

**CUADRILLA RESOURCES
LIMITED**



APPENDIX - J

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SCREENING OPINION**

Cuadrilla Resources Limited
July 2010

Beaconsall Hydrocarbon Exploration Site
Planning Application [July 2010].
Prepared by Phil Mason

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Lancashire County Council
Planning Department
County Hall
PO Box 100
Preston
Lancs
PR1 0LD.

FAO: Jonathan Haine.

13th July 2010.

Dear Sir,

RE: BECCONSALL HYROCARBON EXPLORATION SITE EIA SCREENING OPINION.

Further to our previous meetings regarding a number of planning applications for hydrocarbon exploration sites. The aim of the company is to ascertain if there is sufficient gas held in the shale's beneath parts of Lancashire.

As discussed, we are proposing to submit an application for temporary permission to drill an exploratory well for hydrocarbons and test any discovered zones at Becconsall.

In brief, the proposal is to construct (during a 4 – 5 week period) a completely sealed stoned platform within the boundaries of the site (see attached photo examples 1 - 6) to enable the drilling rig onto the site and to drill the well. The work at this location, which is relatively flat, will involve the topsoil stripping off to a depth of approximately 300mm, some subsoil levelling/storing and then laying impervious and stabilising membranes before applying the stone. The drilling operation (see attached information) is carried out over a 24hour period taking 5 – 6 weeks to complete and will be followed by hydrocarbon flow testing of any gas or oils discovered. The testing will be carried out during normal working hours. The whole operation will be similar to that carried out at the Elswick gas to electric generating site.

It would appear that as the proposal falls within part 2 (d) of schedule 2 list of developments (Extractive Industry – Deep Drillings) it does not require an EIA. The main determining factors as to whether this proposal requires an EIA are if the operational site area exceeds 1hectare or if the site is within a sensitive area. The fenced area will not exceed 1hectare and the actual constructed operational drilling pad will be less than half of 1hectare. The site has previously had planning permission for a hydrocarbon exploratory borehole with the site being partially built and restored by a previous petroleum licence holder. During the previous operations no adverse problems were encountered or any complaints received. To our knowledge the site area does not fall within any statutory sites of special scientific interest but does fall within a non-statutory area Marsh Farm Fields Biological Heritage Site.

I would be grateful if you could consider this proposal and give us a screening opinion on the need for the application to be accompanied by an EIA. To help you reach a decision I have

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~~enclosed~~ some general information regarding the exact location of the operation concerned.

Discounting the need for an EIA we have already commissioned a number of studies such as Ecology, Noise, Highway Stage (1) Safety Audit, Transport Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment etc. I have also re-checked the location with the County Archaeologist.

We are proposing to submit an application in July or August 2010.

If you require any further information to assist you reaching a decision please contact me on either 01785284610 or 07974 577920 and philmason@talktalk.net

Yours sincerely
on behalf of Cuadrilla Resources Limited



Phil Mason.
Planning Consultant.