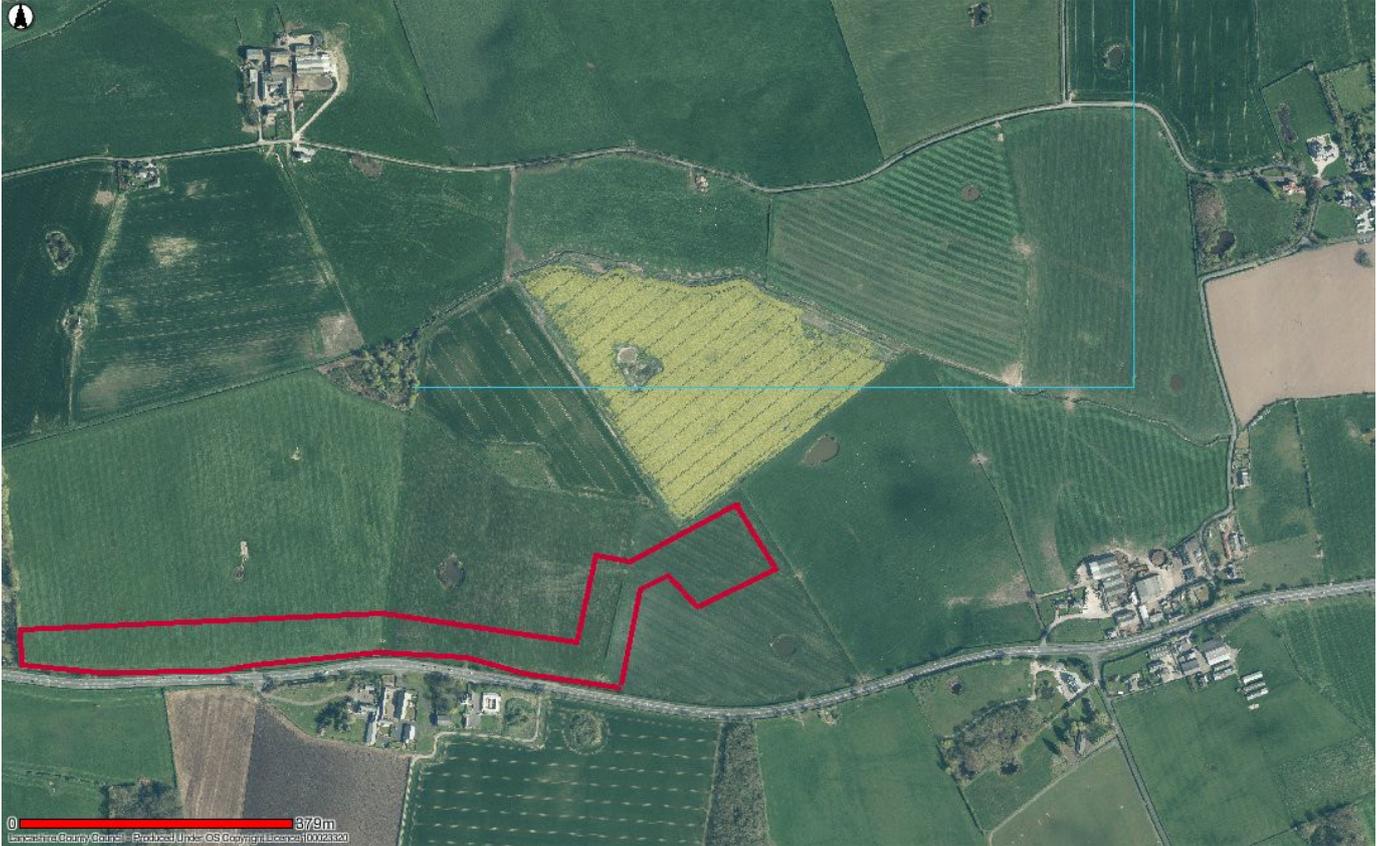


# DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SITE MONITORING REPORT 2017



## PRESTON NEW ROAD SHALE GAS EXPLORATION SITE

MONITORING VISIT – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

SITE REFERENCE NO. – 5/M.2/93

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Environment Directorate  
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<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Preston New Road</b>	<b>File Ref</b>	<b>5/M.2/93</b>
<b>Inspector's Name</b>	<b>Jonathan Haine</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2017</b>
<b>Site Operator Address</b>	<b>Cuadrilla Resources Preston New Road, Little Plumpton, Preston.</b>	<b>Met with</b>	<b>Nick Mace</b>
		<b>Photos taken</b>	<b>No</b>
		<b>Weather Conditions</b>	<b>Cold, dry with northerly wind</b>
<b>Monitoring Visit</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>£331</b>	
		<b>Time</b>	<b>2.45 – 3.45</b>

### Site History

Planning permission for the development of an exploration wellsite for shale gas was granted by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The planning permission is subject to 49 conditions, a number of which require details of various matters to be submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. These schemes were approved by the County Council on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Development works on the site commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

During the monitoring visit, the work being undertaken was restricted to the construction of the access off the A583 and construction of a temporary compound adjacent to the access road.

### Compliance with Planning permission LCC/2014/0096 dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Current Situation

Requirement No	Subject matter	Comments
<b>1</b>	Time limits for commencement	Commencement within 3 years of the date of the permission – development has already commenced.
<b>2</b>	Time limits for completion of the development	Development has to be completed and site restored within 75 months of commencement date (condition 3)
<b>3</b>	Notice of Commencement of development	In compliance – written notice of the commencement of the development was supplied to the County Council on 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017. Further notifications will be needed at later stages of the project.

4	Development carried out in accordance with approved drawings and documents	<p>Development appears to be in general accordance with approved documents – see other conditions for detail.</p> <p>Since the previous monitoring visit, works had continued to construct the access including laying of kerbs and sub base to the access. The access bellmouth had almost been completed with the approved drawings. Work had commenced on constructing a temporary compound on land adjacent to the access which would allow construction of the main drilling compound to commence.</p>
5	Copy of decision notice and approved plans made available in site office	Site office now established. Electronic version of planning permission was available and site contractor (AE Yates) had hard copies of access plans which were being referred to – in compliance.
6	Details for removal of plant upon cessation of each phase	Condition only applies upon completion of drilling activities and subsequent phases. No requirement under condition 6 in terms of site construction phase
7	Condition not used	
8	Scheme for construction of site access	<p>Scheme approved on 4/1/17. Since previous visit, access has been widened to its full width and radii kerbs installed. The access had also been hard surfaced with tarmacadam.</p> <p>The central island to the A583 was being completed along with the illuminated bollard and signage at the time of the visit.</p> <p>Topsoil had been spread over areas outside of the radii kerbs to restore and landscape the disturbed area.</p> <p>Stone had been imported to allow the extension of the access road in a northerly direction.</p>
9	Condition not used	
10	Wheel cleaning measures	Scheme approved on 4/1/17. Wheel cleaning measures were not in place at time of visit. The condition requires them to be installed throughout the construction phase. The site visit took place at the end of the working day and a road sweeper was being used to remove any debris from the surface of the A583 prior to the carriageway being reopened. The condition of the carriageway was acceptable.

11	Submission of traffic management plan	Traffic management plan approved on 4/1/17. Cuadrilla are supplying details of lorry routing to the County Council. On the day previous to the site visit, an HGV had approached the site from the east contrary to the requirements of the TMP. It is understood that Cuadrilla had instructed the haulier (CEMEX) of the correct route. LCC have written to Cuadrilla to state that such movements are contrary to the TMP and must not continue. At the monitoring visit, Cuadrilla explained the further measures that they are taking to ensure that hauliers abide by the routing in the TMP.
12	Construction method statement	<p>Scheme approved on 4/1/17. A temporary compound area for the siting of cabins had been established using the metal sheeting. A new temporary compound area was under construction adjacent to the access which would allow the relocation of the existing compound to enable work to commence to construct the drilling compound.</p> <p>Temporary security (heras) fencing had been erected around the entire site boundary.</p> <p>A number of skips had been brought onto the site to allow for segregation of waste</p>
13	Scheme of monitoring of baseline highway conditions	Scheme submitted and approved on 4/1/17. It is understood that the first baseline survey was undertaken on 23/12/16. The video recording has been made available to LCC Highways as a record of road conditions at the commencement of the project.
14	Condition not used	
15	Stripping of soils	Some stripping of topsoil had taken place within the proposed exploration compound area. It is understood that these works had been undertaken for site investigation purposes. The stripped soils had been stored in temporary mounds and will be moved to the perimeter screening mounds as part of the main soil stripping contract. Soils had also been stripped to construct the temporary compound.
16	No soils exported from site	In compliance – no soils exported.
17	Landscaping of soil mounds	No soil mounds created in their final positions at time of visit
18	All soil mounds to be retained in weed free condition	No soil mounds created in their final positions at time of visit

<b>19</b>	Hours of operation	Limitation to 07.30 – 18.30 M – F and 08.30 – 12.00 Saturdays for construction activities. There had been one instances where HGVs had entered the site prior to the approved start time. LCC have highlighted to Cuadrilla that this was a breach of the condition.
<b>20</b>	Condition not used	
<b>21</b>	Condition not used	
<b>22</b>	Disposal / storage of surface water run off	Condition not relevant until site compound has been constructed
<b>23</b>	Containment and disposal of foul drainage	Temporary toilet facility was on site for use by construction personnel.
<b>24</b>	Buffer zones between edge of drilling compound and perimeter ditches	Site compound not yet constructed. Condition not applicable at present
<b>25</b>	Condition not used	
<b>26</b>	Noise management plan	Scheme approved on 4/1/17. Operations on site during visit were not giving rise to substantial levels of noise. Any plant being used appeared to be fitted with manufacturers attenuation measures.
<b>27</b>	Condition not used	
<b>28</b>	Noise monitoring methodology	Two permanent noise monitoring points are in position at the site. One is close to A583 and another is in the field further from the road. The monitoring points have been activated and are monitoring for the noise levels stated in condition 28. Monitoring point 1 also provides for audio recording. The monitoring stations automatically download the noise information and the County Council is able to view the monitoring information on line in the event that complaints are received.
<b>29</b>	Noise levels ( general noise levels)	Site activity is at a low level and would not be likely to generate levels of noise that would breach the noise limitations in the condition.
<b>30</b>	Noise levels ( tones and impulsive noise)	No noise detected during site visit that would have any tonal or impulsive characteristics.
<b>31</b>	Maintenance of plant, equipment and machinery	In compliance – all plant being used appeared to be well maintained and was not generating undue levels of noise or exhaust emissions.
<b>32</b>	Condition not used	
<b>32A</b>	Dust management plan	Dust management plan approved on 4/1/17. Dust monitoring equipment has been installed at the site and is being used to record levels of dust. Equipment includes frisbe type gauge, a directional dust monitor and a monitor to record particulates. No dust impacts visible during monitoring visit.

<b>33</b>	Lighting	Lighting scheme for construction phase approved on 4/1/17. Lighting being used for construction activities appears to comply with approved scheme. Further details will be required for the lighting to be used for the next phase of the development (drilling) before this commences.
<b>34</b>	Details for colours of plant, equipment and acoustic fencing	Details approved on 4/1/17. None of the plant covered by this condition has yet been built. Compliance with condition to be monitored at future visits.
<b>34A</b>	Prohibition on display of any corporate logos	In compliance
<b>35</b>	Restriction on height of drilling rig	In compliance – no rig is currently on the site
<b>36</b>	Design and location of security fencing	Scheme provides for erection of 2.0 metre high heras fence around site boundary. The fencing that has been erected complies with this specification. No other security fencing had been erected at the time of the site visit.
<b>37</b>	Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy	<p>Strategy was approved on 4/1/17. Hedgerow removal to create access has been undertaken outside of bird nesting season. The remaining lengths of hedgerow to be removed should be undertaken before the end of February.</p> <p>It is understood that the Ecological Clerk of Works has been present during construction works and has undertaken various surveys as proposed in the Mitigation Strategy. These have been supplied to the County Council.</p>
<b>38</b>	Condition not used	
<b>39</b>	Prohibition on trees and hedgerows being removed during bird breeding season	Trees and hedgerows required to construct access were removed in the first week of the development therefore outside of the bird breeding season. The remaining vegetation that needs to be removed / lowered should be undertaken before the end of February.
<b>40 and 41</b>	Scheme of landscaping	Scheme approved on 4/1/17. It is noted that the scheme proposes additional tree and hedge planting in various areas around the site. It is understood that Cuadrilla propose to undertake the landscaping works in the current planting season.
<b>42</b>	Condition not used	

43	Archaeology	<p>Archaeology scheme approved on 4/1/17. Some soil stripping has already taken place as discussed under condition 15. It is understood that an archaeologist had been present on site during these operations and there was evidence on site of areas of potential interest being highlighted on the stripped surface with spray paint. It is understood that a small number of finds had been discovered which will be reported in accordance with the approved scheme.</p> <p>Soil stripping had been undertaken using a toothless bucket to ensure creation of a finished surface suitable to identify any archaeology.</p>
44	Restoration	No restoration works required at present time
45 and 46	Restoration (reduction of access to agricultural access)	No restoration at present time
47	Aftercare	No requirement for aftercare at the present time
48	Community Liaison Group	Scheme for CLG was approved on 4/1/17. LCC is currently making arrangements for selection of community representatives.
49	Reporting of breaches of condition	No material breaches of condition with public health implications have taken place

## Issues and Actions

At the time of the visit, development works were restricted to the formation of the access point which was nearing completion. The access design appeared to accord with the approved drawings.

The development works being undertaken were not having a major impact on the environment and appeared to be in compliance with the planning conditions.

Some limited soil stripping had taken place. The soils were in a reasonably dry and friable condition and the required archaeological supervision had been undertaken. The wheel cleaner was not yet in position but there was no evidence of any mud or other debris being tracked out onto Preston New Road. Although the County Council has received some complaints about the condition of the highway, during the visit the road was being cleaned with a road sweeper to remove any debris prior to the A583 being reopened to traffic and the cleaning was being carried out to a satisfactory level.

The required ecological supervision had also been undertaken. It is understood that the landscaping works including those measures included in the Biodiversity Mitigation Plan will be undertaken before the end of March providing that weather conditions are suitable.

The main issue at present relates to the control of HGV movements and the TMP. On the day prior to the monitoring visit, an HGV had arrived at the site from the east, contrary to the vehicle routing in the TMP. It is understood that Cuadrilla had issued the haulier company with routing instructions but that these had not been passed onto the driver or the driver chose to ignore them. At the monitoring visit, there was further discussion as to the measures that Cuadrilla are employing to minimise the likelihood of further breaches of the TMP. These measures are acknowledged. However, the County Council must emphasise that any HGV's entering the site from the east are in breach of the TMP and would therefore be at risk of enforcement action by the County Council.

## Date of Next Visit

To be arranged

## Inspector's Signature

*J Haine*  
*23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017*