

**ANNA'S ROAD PLANNING CONSENT EXTENSION
APPLICATION SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

05/12/0729

Introduction

The reason for this variation application is to extend planning consent 05/10/0634 to allow the owners and operators of the Anna's Road hydrocarbon exploration site, Cuadrilla Resources Limited, (CRL) more time to complete the planned exploratory drilling and restore the site. Proposed works will include the drilling of the exploratory well involving some testing (excluding any hydraulic fracturing) and the site restoration back to arable farmland.

Site Development History

CRL started the development construction on the 19th September 2011 and site construction was completed on the 14th October 2011. The County Highways Department agreed the site entrance construction and Anna's Road Section 278 highway agreement works. The County Highways Department monitored the progress of the works and confirmed their approval of the completed access point, Section 278 works and signage/route plans. During the construction period no issues or complaints were received from local residents or the highways authority. The site was left locked for security awaiting the arrival of the drilling rig and it's associated support equipment, stores, accommodation and administration facilities.

CRL had intended to start drilling at the site in the spring of 2012 following the cessation of drilling works at CRL's Beconsall site. Due to the impending decision from DECC regarding the earth tremors associated with the Preese Hall site and some necessary large scale repairs to CRL's drilling rig a decision was taken to postpone the drilling operations. CRL ceased all testing operations in May 2011 and commissioned an independent study to investigate the possibility of a link between the testing of the Preese Hall borehole and the local earth tremors. The study/report concluded a link between the fracturing and the tremors and detailed a number of recommendations, guidelines and mitigation measures for future fracturing operations. The report is currently with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for their comment/approval and permission to proceed with additional fracturing operations within the Fylde area of Lancashire. A final decision from DECC to resume testing involving hydraulic fracturing has not been forthcoming to date but is expected in the near future. These types of tremors are not uncommon in the United Kingdom and are below that which would cause any damage.

CRL started the drilling operation stage of the Anna's Road consent on the 6th October 2012 but due to technical difficulties encountered in the upper elevation of the borehole drilling operations were suspended in early November 2012. The drilling was ceased at an approximate level of 2,000 feet. (610 metres) and abandoned to industry standards and capped off. Details of the preparation to restart the well and to ensure its integrity with the abandoned well can be found in Appendix B (The Drilling Operation).

Proposed Development

At this stage CRL would like to re-start the Anna's Road well during the first quarter of 2013. In addition the permission extension will provide the time needed to restore the site at an appropriate dry season/period of the year and that period may need to be extended into 2014 if adverse weather prohibits the full restoration as experienced during 2012.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
30 NOV 2012
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR

In association with the proposed development, and as required under the provisions of condition 22 of planning consent ref: 05/10/0634, mitigation measures have been put in place for wintering birds using the land in the vicinity of the drilling rig site. These include screening of the rig site at low level (netting on the security fence and straw bales for screening), reduction of the sward on adjacent fields to encourage wintering birds to feed on the land and supplemental bird feeding with appropriate feed sources (e.g. potatoes, carrots, cereal seed). These measures are described in detail in the ecological assessment and method statement in Appendix C.

Site Activities

Current Activities

Following the cessation of drilling in mid November the drilling rig has now been dismantled, laid flat and site drilling operations have ceased. Activities at the site currently involve a site security presence, to ensure safety of the site equipment, and a site manager for administration purposes. Some limited routine maintenance operations may also be required during this period. Other activities in the vicinity of the site include ongoing agricultural operations by local farmers and members of the general public (e.g. walkers, riders and cyclists) travelling along Anna's Road between Peel Road and Wild Lane.

Proposed Activities

Assuming that planning consent is forthcoming for the proposed drilling operations, as requested in this planning application, the drilling rig will be re-assembled over a period of approximately 7 days and drilling will recommence, as per the drilling operations which were carried out between 6th October 2102 and mid November 2102. The generality of these operations has been explained in the original planning submission made to the Lancashire County Council in September 2010 and consented under the current planning permission ref: 05/10/0634. As the majority of the drilling rig and its associated equipment is already on site there will be little noise movement associated with equipment deliveries. Noise associated with the onsite rig assembly is minimal and is far below the level of the actual drilling operation and are limited to the occasional noise from delivery vehicles and that generated by periodic crane lifting activities. During the reassembling period there are no motors or engines associated with the rig running or in use.

The subject of this application is to allow more time to carry out the drilling phase at the Anna's Road Exploration Site, consider the results and then either restore the site or discuss and seek planning permission for additional works beyond the exploratory drilling phase. CRL require an additional 6 months to the 18 month period set out in condition 2 of the current planning consent granted under Application 05/10/0634 ie consent to September 2013, together with rights to extend the period of time for completion of drilling at the site for further 90 days from the restart of drilling as defined by condition 2.