Preston New Road Well Pad Integrity Inspection - 29 October 2018

Due to concerns from members of the public regarding the integrity of the well pad at Preston New Road, the Environment Agency undertook to produce a report that specifically covers areas of the well pad during a full site walkover inspection. The latest site walkover was conducted on 29 October 2018. Photographs from the inspection are included below with a description of each. A CAR form summarising the inspection will be published on Citizen Space (UP3431VF/0317707). The site inspectors did not identify any issues with the integrity of the well pad.

Photograph 1: An area of the well pad showing different grades of gravel which could be mistaken for damp patches when viewed from aerial footage.

Photographs 2a (left) and 2b (right): Boundary fence with fresh water pipes at the top and flowback pipe at the bottom. Areas of geotextile membrane can be seen which are protecting the lining of the well pad. Discolouration or rucking of the geotextile membrane is not an indication of damage to the well pad liner.

Photograph 3: Showing construction of the temporary bund which is in addition to the well pad liner. This uses a 2mm HDPE liner.

Photograph 4: Showing geotextile membrane in place to protect the well pad liner in the corner of the site.

Photographs 5a (left) and 5b (right): Showing the freshwater inlet at the boundary (5a) and flowback pipe running down the boundary. Different grades of gravel can also be seen in the image.

Photograph 6: Different grades of gravel which may appear as damp patches. No standing water, leaks or damp patches observed.

Photograph 7a (left) and 7b (right): Banking outside of the site (7a) showing areas where grass has not taken on the bank. No signs of leaks from the well pad observed. 7b showing the grips installed to improve drainage in areas prone to ponding. No standing water or leaks observed.

Cuadrilla was asked to comment on these photographs and responded with the following information: Picture 7a shows the bank on the northwest side of the pad. The grass has established better in some areas than in others because of the northerly facing orientation (Not much sunshine) and the poor soil quality (heavy clay). When this area was seeded, the hydro seed method was used, which involves spraying the bank with a mulch of seed and fibrous pulp. It rained quite hard after this was applied, washing some of the pulp down the slope, which in turn left some bare patches.

Picture 7b shows some of the area outside of site along the north western side. This is where stone has been placed around the existing header drain to assist in draining run off from adjacent fields. Some connecting grips were also dug to several lower laying areas adjacent to the header drain to enable better drainage in this area as a whole.

Photograph 8: Grips allowing water from the fields to drain more effectively around the boundary of the site.

Photograph 9a (left) and 9b (right): The drainage ditch (9a) with areas of the geotextile membrane visible. This is in place to protect the well pad liner. Areas of discolouration and rucking are not an indication of damage to the well pad liner. No issues with the liner were observed. Photograph 9b shows the concrete pad supporting the flares. The pad appeared stable and no leaks were observed. The white bags photographed are not sandbags.

Photograph 10: The flare concrete pad showing some standing water where rainwater has settled in a low spot or from condensation from the flares. No leaks observed.

Photograph 11: Areas of different grades of gravel. This area was previously used to house site cabins and therefore the surface may appear uneven and a different grade of gravel has been used since removal of the cabins.

Photograph 12: Area around the well heads. No leaks observed and all activities contained in bunded areas.