

# DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SITE MONITORING REPORT 2017



## PRESTON NEW ROAD SHALE GAS EXPLORATION SITE

MONITORING VISIT – 4th May 2017

SITE REFERENCE NO. – 5/M.2/93

Development Management Group  
Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
PO Box 100  
Preston  
PR1 0LD

Telephone: 01772 531929  
Fax: 01772 533898  
Email: [DevCon@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:DevCon@lancashire.gov.uk)



<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>4<sup>th</sup> May 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>Yes</b>
		<b>Weather Conditions</b>	<b>Dry, sunny, windy</b>
<b>Monitoring Visit</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>£332</b>	<b>Time</b>
			<b>13.00–15.00</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 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 January 2017.

Development works on the site commenced on 5 January 2017.

During the monitoring visit, the work being undertaken related to the importation of stone for surfacing of the compound, erection of perimeter fencing, construction of pollution prevention lining works and construction of the drilling cellar.

### Compliance with Planning permission LCC/2014/0096 dated 6 October 2016 – Current Situation

<b>Requirement No</b>	<b>Subject matter</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1</b>	Time limits for commencement	Commencement within 3 years of the date of the permission – development has already commenced (on 5 January 2017)
<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 January 2017. Further notifications will be needed at later stages of the project listed within the condition.

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, the site compound had been graded and stone imported to cover approximately half of the pad. The drilling cellar had been partially constructed and the acoustic and security fencing around the compound was nearing completion.</p> <p>The majority of the landscaping works had been completed apart from in areas where current activities prevented implementation around the temporary construction compound.</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 together with approved drawings.
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. The access had been completed and surfaced in accordance with approved drawings. Landscaping had been undertaken to the rear of the radii kerbs (hedge planting).</p> <p>The hedge alongside the A583 had not been lowered along the full length as shown on the approved drawing. Only a short length to the west of the access point had been reduced in height. However, the visibility in both directions appeared acceptable and retaining the hedge at its current height will assist in screening the exploration site from the A583.</p>
9	Condition not used	

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Wheel cleaning measures</p>	<p>Scheme approved on 4/1/17. Approved wheel cleaning measures were not in place at time of visit.</p> <p>The condition requires them to be installed throughout the construction phase.</p> <p>The development is not in compliance with Condition 10. However, the surface of the A583 was in acceptable condition at the time of the visit and there was no deposit of mud that would cause harm to highway safety despite and large number of HGV's leaving the site.</p> <p>If Cuadrilla do not intend to install the wheel cleaner due to other measures being employed, an application should be submitted to formally vary the approved scheme.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Submission of traffic management plan</p>	<p>Traffic management plan approved on 4/1/17. Cuadrilla are supplying details of lorry routing to the County Council. Since the last visit, all HGV's appear to have complied with the approved vehicle routing. Complaints have been received about HGV's passing through Kirkham and on other roads but such movements towards junction 3 are not controlled by the TMP. Application for amendment to the TMP is under consideration.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>Construction method statement</p>	<p>The construction compound has been relocated to a site close to the site access. This area is within the red line area and is also covered by permitted development rights for temporary activities. It was confirmed by Cuadrilla that this area would be restored upon the main compound being completed.</p> <p>Most of the acoustic fencing had been installed around the perimeter of the compound. The fencing should be completed prior to any drilling works commencing. The colour of the panels was in accordance with the approved details.</p> <p>A number of skips were in position in the compound to allow for segregation and recycling of different waste materials.</p>

<b>13</b>	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. It is understood that a further survey is due to be undertaken prior to the commencement of drilling.
<b>14</b>	Condition not used	
<b>15</b>	Stripping of soils	Topsoil had been stripped from the entirety of the compound area and used to form soil storage mounds at either end of the compound. The subsoil surface had been graded ready for placement of the pollution control membranes and stone surfacing. Some lime stabilization had been used to firm up the subsoil surface.
<b>16</b>	No soils exported from site	In compliance – no soils exported.
<b>17</b>	Landscaping of soil mounds	The topsoil mounds had been formed and had been satisfactorily graded and shaped. They require seeding.
<b>18</b>	All soil mounds to be retained in weed free condition	Soil mounds in bare condition at time of visit as only recently constructed. They require seeding.
<b>19</b>	Hours of operation	Limitation to 07.30–18.30 M–F and 08.30–12.00 Saturdays for construction activities. No complaints about working outside of these hours.
<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	Perimeter ditches were being constructed and lined as part of works to lay pollution control membranes across entire compound.
<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 manufacturer's attenuation measures.
<b>27</b>	Condition not used	

<b>28</b>	Noise monitoring methodology	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>29</b>	Noise levels ( general noise levels)	<p>Site activity was at a level that would not be likely to generate levels of noise that would breach the noise limitations in the condition. It is understood that some automatic noise alerts had been received of noise levels exceeding permitted levels but on examination of the audio recording it appeared that these were due to external factors (planes or emergency vehicles) rather than site noise.</p>
<b>30</b>	Noise levels ( tones and impulsive noise)	<p>No noise detected during site visit that would have any tonal or impulsive characteristics.</p>
<b>31</b>	Maintenance of plant, equipment and machinery	<p>In compliance – all plant being used appeared to be well maintained and was not generating undue levels of noise or exhaust emissions.</p>
<b>32</b>	Condition not used	
<b>32A</b>	Dust management plan	<p>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. During the visit, some dust was being generated from the surface of the compound due to the dry and windy weather conditions. However, it was noted that dust mitigation measures were being applied to the surface of the access road prior to any HGVs arriving on site which appeared to be generally effecting in reducing dust from that part of the site to acceptable levels.</p>
<b>33</b>	Lighting	<p>Lighting scheme for construction phase approved on 4/1/17. Lighting being used for construction activities appears to comply with approved scheme. Details of task lighting to be used during the initial stage of drilling (installation of conductor casing) have been submitted for LCC approval.</p>

<b>34</b>	Details for colours of plant, equipment and acoustic fencing	Details approved on 4/1/17. Colour of acoustic fencing was acceptable and complied with approved details.
<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	<p>Scheme provides for erection of 2.0 metre high heras fence around site boundary. The fencing that has been erected complies with this specification.</p> <p>The lower part of the perimeter security fence had been constructed. This consisted of weldmesh fencing which appeared to conform with the approved details.</p>
<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. There is no further hedgerow to remove.</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 and 40</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. See also comment under Condition 37 regarding further hedge works.
<b>41</b>	Scheme of landscaping	<p>Scheme approved on 4/1/17. Most of these works have now been completed. There are some outstanding works which were not possible to complete due to the location of the site compound – these will need to be undertaken in the next planting season 2017/18. All planting works appeared to have been carried out satisfactorily with use of appropriate species and correct protection measures. Protective stock proof fencing works were being installed during the visit.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the new planting works next to the site entrance would benefit from some watering to ensure success of the planting.</p>
<b>42</b>	Condition not used	

43	Archaeology	<p>Archaeology scheme approved on 4/1/17. Soil stripping had been completed. It is understood that an archaeologist was present during these soil stripping exercises.</p> <p>Cuadrilla should submit the Site Summary Report to the County Council as set out in the approved archaeology scheme.</p>
44 and 45	Restoration	No restoration works required at present time.
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	<p>Scheme for CLG was approved on 4/1/17.</p> <p>A minor change to the CLG constitution has been made which requires signing off by LCC.</p>
49	Reporting of breaches of condition	No material breaches of condition with public health implications have taken place. Other breaches of condition such as right turn movements have been reported to the County Council by the operator.



## Issues and Actions

Since the previous monitoring visit, substantial work had been undertaken at the site. The whole of the drilling compound area had been levelled and work was underway to line the site with the pollution prevention membrane and to surface the compound with crushed stone. The majority of the perimeter fencing had been installed. The soil mounds were in acceptable shape and form but require seeding so that they 'green up' in an acceptable timescale.

The development works being undertaken were not having a major impact on the environment and appeared to be in general compliance with the planning conditions. The installation of the wheel cleaner as required by Condition 10 remains outstanding. However, the operator was employing other measures to clean vehicle wheels during the visit which appeared to be successful. Photographs have been supplied by protestors showing evidence of mud being tracked out onto the surface of the A583. However, monitoring visits undertaken by the County Council have not identified a major issue. If the wheel cleaner is not to be installed, an application should be submitted to amend the scheme approved under the requirements of Condition 10 and to detail the other wheel cleaning methods that will be employed as an alternative

Dust controls on the access road appeared to be largely effective and the measures being employed to control the passage and routing of HGV's accessing the site also appeared to be effective. All HGVs visited the site during the visit entered and left the site in accordance with the routing within the TMP.

Cuadrilla should supply a copy of the archaeology Site Summary Report as soon as it is prepared.

### Date of Next Visit

To be arranged

### Inspector's Signature

*J Haine*  
12 May 2017