

# Operations at Preston New Road

## Keeping you informed

Update 9  
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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.

### Hydraulic fracturing - operations set to restart

In July Cuadrilla has been mobilising equipment on to the Preston New Road site to prepare for a second phase of hydraulic fracturing operations.

During this time the regulators have been carrying out a number of pre-operational checks. The Environment Agency (EA) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have carried out a joint site inspection to assess the site set up.

HSE found that there were no issues requiring enforcement action during the inspection and provided verbal advice to the operator on minor issues. HSE will continue dialogue with the well operator.

The EA have carried out a further audit to check that the measures, as set out in the approved hydraulic fracture plan, are in place. It is satisfied that Cuadrilla's preparation and operational plans are in line with the conditions set in the environmental permit. The Oil & Gas Authority (OGA) has approved the well completion proposal for the PNR2 well, including hydraulic fracturing operations. The OGA has also approved a three-year extended well test which includes a one-year consent for the flaring of gas, as described in plans put forward by Cuadrilla.



### Hydraulic Fracture Plan Well 2

Following assessment both the EA and OGA have now agreed Cuadrilla's Hydraulic Fracture Plan (HFP) for the second well at Preston New Road. The plan sets out how Cuadrilla will control and monitor the fracturing process to minimise the risk of seismic events and protect groundwater. The EA is satisfied that Cuadrilla will monitor and adjust fracturing to prevent fractures outside the permitted zone and to report compliance.

The OGA needed to be satisfied that Cuadrilla has controls in place to minimise the risk of seismic events and disturbance to people living and working nearby. Should there be a seismic event at magnitude 0.5, or higher, the OGA has strict controls in place to ensure injection operations are paused.

The plan is available for viewing on the Citizen Space webpage. Please use the link overpage.



## Changes to the environmental permit

In June the EA approved changes to the composition of the fracturing fluid and to refine arrangements for the management of wastes. Updated procedures for environmental monitoring of surface water and ambient air quality were also approved.

These approved changes provide a continued high level of protection for people and the environment and retain the strict regulatory controls covered by the original permit. A copy of the decision document and variation notice are on our Citizen Space webpage.

Cuadrilla has since applied for an additional change (variation) to the environmental permit. This variation seeks consent for the use of 'nitrogen lifting'. This technique involves pumping nitrogen gas, under pressure, into the well to bring injected hydraulic fracturing fluid and formation fluids from the borehole to the surface. This clears the well and eases the flow of natural gas, once the fracturing process has finished.

The EA is currently assessing the application. The public consultation runs until Tuesday 13 August. You can view the documents and make comments online at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/pr4-3pj-cuadrilla-bowland-limited-ab3101mw-v006/>

## Keeping you informed

Please visit our Citizen Space webpage to see the latest 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>

**We will issue monthly newsletters during hydraulic fracturing operations.**

## Contacting us

Environment Agency 24 Hour hotline number 0800 80 70 60 or [PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Health and Safety Executive at [www.hse.gov.uk/contact/concerns.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/concerns.htm)

The Oil & Gas Authority at [oga.correspondence@ogauthority.co.uk](mailto:oga.correspondence@ogauthority.co.uk)

Shale Environmental Regulator Group at [SERG@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:SERG@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Groundwater data

The control and monitoring of emissions are requirements of Cuadrilla's environmental permit. The EA is investigating a failure to report elements of the required groundwater monitoring data. This is set out in the [compliance assessment report dated 03.06.19](#), published on Citizen Space.

The EA will issue an update on its findings and enforcement action in due course.

## Surface water

Cuadrilla's environmental permit requires Cuadrilla to demonstrate that any discharge of clean, uncontaminated surface water into local watercourses would not increase the risk of flooding.

The EA has reviewed the report Cuadrilla submitted with the required data collection, surveys and modelling and is satisfied that there will be no increased risk of flooding. This approval means that Cuadrilla is now allowed to discharge clean, uncontaminated surface water into Carr Bridge Brook once sampling has confirmed that the water meets the required standard.