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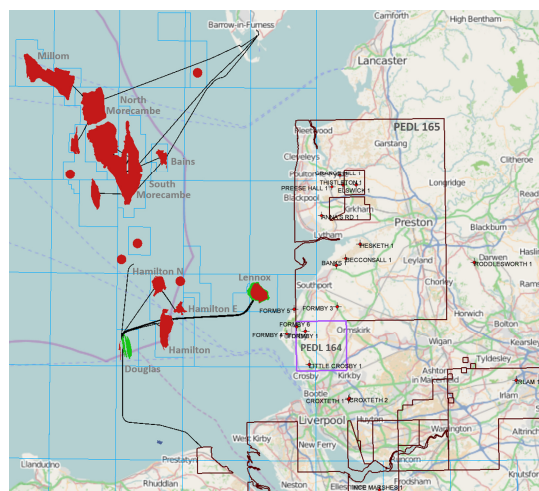
# Meeting

Thursday 25 February 2016

## The Formby Oil Field and the Potential for Conventional and Unconventional Plays.



The Formby oil field was one of the first commercial oil fields in the UK. It was discovered in the lead up to the Second World War following reports of oil seepages in fields and ditches in West Lancashire. It produced a small amount of oil at an ever diminishing rate and finally ceased activity in the 1960s. The field has a Lower Triassic Sandstone reservoir with a very unconventional caprock: un lithified glacial till. The oil was originally sourced from Carboniferous marine coals, probably from the Bowland Group. Offshore to the west, there is a cluster of major oil and gas fields (Lennox, Hamilton, Douglas), buried somewhat deeper than the Formby oil field and with a much more effective cap rock in the very thick Middle and Upper Triassic mudstones and evaporites of the Mercia Mudstone Group. Onshore conventional accumulations in the Lower Triassic Sandstones will always have limited volumes where the Mercia Mudstone is thin or absent. Much deeper, below the Permo-Triassic succession, there is the possibility of finding commercial accumulations of shale gas in the thick, organic rich and thermally mature Carboniferous Bowland Shale. This controversial resource may yet allow West Lancashire and nearby areas to become a focus for energy



Prof Richard Worden has been a Geology academic at Liverpool University for over 15 years. He first took a BSc in Geology and Geochemistry at Manchester University from 1981 to 1984, and then completed a PhD in Geology, also at Manchester, in 1988. This was followed by 1 year of post-doctoral research at Edinburgh University and then 6 years working as a sedimentary geochemist for BP at Sunbury on Thames. Between BP and Liverpool, he worked for 5 years as a geology lecturer at Queens University in Belfast.

Venue: Lecture Theatre 137, John Moore University, James Parsons Building, Byrom Street, Liverpool, L3 3AF (map link)

Main entrance, upstairs, follow corridor round, upper atrium, then follow corridor to the end.

Time: Prompt 7:00pm start.

CPD: *These events may be considered for contributing to a recognised Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme as part of personal development. Delegates should check their individual scheme requirements.*

For further information contact the Group Secretary, Nik Reynolds at:

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