

U.K. shale gas reserves are 80 percent smaller than estimated, study claims

U.K. shale gas reserves are at least 80 percent smaller than thought, concluded a University of Nottingham report last August. The study is at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/%20s41467-019-11653-4>.

Web-based media outlet *The Conversation* detangled some of the convoluted, scientific language in the report at <http://theconversation.com/how-we-discovered-uk-shale-gas-reserves-are-at-least-80-smaller-than-thought-122076>.

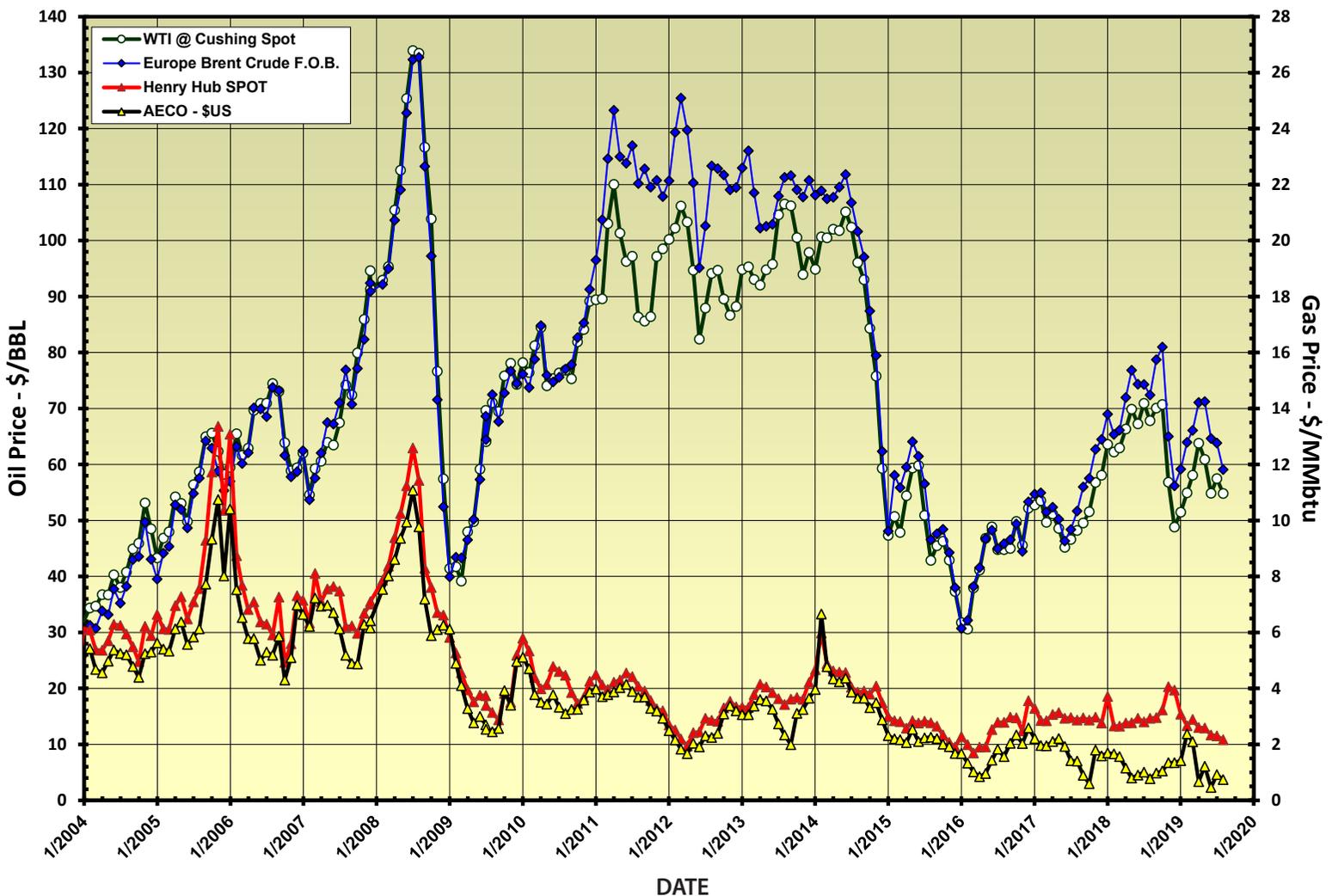
In 2013, scientists conducting a U.K. government study estimated the in-place gas volumes in the Bowland shale with models developed for shales in the U.S. They did not

take into account key differences between shale gas in the two countries.

The Conversation reported, "Initial estimates of this gas-holding capacity may have been inflated as they overlooked the effect of moisture, which is known to reduce the amount of gas held within the shale."

The scientists estimated that the Bowland shale play contained 1,300 Tcf of gas and could provide the U.K. with up to 50 years of gas at current demand. Revised estimates, assuming a "fairly optimistic" 10-percent recovery factor, yielded 200 Tcf of gas or a 10-year supply.

Price history of benchmark oil and gas in U.S. dollars



Published, monthly-average, cash market prices for WTI crude at Cushing (NYMEX), Brent crude and Henry Hub and AECO gas.