



Environment
Agency



Oil & Gas
Authority

Operations at Preston New Road

Keeping you informed

Update 3

6 November 2018

As the regulators of the shale gas industry we are committed to keeping local people updated on our work at the Preston New Road site over the coming months.

Site inspection

The Environment Agency carried out a site walkover on 29 October following concerns raised from members of the public about the condition of the well pad. The site inspectors did not identify any issues with the integrity of the well pad. Some photographs, with an explanation of what our inspectors saw, has been published on Citizen Space*. Officers carrying out the inspection also reviewed compliance with the Hydraulic Fracture Plan.

On Friday 2 November, the Environment Agency carried out an unannounced site inspection at the Preston New Road Site. During the inspection, officers focused on Cuadrilla's compliance with the Hydraulic Fracture Plan, injection of fracturing fluid and storage and monitoring of some flowback fluid that was returned last week for re-use.

While staff were on site, Cuadrilla flowed a small amount of shale gas for the first time. This gas was then disposed of in the enclosed flare. Cuadrilla is expected to fully test gas flow rates from the two wells towards the end of 2018 and into the New Year.



Seismic events

Seismic events continue to be recorded in the Preston New Road area. In the last week this has included one [red traffic light] seismic event at a magnitude 1.1 ML on Monday 29 October and a trailing event at a magnitude 0.7 ML on Sunday 4 November. There were no hydraulic fracturing operations over the weekend.

The low level seismic activity detected to date has all been within the range expected for fracturing operations. Cuadrilla's daily reports to the regulators confirm that there are no well integrity issues and no environmental permit boundary breaches.

More information on assessment of seismic activity can be seen on the enclosed note.

Environment Agency incident hotline 0800 80 70 60



Site operations - safeguarding local ponds and watercourses

We have received a number of queries over recent weeks about how local ponds and Carr Bridge Brook are checked to ensure there is no impact from activities on site.

Cuadrilla analyse the surface water that has drained off the well pad to the open drainage ditch on site, to make sure that it is uncontaminated. The Environment Agency regularly inspect the company's data. Currently this surface water is being used in the hydraulic fracturing fluid and so remains on site. If required, Cuadrilla also has the option to remove the surface water from the site in tankers and dispose of it at a permitted waste facility.

No flowback water has been produced as a waste on site at present. Flowback water produced to date has been reused as fracturing fluid. Cuadrilla do not expect there to be flowback sent off site as waste until further into the hydraulic fracturing programme or until the well testing phase.

Cuadrilla is required to monitor a number of local ponds and Carr Bridge Brook as part of their environmental permit. They submit the data to the Environment Agency for review on a quarterly basis. The Environment Agency also carry out visual checks and sample water from Carr Bridge Brook fortnightly. The Environment Agency's monitoring data can be found online on the Citizen Space* page.

The Environment Agency is satisfied that operations on site have not had a detrimental effect on local ponds and watercourses and it continues to monitor this.

Keeping you informed

If you would like to receive updates such as this direct via email during operations please contact us at PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

*We have set up a web page on Citizen Space to regularly update you on information from our audits, site inspections and reports from the operator.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/onshore-oil-and-gas/information-on-cuadrillas-preston-new-road-site>

Contacting us

Environment Agency

24 hour hotline number 0800 807060 or PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/concerns.htm>

Oil and Gas Authority at: oga.correspondence@ogauthority.co.uk