

# Hot rocks deep underground

## Geothermal: Hot water

BY BLAIR DINGWALL

The north-east could become a goldmine of cheap, environmentally-friendly heating thanks to one of its most famous natural resources.

Granite has been used to build everything from dyestone dykes to city mansions.

Now the hot water which flows naturally around the rocks could be pumped from deep beneath the ground and used to provide warmth for homes in a Deeside town.

Initial research by geology experts into the potentially "ground-breaking" Hill of Banchoy Geothermal Energy Project will start soon.

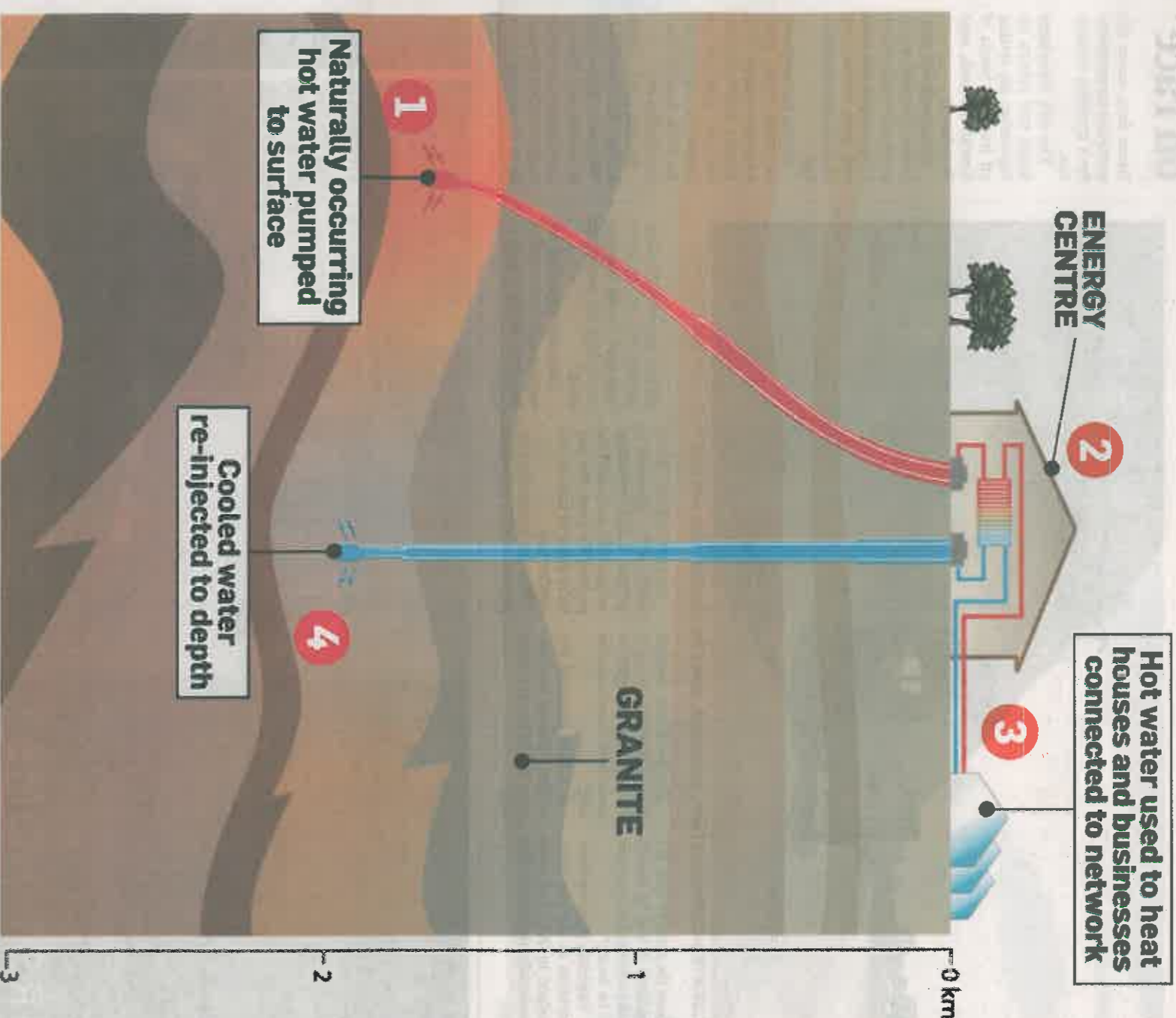
Surveys by Aberdeen University and the University of Glasgow will begin within two to three weeks at three locations in Banchoy.

The team will aim to identify spots where flows of water in the earth naturally heated by granite could be extracted using a drill rig and pumped to local homes.

If the research produces positive results, the water would be channelled into and used alongside the biomass Hill of Banchoy district heating scheme managed by Hobesco.

The heat would then be

Hot water used to heat houses and businesses connected to network



## Award for shed-load of gin

### CONTEST

A Highland shed which houses a gin distillery is a winner in the prestigious Shed of the Year contest.

The unusual conversion in Aviemore won the pub section and will now battle it out with the other section winners for the overall crown.

A total of 2,520 sheds were put forward for the annual contest with the top four sheds in each of the

eight categories featuring in Channel Four TV show Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year.

Owned by Walter Micklethwait, Inshriach Distillery was once a dilapidated hen house, which has been converted into a fully functioning distillery which produces the Crossbill Gin brand.

Walter's Shed is also a farm shop which sells carved items, eggs and produce, a saloon bar and a

velour upholstered piano bar.

Made out of mostly recycled items including railway station, the Inshriach Distillery has a unique charm.

Voting to determine the category winners, and who goes through to the next round is via [www.reader-sheds.co.uk](http://www.reader-sheds.co.uk)

The public have also cast their vote on who they think deserves the title of

best shed in Eco, Normal, Workshop and Studio, Unique, Cabin & Summerhouse, Historical and Budget categories.

The winner will receive £1,000 along with a wooden plaque, £100 worth of wood preservative products and a giant crown for their shed.

Two years ago this was a dilapidated hen house and an assorted pile of old junk. The shed cost more than £500 to build.



Walter Micklethwait outside his shed near Aviemore

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