

Rocks Weathering and Mass Movement|

A1 Sample answer

Human Interference with Rocks: Natural Gas

Natural gas is formed in sedimentary rocks. Plants and animals decay, then are buried under sand and Mud where there is little oxygen. The pressure and bacteria break this material down into gas. The gas travels into traps through the layers of permeable rock. The gas is found by using small explosions to create seismic waves. Natural gas is 25% of energy use in Ireland. Ireland uses 1% of the total European production. Kinsale is Ireland's main gas field which was discovered in 1971 and began production in 1978. It is located 1 kilometre below the seabed on 100 metres of water. It is piped into cork Harbour.

More gas was found at seven heads but the flow was much lower than expected. The gas reserves at these two Fields, is almost gone. More gas was found at the Corrib Gas-field 70 kilometres off the coast of Mayo. It is 3500 metres below sea bed on 300 metres of water and is approximately two thirds the gas levels at Kinsale. This is a very controversial gas field and many protests have been held. This has delayed the opening of the gas field. It is hoped that the gas will be brought to shore by about 2015. It was originally hoped that the gas would have been pumped by 2006.

Bord Gais is responsible for the gas pipeline but has been open to competition in recent years. 2 Subsea gas pipelines were built between Dublin and Scotland. Gas is used in electricity Generation by the ESB and is also used in the Industrial sector and by more than half a million homes. Natural gas generates revenue and creates employment. The world Oil and Gas Industry is worth approximately 186 billion. Corrib gas will also attract industry to the peripheral region of the West of Ireland. The government offers attractive terms to encourage oil and gas exploration. Gas is the cleanest and most efficient fossil fuel although digging and drilling for pipes can damage the surrounding environment.