

Café Scientifique Headingley

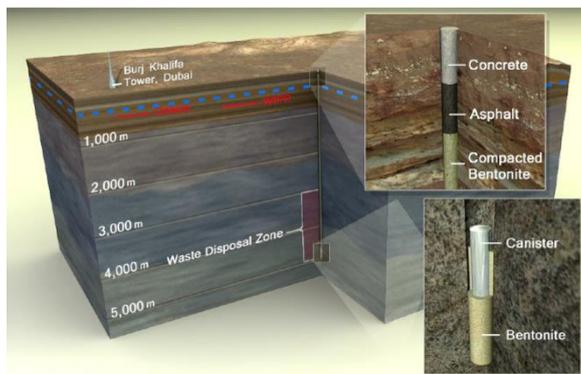
Monday 10th July 2017 at 7:30pm

Speaker:

Matthew Cotton

Title:

UK Nuclear Waste Policy



Outline: Since the first generation of nuclear weapons and civilian nuclear power in the 1950s and 60s the UK still does not have a final disposal solution for radioactive wastes. Government strategy is to build a geological disposal facility (GDF) - a mined repository for wastes underground. The local geology, the engineered repository and the packaging of the wastes must prevent migration of radionuclides to the surface for 10,000s of years - longer than any previous human dynasty.

Currently, communities volunteer to host a GDF. West Cumbria did so this but Cumbria County Council voted against on matters of environmental impact, and loss of revenue to the region. The matter is therefore a political and moral issue of community fairness, autonomy and the rights of future generations - not just a technical matter of proving long-term safety. How then should these decisions be made? Matthew argues that a practical solution lies in the new technique of deep borehole disposal (DPD) - a 'pay as you go' option, that potentially resolves many of the political and moral problems associated with a mined GDF.

Biog: *Dr Matthew Cotton is a Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of York. Matthew's research interests lie in the study of environmental justice: how decisions over environmental planning and policy matters can be made fairer for local communities, future generations and the natural environment. In particular, he has explored case studies of nuclear power and radioactive waste management, shale gas extraction, petrochemicals, onshore wind, and electricity transmission and distribution systems. He is the author of two books on these topics: Nuclear Waste Politics (Routledge) and Ethics and Technology Assessment (Springer) and the co-editor of Engaging with Environmental Justice (Inter-Disciplinary Press). He has also held grant funding for his work from a range of sources.*

Venue: The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michael's Rd., Leeds LS6 3BG

Time: Club opens at 7:00pm for drinks & the room at 7:30; talk begins promptly at 7:45pm

Entry: Donation please for room hire and expenses: **£3 at the door**



Café Scientifique Headingley is a programme run under the auspices of the
Headingley Development Trust www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk
Headingley Development Trust www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk