is recoverable.

His calculation says UK oil production has nearly reached the end of the Hubbert curve and will run out within 10 years.

Researchers are now calling for a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, including offshore wind and advanced solar energy.

Mr Thompson said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

"We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems.

"There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

However, some experts have questioned the validity of the research.



Professor Alexander Kemp, professor of Petroleum Economics and Director of Aberdeen Centre for Research in Energy Economics, refuted the findings, insisting that even at the current low oil price there were still around 11 billion barrels left "which can be recovered profitably".

He added: "A further seven billion can be recovered if oil prices go up and there are big fields, such as Bressay and Rosebank off Shetland, that can be developed and it certainly will be still going on to 2050."

Industry body Oil and Gas UK said "there are up to 20 billion barrels of oil and gas resources still to be recovered on the UK Continental Shelf".

It also predicted "some notably large developments will still be producing towards 2050".

Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: "If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the north east economy. It's now more essential than ever both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what's left in the North Sea."

Scottish Labour's economy spokeswoman Jackie Baillie said: "This is a worrying report about our oil and gas sector. It would be deeply regrettable if the predictions in this report come to fruition and we see oil and gas reserves only last another decade."

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: "The future for renewable energy is bright in Scotland and we have a record on growing the sector of which we are proud.

"Scotland's offshore oil and gas industry also has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil left."





■ Scotland's oil and gas industry supports around 300,000 jobs, but an Edinburgh University study warns the UK will soon have to import all the oil

and gas it requires and will leave the country facing an unprecedented energy crisis.





ENERGY

# Only 10% of UK's gas and oil is left to be extracted

By Chris Green  
SCOTLAND EDITOR

The UK's oil and gas reserves may be virtually exhausted in the next decade, an academic study has warned.

Only around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas is still waiting to be extracted, researchers at the University of Edinburgh found.

The study also warned that fracking may not come anywhere near meeting Scotland's energy needs even if it is approved by ministers.

If the predictions are correct, the effect on Scotland's economy could be severe. The researchers rec-

ommend a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and solar energy.

The analysis, published in the *Edinburgh Geologist* by the Edinburgh Geological Society, suggests that fracking is unlikely to be economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, due to the lack of sites with suitable geology.

There is currently a moratorium on fracking in Scotland, with a final decision on whether to allow it expected to be announced by ministers in the coming months.

Alexander Burnett, energy spokesman for the Scottish Conservatives, said the forecast suggested the SNP had used North Sea oil to "sell a lie" to the people of Scotland ahead of the 2014 independence referendum.

A Scottish Government spokesman said: "there is up to 20 billion barrels of oil remaining – and this year has seen one of the biggest recent discoveries of untapped oil."

**{i}** The study says the Scottish Government should wait to see if **fracking proves viable in the North of England**, claiming that if the yield there is poor, there will be no point in trying it in Scotland.



# Academic claims oil has 10 years left

**THE UK'S oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, according to new research.**

**A study of output from offshore fields estimates about ten per cent of the nation's original recoverable oil and gas remains.**

**If the predictions are correct, the UK would soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs.**

**Academics behind the work are now urging the UK government to use more renewable energy sources like offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.**

**Prof Roy Thompson, from Edinburgh University's school of geosciences, who led the study, said: 'The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling**

**fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.**

**'There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.'**

**Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: 'If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the north east economy.'**

**Dire warning:**  
Tory energy spokesman Alexander Burnett yesterday



## UK oil and gas has '10 years to go'

THE UK's oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, according to new research.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates about 10% of the nation's original recoverable oil and gas remains.

If the predictions are correct, the UK would soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, scientists have warned.

Academics behind the work are now urging the UK government to use more renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

Professor Roy Thompson from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

"There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh examined the nation's likely potential for fracking and carried out a fresh analysis of the country's oil and gas production.

Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the industry's peak in the late 1990s.



# UK oil reserves 'depleted'

The UK's oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, according to new research.

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If the predictions are correct, the UK would soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, scientists have warned.

Academics behind the work are now urging the UK Govern-

ment to use more renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

Professor Roy Thompson from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking. We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with

integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

Scientists examined the nation's likely potential for fracking and carried out a fresh analysis of the country's oil and gas production. Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows discoveries have lagged behind output since the industry's peak in the late 1990s.



# OGUK boss denies oil and gas 'on its last legs'

## North Sea: Gloomy report challenged

BY MARK LAMMEY

Industry body Oil and Gas UK (OGUK) has challenged scientists' gloomy prediction that North Sea oil and gas reserves will run out in 10 years.

OGUK chief executive Deirdre Michie said new capacity was still being added and some of the largest fields would still be producing in 2050.

She was speaking after new research findings suggested the North Sea industry is on its last legs.

Professor Roy Thompson of Edinburgh University's school of geosciences said the analysis of production decline in offshore fields showed the industry entering its final decade.

The study, published in The Edinburgh Geologist, said only 10% of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remained.

Prof Thompson, who led the study, said the UK needed a "bold transition to renewables, energy storage, improved insulation and energy efficiencies".

The forecast will come as a surprise to many people in the oil and gas industry after a string of recent start-ups for projects with long lifespans. BP's Quad 204 project started producing in May and is expected to deliver 450million barrels of oil through to 2035 and beyond. Statoil's Mariner field could pump out 250million barrels over 30 years and BP's Clair Ridge project is expected to run until 2050. Mariner and

Clair Ridge are slated for first oil next year.

Ms Michie said: "Significant new capacity has been added to the UKCS (UK continental shelf). Nine new fields began produc-

tion in 2016 and a further seven started producing in the first half of this year – most of which will still be producing in 2030.

"A further 12 are due on-stream by the end of next year. Some notably large developments will still be producing towards 2050."

The Scottish Government said: "Scotland's offshore oil and gas industry has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining."





IN THE PIPELINE: OGUK points out some fields are expected to produce up to 2050

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# North Sea reserves will run out in ten years, experts warn

By **ILONA AMOS**

Oil and gas reserves in Scotland and the UK may last just another decade, according to Scottish academics.

A new study of output from offshore fields estimates that only around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains – about 11 per cent of oil and nine per cent of gas resources.

The research, by scientists at the University of Edinburgh, also found fracking will be barely economically viable in the UK, especially Scotland, because of complicated geology at potential sites.

The findings mean the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, the researchers have warned.

Now they are calling for the UK government to take swift action, before the last remnants run out.

They say greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and state-of-the-art solar energy technologies, is needed to replace hydrocarbons.

Study leader Professor Roy Thompson, of the university School of GeoSciences, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking."

Analysis took into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and lifespan, alongside the break-even costs for fracking.

But offshore industry leaders have rubbished the claims.

Estimates from the Oil & Gas Authority suggest there are up to 20 billion barrels of offshore oil and gas still to be recovered on the UK continental shelf.

"Production has increased over the last two years and we expect that to continue to rise,"

said Deirdre Michie, chief executive of the trade association Oil & Gas UK.

"Nine new fields began production in 2016 and a further seven started producing in the first half of this year – most of which will still be producing in 2030. A further 12 are due on-stream by the end of next year. Some notably large developments will still be producing towards 2050.

"Advances in technologies are also presenting fresh opportunities and helping make discoveries commercially viable."

The Scottish Government has also disputed the findings, saying offshore oil and gas has a "bright future".

A spokeswoman said: "The basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining – and this year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times."





## No oil could be an opportunity

**THE Edinburgh University study pointing to the death of North Sea oil inside ten years is chilling news.**

Chilling because of what it means for jobs and income, but also for what it means for the UK's energy supplies and the business of keeping the lights on.

According to the study, the North Sea is down to the dregs of oil and gas with just ten per cent of recoverable reserves remaining.

And, after a decade, the UK will be reliant on imported gas supplies to run our cookers and our central heating.

Even fracking, which has sparked a second industrial revolution in America, won't be an answer, according to the Edinburgh experts, because the rock deposits of Scotland are unlikely to prove fruitful.

The report should come as a welcome warning.

Scotland's renewables-generating capacity is striding forward.

The cost of electricity from offshore wind has dipped below that of nuclear power, while petrol-driven cars are being gradually pushed towards the scrap heap.

Only last week an experimental, wave-driven machine successfully generated pure hydrogen from sea water.

It burns to give a powerful, explosive heat and, instead of planet-destroying chemicals, leaves pure water behind.

There are opportunities waiting to be seized, unheard-of jobs waiting to be created. We will move on, past the oil industry, to something we probably

haven't even thought of yet.

But it is desperately ironic that this news comes on the very day that the Norwegian oil fund hit a trillion dollars.

Not a million dollars, not a thousand million dollars, but a million million dollars saved up from Norway's share of the North Sea oil bonanza.

**Ours is all gone and, in ten years' time, they will still have a trillion dollars. All we will have is the clean-up.**



# Production of North Sea oil and gas 'entering its last decade'

By **Simon Johnson**  
SCOTTISH POLITICAL EDITOR

THE North Sea oil industry is entering its final decade of production, according to research published yesterday that rejected Alex Salmond's claims during the 2014 independence referendum campaign that a second boom was on the way.

An Edinburgh University study of output from offshore fields estimated that only around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains untapped. This includes about 11 per cent of oil and nine per cent of gas.

It also concluded that fracking will be barely economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, due to a lack of sites with suitable geology. The researchers warned that the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs.

Latest official figures found that oil production rose by 2.9 per cent last year after a recovery in the price. However, capital expendi-

ture dropped by 20 per cent and it has emerged that there were 60,000 job losses in the industry last year, 20,000 more than expected.

The study started with a quote from Mr Salmond, the former first minister, who predicted in March 2013 that: "There can be little doubt that Scotland is moving into a second oil boom."

It also cited the opinion of the N56 pressure group, founded by Dan Macdonald, a Nationalist businessman.

The group claimed before the 2014 referendum that Scotland was set for "a new golden age for the North Sea lasting for another century".

But Prof Roy Thompson, of Edinburgh's School of Geosciences, said this was not "tenable" and noted the N56 had presented "no geotechnical evidence, from either drilling or production tests".

He said: "We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage

and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

The study, published by the Edinburgh Geological Society, took into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and lifespan, plus the break-even costs for fracking.

Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows that discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the point of peak oil recovery in the late Nineties. The research predicted that oil and gas reserves will run out within a decade.

Alexander Burnett, the Scottish Tories' energy spokesman, said: "It will be devastating for the north-east economy. It's now more essential than ever that both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what's left in the North Sea. But what cannot be ignored is how the SNP used North Sea oil to sell a lie to the people of Scotland."

A Scottish Government spokesman said the offshore oil and gas industry "has a bright future and, with the



right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil remaining - and this year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times.”



# Expert's warning on dwindling North Sea reserves



By **CHRISTINE LAVELLE**  
 Scottish Political Reporter

**SCOTLAND'S oil and gas supplies could vanish in little more than ten years as our North Sea reserves run dry, a shock study warns.**

Researchers claim the UK will be forced to rely on foreign imports as the industry enters its final decade of production. And experts at Edinburgh University are urging Westminster to increase its use of renewable energy sources – including offshore wind and solar technology – as reserves plummet to just ten per cent. Study leader Professor Roy Thompson said: “The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.”



"We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy. "There needs to be an emphasis on renewables, energy storage, insulation and energy efficiencies."

*Tory Alexander Burnett warned the end of the offshore industry would be "devastating" for the north east and blasted the Nats for claiming oil cash could support an independent Scotland.*

He said: "It's more essential than ever that the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what's left in the North Sea, and assist those who've suffered as a result of the downturn."

Labour's Jackie Baillie added: "It would be deeply regrettable if the predictions come to fruition." But a Scottish Govern-

ment spokesman insisted the oil and gas industry had a "bright future". He added: "The basin has up to 20billion barrels remaining – and we've seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil. Westminster needs to use powers to protect jobs and investment."

The UK Government also slammed the study, saying they "didn't recognise the figures".

They added: "Energy imports are falling and research shows that by 2035, gas from the UK will account for 24 per cent of demand while oil from the same source will account for 31 per cent."

*christine.lavelle  
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The Sun Says  
– Page 12*



Action call . . . Baillie, right, and Burnett



Prediction . . . Prof Thompson



# 'Only 10 years of North Sea oil and gas left'

**Hamish Macdonell**

The North Sea oil and gas industry will be almost finished within a decade, according to a controversial academic report.

Geologists from the University of Edinburgh have calculated that only 10 per cent of the recoverable oil and gas remains and, at current rates of extraction, those reserves will be virtually dry within a decade.

The geologists also analysed the economic feasibility of fracking and concluded that the controversial shale

gas extraction method would not be viable in Scotland and only of marginal use in England.

If these predictions prove realistic, they will be a substantial blow to the British government, which has used North Sea tax revenues to support the UK economy since the late 1970s.

They would also be a setback for the SNP administration, which had hoped to use oil revenues, at least in part, to bankroll an independent Scotland.

But the forecasts were being treated with scepticism in the industry and within the Scottish government last

night, with one senior industry figure pointing out that oil companies were still investing heavily, with BP in particular hoping to extract oil for the next 30 years.

A Scottish government spokeswoman said the future for renewable energy, and for offshore oil and gas, was "bright".

The study, in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, was published by the Edinburgh Geological Society and took account of the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and lifespan, alongside the break-even costs for fracking.



**Briefing****'Only decade of oil left in North Sea'**

**ENERGY:** The UK's oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, according to new research.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates about 10 per cent of the nation's original recoverable oil and gas remains. If correct, the UK would soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, warn Edinburgh University scientists.





Is the sun setting on UK oil and gas? (Source: Getty)

The UK could soon be forced to import all the oil and gas it needs as new research suggests the country's reserves may only last a decade more.

A study of output from offshore fields by the University of Edinburgh estimated that just around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains in place.

The study, published by the Edinburgh Geological Society, also found fracking, the process used to extract gas from shale deposits, will be "barely economically feasible" in the UK because of a lack of sites with suitable geography. Researchers warned that if the study's predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import the oil and gas it needs to make up for the shortfall.

They recommend moving towards a greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar technologies.

Read more: [The price of new offshore wind power has halved](#)

The university's analysis of hydrocarbon reserves showed discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the point of peak oil recovery in the late 1990s and predicts both oil and gas will run out within a decade.

"The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking," said Roy Thomson, a professor at Edinburgh's school of geosciences.

"We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

Deirdre Michie, chief executive of Oil & Gas UK, said there are up to 20bn barrels of oil and gas still to be recovered in the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) in the North Sea based on production forecasts from the Oil and Gas Authority.

"Production has increased over the last two years and we expect that to continue to rise. Significant new capacity has been added to the UKCS... Advances in technologies are also presenting fresh opportunities and helping make discoveries commercially viable," Michie said.

"To ensure the remaining potential of the UKCS is realised, we need to keep operating costs low, bring in new investment and maintain a relentless focus on exploration and enhanced recovery.

Read more: [The tide is turning for North Sea oil and gas](#)

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# UK oil and gas reserves may last only a decade

The Scottish and UK oil industries are entering their final decade of production, research suggests.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates that close to 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains – about 11 per cent of oil and nine per cent of gas resources.

The analysis also finds that fracking will be barely economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

If the study's predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, researchers warn.

Instead, they recommend a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

## Resource shortfall

It is strongly urged that the UK Government's ongoing energy cost report – the high-profile Helm Review – should take stock of the projected shortfall in resource availability and how this might be addressed.

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh examined the UK's likely potential for fracking and carried out a fresh analysis of the country's oil and gas production.

Their findings take into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and lifespan, alongside the break-even costs for fracking.

They found that the UK has only minimal potential for fracking.

Many possible sites are in densely populated areas, have low quality source rocks and complex geological histories.

Fracking is likely to be too restricted to become an effective industry, which would require thousands of wells, scientists say.

## Past peak

Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows that discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the point of peak oil recovery in the late 1990s.

The research predicts that both oil and gas reserves will run out within a decade.

The study, in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, is published by the Edinburgh Geological Society.

**“** *The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking. We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.* **”**

— Professor Roy Thompson  
School of GeoSciences

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This article was published on Sep 19, 2017

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# UK Oil And Gas Reserves May

# Last Only A Decade, Study Suggests

09/20/2017 - 8:57am

by UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

## Research News

The Scottish and UK oil industries are entering their final decade of production, research suggests.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates that close to 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains -- about 11 per cent of oil and nine per cent of gas resources.

The analysis also finds that fracking will be barely economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

If the study's predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, researchers warn.

Instead, they recommend a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

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The study, in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, is published by the Edinburgh Geological Society.

Professor Roy Thompson, of the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

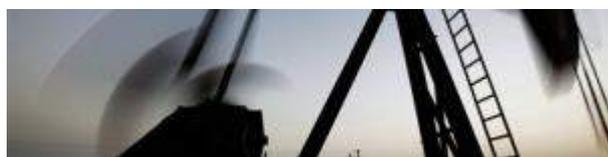
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## UK oil and gas reserves may last only a decade: study

0

BY BUNNER TONY ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

NEWS

The Scottish and UK oil industries are entering their final decade of production, research suggests.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates that close to 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains about 11 per cent of oil and nine per cent of gas resources.

 The analysis also finds that fracking will be barely economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

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If the study's predictions are correct, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, researchers warn.

Instead, they recommend a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

### Resource shortfall

It is strongly urged that the UK Government's ongoing energy cost report the high-profile Helm Review should take stock of the projected shortfall in resource availability and how this might be addressed.

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Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows that discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the point of peak oil recovery in the late 1990s.

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The study, in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, is published by the Edinburgh Geological Society.

"The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking. We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies," says Professor Roy Thompson, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh.

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Science

# UK oil and gas reserves 'may run out in 10 years', study

**warns** News The Essential Daily Briefing



The study suggests that the North Sea oil industry is in its final decade – and that fracking may not be the future (Photo: PA)

by  **Chris Green**

4 days | Tuesday September 19th 2017





The UK's oil and gas reserves may be virtually exhausted in the next decade, an academic study has warned, calling for increased efforts to boost renewable sources of energy.

Only around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas is still waiting to be extracted, researchers at the University of Edinburgh found.

**“The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves”**

**Professor Roy Thompson**

The study also warned that the controversial technique of fracking may not come anywhere near meeting Scotland's energy needs even if it is approved by ministers.

If the predictions are correct, the effect on Scotland's economy could be severe and the UK will soon have to import oil and gas it needs.

The researchers recommend a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and solar energy technologies.

The analysis suggests that fracking is unlikely to be economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, due to the lack of sites with suitable geology.

It predicts that most of Scotland's oil and gas shales will be difficult to reach and will “barely correspond to even the poorest US-producing regions”.

“All in all, Scottish shales may well have a success factor of zero,” says the study, published in the *Edinburgh Geologist* by the Edinburgh Geological Society.

## **Fracking fears**

There is currently a moratorium on fracking in Scotland, with a final decision on whether to allow it expected to be announced by ministers in the coming months.

The study says the Scottish Government should wait to see if fracking proves viable in the North of England, claiming that if the yield there is poor, there will be no point in trying at all.

“The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking,” said Professor Roy Thompson of the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study.

“We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems.

“There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.”

Alexander Burnett, energy spokesman for the Scottish Conservatives, said the paper's predictions would be “devastating” for the economy of the North East if they proved to be accurate.

He added that the forecast suggested the SNP had used the promise of North Sea oil to “sell a lie” to the people of Scotland ahead of 2014's independence referendum.

“The nationalists said oil would not only support a separate Scotland, but make it prosper,” he said.

“Thankfully the people of Scotland rejected that assertion, and we now have the overall strength of the UK economy to absorb shocks like this one.”

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# UK oil and gas reserves will expire in 10 years - Edinburgh University research

by **Press Association**

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The UK's oil industry could be entering its final decade of production, according to new research.

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import all the oil and gas it needs, scientists have warned.

Academics behind the work are now urging the UK Government to use more renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

Professor Roy Thompson from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

"We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems.

"There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies."

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh examined the nation's likely potential for fracking and carried out a fresh analysis of the country's oil and gas production.

Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the industry's peak in the late 1990s.

The research predicts that both oil and gas reserves – standing at 11% and 9% respectively – will run out within 10 years.

Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: "If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for

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downturn.”

The study, published in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, found that the UK has small potential for fracking.

This was because many possible sites are in densely populated areas, with low quality source rocks and complex geological histories.

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: “ The future for renewable energy is bright in Scotland and we have a record on growing the sector of which we are proud.

“Scotland’s offshore oil and gas industry also has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining, and this year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times.

“However it is the UK Government which retains most of the policy responsibility for the industry and which must use those powers to create the appropriate climate to protect jobs and investment.”

Further calls have been made to bring in more investment to the industry.

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Deirdre Michie, chief executive of Oil and Gas UK, said: “There are up to 20 billion barrels of oil and gas resources still to be recovered on the UK Continental Shelf, based on production forecasts provided by the Oil and Gas Authority.

“To ensure the remaining potential of the UKCS is realised, we need to keep operating costs low, bring in new investment and maintain a relentless focus on exploration and enhanced recovery.”

Scottish Labour’s economy spokeswoman Jackie Baillie MSP said: “This is a worrying report about our oil and gas sector. It would be deeply regrettable if the predictions in this report come to fruition and we see oil and gas reserves only last another decade.

“We need to make sure we are investing in exploration to maximise new opportunities in oil and gas. However, this also reinforces the need for Scotland to move toward renewable energy, as well, which will provide new jobs and industry, and help preserve the environment too.”

A UK government spokesman said: “We do not recognise these figures.

“Research by the independent Oil and Gas Authority shows that in 2035, North Sea gas will still meet around a quarter of

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## UK's oil industry 'entering final decade of production'



An Edinburgh University study has predicted the UK's oil production will end within a decade CREDIT: PA

By **Simon Johnson**, SCOTTISH POLITICAL EDITOR

19 SEPTEMBER 2017 • 1:34PM

**T**he North Sea oil industry is entering its final decade of production, according to new academic research that rejects Alex Salmond's claims during the 2014 Scottish independence referendum campaign of an impending second boom.

An Edinburgh University study of output from offshore fields estimated that only around 10 per cent of the UK's original recoverable oil and gas remains untapped.

It also concluded that fracking will be barely economically feasible in the UK, especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology. The researchers warned that the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs.

Official figures published last week found that oil production increased by 2.9 per cent last year following a recovery in the price. However, capital expenditure dropped by around 20 per cent and it has emerged there were 60,000 job losses in the industry last year, 20,000 more than expected. (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/09/06/north-sea-oil-jobs-disappearing-even-faster-feared/>)

The Scottish Government is expected to set out its view on fracking shortly after imposing a moratorium on the controversial method of extracting gas in January 2015.

Alex Salmond predicted a second oil boom before the 2014 independence referendum

The study started with a quote from Mr Salmond, the former First Minister, who predicted in March 2013 (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/9953091/Economists-reject-Alex-Salmonds-oil-boom-claim.html>) that: "There can be little doubt that Scotland is moving into a second oil boom."

It also cited the opinion of the N56 pressure group, which was founded by Dan Macdonald, an eminent Nationalist businessman. The group claimed before the September 2014 referendum that Scotland is set for an "oil bonanza that heralds a new golden age for the North Sea lasting for another century." (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scottish-independence/11076113/Claims-of-North-Sea-fracking-boom-a-gross-exaggeration-says-leading-geology-professor.html>)

But Professor Roy Thompson, of the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said this was not “tenable” and noted that N56 had presented “no geotechnical evidence, from either drilling or production tests.”

He said: “The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

“We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.”

The study, published by the Edinburgh Geological Society, took into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field size and lifespan, alongside the break-even costs for fracking.

Analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows that discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the point of peak oil recovery in the late 1990s. The research predicted that both oil and gas reserves will run out within a decade.

Alexander Burnett, the Scottish Tories’ energy spokesman, said: “If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the north east economy. It’s now more essential than ever that both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what’s left in the North Sea.

“But what cannot be ignored in the wake of this report is how the SNP used North Sea oil to sell a lie to the people of Scotland.”

A Scottish Government spokesman said the offshore oil and gas industry “has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining – and this year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times.”

Deirdre Michie, chief executive of industry body Oil & Gas UK, said: “There are up to 20 billion barrels of oil and gas resources still to be recovered on the UK Continental Shelf, based on production forecasts provided by the Oil and Gas Authority. Production has increased over the last two years and we expect that to continue to rise.”

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- **Oil reserves now at 10%, while gas reserves have dwindled down to 9%**
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By [JANE DENTON FOR THISISMONEY](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 16:32, 19 September 2017 | **UPDATED:** 16:36, 19 September 2017

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The UK is running out of oil and gas reserves and will stumble into its final years of production within the next decade, new findings warn.

Around 10 per cent of the country's original recoverable oil and gas supplies remain, a study of output from offshore fields by Professor Roy Thompson in The Edinburgh Geologist reveals.

If the projections hold water, the UK will soon have to import all the oil and gas it requires. Oil reserves are at 11 per cent, while gas reserves currently stand at 9 per cent.

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**Running out: The UK is running out of oil reserves and gas reserves and could be stumbling into its final years of production within the next decade**

The study suggests the UK has limited potential for fracking, primarily because many possible sites are in densely populated areas, with low quality source rocks and complex geological histories.

The British Geological Survey found in 2013 that there were likely to be around 1,300trillion cubic feet of gas buried beneath the ground in the UK, but said nothing about how much of it might be accessible.

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Professor Thompson said: 'The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking.

'We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integration between energy systems.

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'There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and energy efficiencies.'

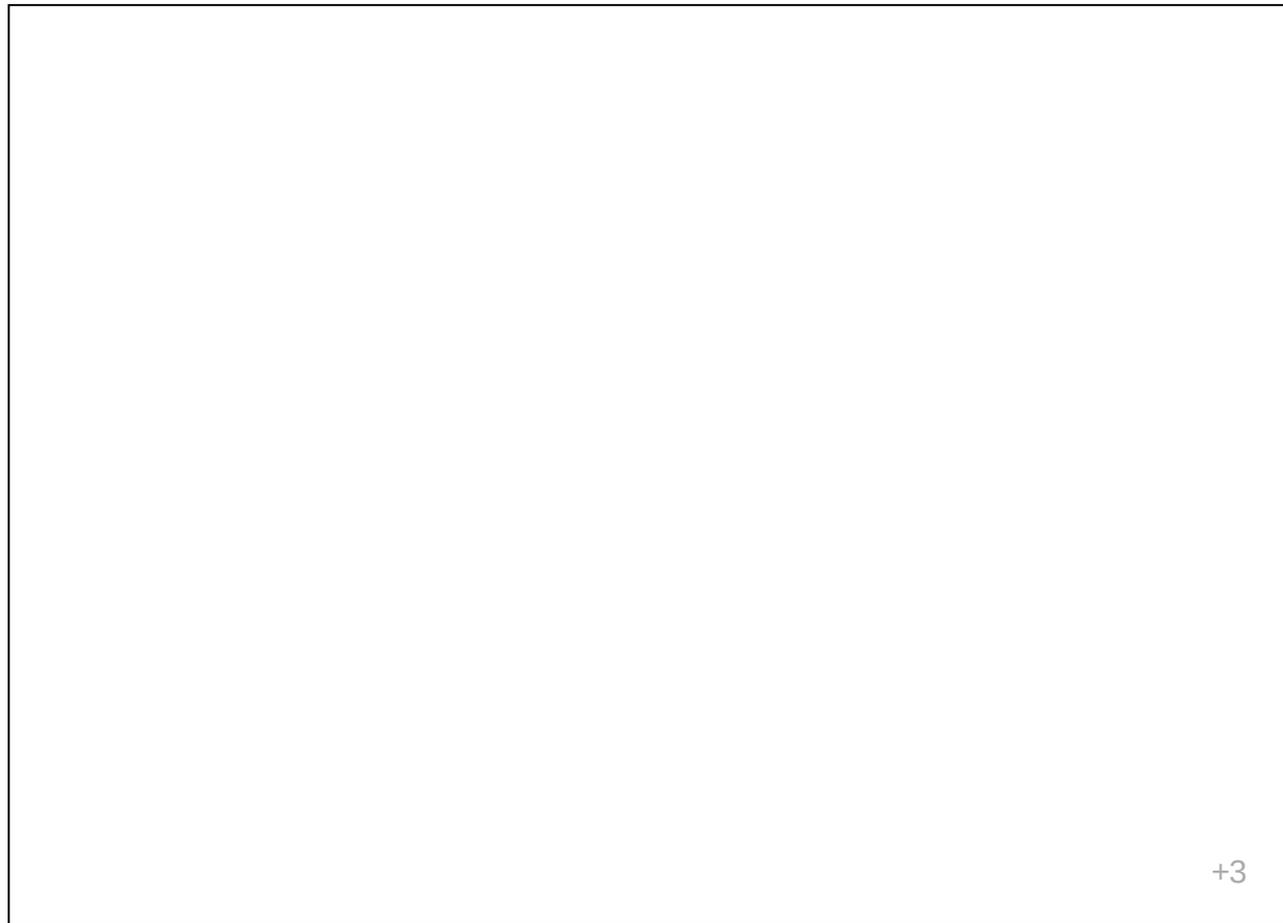
Scientists from the University of Edinburgh studied the country's likely potential for fracking and carried out an analysis of the country's oil and gas production levels.

An analysis of hydrocarbon reserves shows discoveries have consistently lagged behind output since the industry's peak in the late 1990s.

Commenting on the results of the study, Scottish Conservative energy spokesman Alexander Burnett said: 'If this turns out to be the case, it will be devastating for the north east economy.'

'It's now more essential than ever that both the Scottish and UK governments work together to maximise what's left in the North Sea, and assist those who've suffered as a result of the downturn.'

Academics involved in the study are urging the Government to use more renewable energy sources, including offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.



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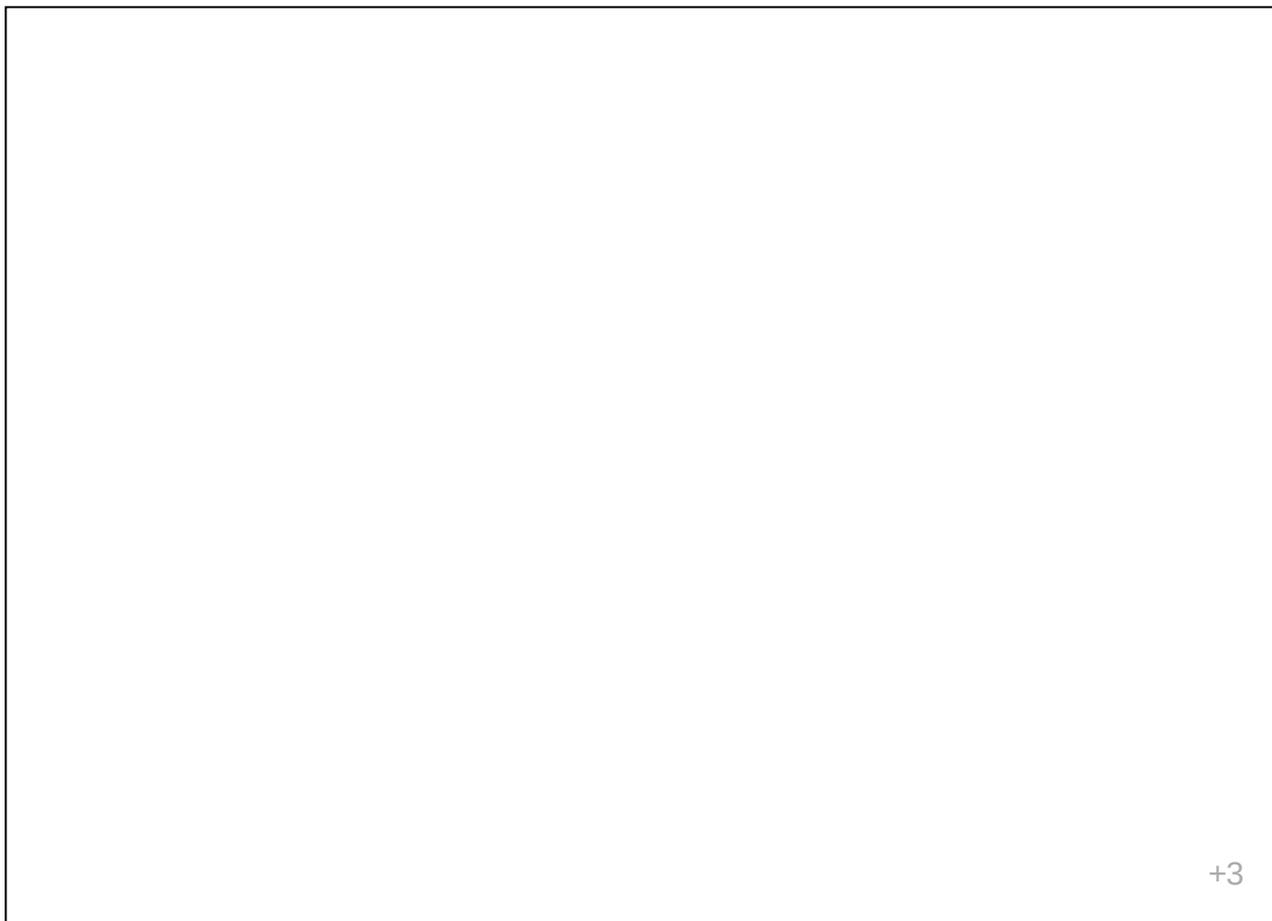
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**Expert view: Professor Thompson said, 'The UK urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking'**

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: 'The future for renewable energy is bright in Scotland and we have a record on growing the sector of which we are proud.'

'Scotland's offshore oil and gas industry also has a bright future, and, with the right regulatory and fiscal environment, the basin has up to 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent remaining, and this year has seen one of the biggest new discoveries of untapped oil in recent times.'

'However it is the UK Government which retains most of the policy responsibility for the industry and which must use those powers to create the appropriate climate to protect jobs and investment.'

Last year, a study commissioned by UK Oil and Gas, the firm behind plans to extract oil from the **Gatwick area**, said extractions could generate between £7billion and £52billion over a 40-year period.

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Earlier this year, separate findings by UK Oil and Gas revealed that around **30 jobs supported by the country's oil and gas sector were being lost every day** amid rising costs and dwindling reserves.

The sector now employs or supports 302,200 roles, compared to 315,400 last year, and around one-third lower than a peak in 2014.

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Lol\_k, Epsom, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

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 [Mr Angry](#), Cardiff, 3 days ago

Unlike Norway which invested oil money in funds for the future we squandered ours on welfare payments to keep the phlebs happy and comfortable however the time is now fast coming when there is nothing left but expensive borrowing from abroad and austerity to pay for it or Venezuela mark 2 under Corbyn.

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 [Stan](#), Walton, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Amazing how poorly we positioned ourselves on this one. Germany is light years ahead of us.

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 [Piglet007](#), Manchester, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Miss Sturgeon must be delighted at this news. Ho ho ho!!

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 [Mr Angry](#), Cardiff, 3 days ago

Not just Sturgeon its the whole UK economy you idiot, Hoho ho!

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 [jaguardave198](#), huddersfield, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Where i live in Yorkshire not far under the surface is a substance called coal .Enough for hundreds of years.China USA India etc are still burning billions of tons of it . Just saying.

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 [Kentish Maid](#), Canterbury, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Coal is a filthy fuel. My grandfather spent his whole life as a coal miner. It's not a job fit for a human being. Best left where it is in the ground.

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 [Jim1234567](#), Gloucester, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

More lies from mail online aka Brussels online which is continually trying to do Bristain down. Mail online William Joyce aka Lord Haw HAW would be proud of your efforts to try and destroy British morale....fortunartely we hate you as much as you hate your readers....

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 [narsil](#), Fowey, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

More lies,the North Sea companies are capping wells because of lower prices and demand due to fracking in the U S.

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# US style shale drilling unlikely to succeed in UK: study

By Maurice Smith | Sept. 22, 2017, 3:48 p.m. |

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US style shale drilling unlikely to succeed in UK: study

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The Scottish and U.K. oil industries are entering their final decade of production, research from the University of Edinburgh suggests.

A study of output from offshore fields estimates that close to 10 per cent of the U.K.'s original recoverable oil and gas remains – about 11 per cent of oil and nine per cent of gas resources.

The analysis also finds that fracking will be barely economically feasible in the U.K., especially in Scotland, because of a lack of sites with suitable geology.

If the study's predictions are correct, the U.K. will soon have to import all the oil and gas it needs, researchers warn.

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Instead, they recommend a move towards greater use of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind and advanced solar energy technologies.

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh examined the U.K.'s likely potential for fracking and carried out a fresh analysis of the country's oil and gas production, taking into account the long-term downward trends of oil and gas field

size and lifespan, alongside the break-even costs for fracking.

They found that the U.K. has only minimal potential for fracking. Many possible sites are in densely populated areas, have low quality source rocks and complex geological histories. Fracking is likely to be too restricted to become an effective industry, which would require thousands of wells, they found.

"The U.K. urgently needs a bold energy transition plan, instead of trusting to dwindling fossil fuel reserves and possible fracking. We must act now and drive the necessary shift to a clean economy with integrated renewable energy systems. There needs to be greater emphasis on renewables, energy storage and improved insulation and

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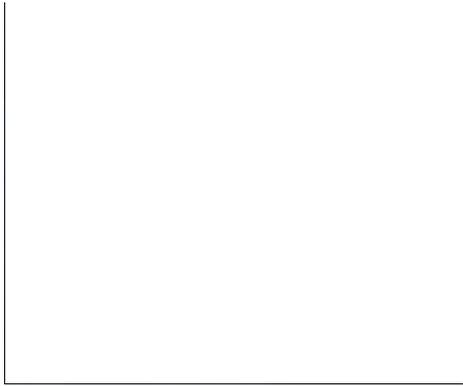




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The study, in *The Edinburgh Geologist*, published by the Edinburgh Geological Society, did find in a possible “fascinating happenstance” that there is some hope of generating new energy from Scotland’s long dead coal sector, where the world’s first commercial oil-works (low temperature distillation of coal and shale) were established in the 1800s.

It found that the potential for coalbed methane production “appears to be locally very promising for the few relatively thick coal seams that escaped 19th and 20th century mining.”



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