

The logo consists of a solid dark blue rectangle. The word "Cuadrilla" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, positioned in the lower half of the rectangle. The entire logo is centered within a white square, which is itself centered on a light beige background.

Cuadrilla

Cuadrilla Bowland Limited: Preston New Road Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Request

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

May 2022

Version 1.0

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1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared in support of a request for Lancashire County Council (“LCC”) to adopt a screening opinion to determine whether Cuadrilla Bowland Limited (“Cuadrilla”) upcoming application for a temporary planning permission, to extend the time scale of existing planning permission (APP/Q2371/W/15/3134386) condition 2.

Condition 2:

The site development works comprising the drilling operations of four vertical/lateral exploration boreholes, initial flow testing, extended flow testing, decommissioning and site restoration shall be completed within a period of 75 months from the commencement of the development as defined by this planning permission. All drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations shall be completed within a period of 30 months from the date of commencement of the drilling of the first well in accordance with condition 3.

The Proposed Development will be for a time extension to maintain the existing wellsite and two (2) suspended wellbores followed by the subsequent decommissioning of the two (2) existing wells and site restoration. The Proposed Development **will not** include further drilling or hydraulic fracturing. The proposed time extension is seeking to extend the period of 75 months by a further 24 months to allow sufficient time to decommission the wells and restore the site. No change is sought to the period of 30 months (now elapsed) for the completion of drilling and hydraulic fracturing operations.

The Proposed Development is located north of Preston New Road (A583) and east of Moss House Lane, between Wesham and Kirkham towns and Blackpool.

This report reflects the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“EIA Regulations”) and in accordance with Regulation 6 (2) of the EIA Regulations, this report contains:

- A plan sufficient to identify the land;
- A description of the development, including in particular:
 - A description of the physical characteristics of the development and, where relevant, of demolition works;
 - A description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected;
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development;
- To the extent the information is available, a description of any likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment resulting from:
 - The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and
 - The use of natural resources, in particular, soil, land, water and biodiversity; and
- Such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make, including any features of the proposed development or any measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.

2.0 Requirement for EIA

To determine whether the Proposed Development is ‘EIA development’, regard must be had by the Minerals Planning Authority (“MPA”) to the EIA Regulations and supporting Planning Practice Guidance (“PPG”). EIA development falls into two Schedules of the EIA Regulations. EIA is mandatory for developments listed within Schedule 1.

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Schedule 2 developments require EIA if they would be "likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location". In deciding whether a Schedule 2 development is EIA development, Regulation 5(4) states:

"Where a relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State has to decide under these Regulations whether Schedule 2 development is EIA development, the relevant planning authority or Secretary of State must take into account in making that decision

- *Any information provided by the applicant;*
- *The results of any relevant EU environmental assessment which are reasonably available to the relevant planning authority or the Secretary of State*
- *Such of the selection criteria set out in Schedule 3 as are relevant to the development."*

To allow the MPA to determine the need for an EIA, this report provides a description of the site and Proposed Development, a review of the EIA screening criteria based on the EIA Regulations and the planning practice guidance ("PPG"), a completed EIA Screening Checklist, a site location plan in Appendix A, a designation plan in Appendix B and a summary of embedded mitigation measures within Appendix C.

3.0 Proposed Development Context

Cuadrilla is proposing to submit an S73 application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to amend planning condition 2. The planning permission was granted in October 2016 by the Planning Inspectorate, Appeal reference APP/Q2371/W/15/3134386.

The existing wellsite is connected immediately to the south by an access and egress track onto the A583 by a tarmac bell mouth. Surrounding the wellsite and access track is agricultural fields used for pasture and livestock farming.

The two existing wellbores, which are each drilled into the Bowland Shale formation, are both currently suspended in line with approvals from the oil and gas regulator, North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA). The well suspension period approved by the NSTA for both wells runs until the end of June 2023.

The wellsite is located between Blackpool and Kirkham and is situated approximately 500 m west of the village of Little Plumpton and around one kilometre west of the village of Great Plumpton.

A wellsite location plan is presented in Appendix A which illustrates the existing well site and surrounding agricultural location. Appendix B provides a 3km radius of site designations to provide a location context.

3.1 Proposed Development Need

A well suspension notice was issued by the North Sea Transition Authority (“NSTA”), April 2022, which allows for the continued suspension and the ability to re-enter both wells (PNR1z and PNR2) subject to NSTA notification, until 30th June 2023. The suspension notice replaces the pre-existing plug and abandonment notice from the NSTA to decommission both wells.

During the well suspension period Cuadrilla has agreed a work programme with the NSTA which involves:

- (i) Defining the key controls on induced seismicity.
- (ii) Improving the seismic imaging of natural faults & fractures
- (iii) Supporting, as appropriate additional research requirements emerging from the British Geological Survey (BGS) scientific review of shale gas commissioned by the Govt in April 2022.

Cuadrilla has confirmed to the NSTA that in completing the above it will provide access to data, to its operational expertise and, as required, access to the only hydraulic fractured wellbores in the Bowland Shale. No additional drilling or hydraulic fracture operations will be required.

On expiry of the suspension notice period, the NSTA may (a) agree a plan to re-use one or both wells, (b) agree a plan to bring one or both wells into production or (c) require one or both wells to be plugged and abandoned.

The choice of options will be dependent on the outcome of the technical studies and government policy regarding the security and provision of natural gas supply.

An upcoming S73 application will use option c as a base case timeline whereby the NSTA, at end June 2023, issues well decommission notices for both PNR wells on expiry of the existing well suspension notices. A plug and decommission notice would typically allow Cuadrilla up to 12 months to plug and decommission the two wells. This proposed timeline to the end of June 2024 allows the operator sufficient time to plan, consent and source equipment including rigs, cement units and ancillary equipment as well as carrying out the activity.

3.2 Proposed Development Activities

The Proposed Development will comprise 3 stages and does not include drilling or hydraulic fracturing:

- Stage 1 – Well suspension, wellhead maintenance, data collection.

- Stage 2 – Decommissioning of PNR 1z and PNR 2 wells
- Stage 3 – Site restoration

It is anticipated that a period of 4-6 months will be required to procure equipment and secure regulatory consent for the decommissioning programme and then a further 4-6 weeks to decommission each well, approximately 8-12 weeks of well activity in total. Once the wells are decommissioned successfully, a subsequent period of groundwater monitoring is required. This is anticipated to be up to a 12-month period, depending on the requirements of the environmental regulator and the data acquired from groundwater monitoring.

After a period of environmental monitoring the site restoration is scheduled to take approximately 4 months depending on weather conditions.

Corresponding with the timelines associated with NTSA notices and research participation, procure and carry out the activity to decommission two wells, conduct environmental monitoring, and restore the wellsite back to agricultural use, the Proposed Development is applying for a 24-month extension to allow reasonable and sufficient time to manage the 3 stages.

The application will not seek to change any other conditions of the extant planning permission.

3.2.1 Stage 1 – Wellsite Suspension

Currently the two wells and the wellsite are suspended, which means both wells are inactive but can be re-entered if required with a well intervention. The wellsite and wellheads will be subject to maintenance which includes environmental monitoring, checking and testing well barriers, pressures, security fencing and site drainage.

Maintenance visits will take place 0700 - 1800 Monday to Friday and 0700 – 1300 on Saturday, with no working on Sunday or Bank or Public Holidays, unless in an emergency.

3.2.2 Stage 2 – Well Decommissioning

Decommissioning of the wells will be undertaken in accordance with Oil and Gas UK Guidelines on Well Abandonment and according to an abandonment plan to be agreed with the Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and an independent Well Examiner. The wellheads will be removed and casing/ cement cut to 2 m below ground level to allow restoration of the site to agriculture. A workover rig, or equivalent rig, will be mobilised to the site to plug and abandon the wells. The rig height will be in accordance with existing condition 35. The phase will operate in accordance with the existing planning conditions as issued by the Planning Inspectorate, Appeal Reference APP/Q2371/W/15/3134386. A period of groundwater monitoring, as required by the Environment Agency, will follow on after well decommissioning.

3.2.3 Stage 3 – Restoration

Removal of residual equipment will take place within the existing wellsite security fencing. The concrete pad and cellar would be broken for removal by a licensed waste contractor, and aggregate, drainage pipework and other infrastructure would be removed from the surface and reused where permitted. Any potentially contaminated equipment would be removed from the site prior to removal of the impermeable geotextile/ HDPE lining. All site equipment and infrastructure would be reused or recycled where possible, or alternatively removed from site by licensed waste contractors as appropriate.

The soils stored in bunds would be used to level and restore the wellsite surface. Field drainage would be re-developed if required. The site would be reseeded and prepared for aftercare as per original condition. Access tracks and any road amendments (if required) would also be restored as agreed with the landowner and Highways Authority, or retained for continued use, subject to any necessary further planning consent.

An aftercare plan would be put in place as per condition 44, 45 and 46 to ensure appropriate restoration of the site back to agricultural land.

4.0 Screening Assessment

Schedule 1 Projects

EIA is mandatory for projects listed in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. Schedule 1 developments are large scale projects for which significant effects would be expected and comprise developments such as new airports and power stations.

In respect of the Proposed Development, Schedule 1, Paragraph 14 would only apply where “Extraction of natural gas ... for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500,000 cubic metres per day in the case of gas ...”

The Proposed Development would not involve gas extraction and is therefore not of a type listed in Schedule 1.

Schedule 2

The Proposed Development is of a type listed in Schedule 2 development, Extractive industry. Schedule 2 development are those which are likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.

The Proposed Development does not include construction, drilling or hydraulic fracturing, therefore the Schedule 2 Column 1 development type, which requires assessment, is the continued wellsite suspension as defined by description (e):

(e) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale.

Schedule 2, Column 2 provides applicable criteria and threshold for description (e)¹:

The area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare.

Column 2 definition is an exclusion-based threshold which does not automatically mean development exceeding 0.5 hectares is EIA development. Further indicative criteria and thresholds are provided within Planning Practice Guidance (“PPG”) Annex², which exceeds the Column 2 description of 0.5 hectares. The guidance states where a level of significance may be likely:

Development of a site of 10 hectares or more or where production is expected to be more than 100,000 tonnes of petroleum per year.

It is also important to consider the location of the Proposed Development and the surrounding sensitive areas. Utilising the content of Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations and the definition of sensitive areas are defined in the EIA Regulations as:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and European Sites;
- National Parks, the Broads, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and
- World Heritage Sites and Scheduled Monuments.

In certain cases, local designations which are not included in the definition of sensitive areas, but which are nonetheless environmentally sensitive, may also be relevant in determining whether an assessment is required.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents/made>

² Paragraph: 058 Reference ID 4-058-20150326, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment>

Table 1: Schedule 2 Assessment against the Proposed Development

Schedule 2	Proposed Development
(e) Surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum, natural gas and ores, as well as bituminous shale	Natural gas wellsite is suspended
The area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare.	Exceeds >0.5 hectare threshold, site size is ~2.5 hectares (including access & egress roads)
PPG Annex Guidance: Development of a site of 10 hectares or more or where production is expected to be more than 100,000 tonnes of petroleum per year.	The Proposed Development is <10 hectares and is not proposing to produce natural gas for this application scope.
Location SSSI/ European Designated Sites National Parks, AONB World Heritage Sites and Scheduled Monuments	Marton Mere ~3.4km north west of the site. Ribble and Alt Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site are located approx. 6.4km south. Morecombe bay SPA and Ramsar ~6.7km north. Liverpool Bay SPA is located ~7.4km west There are no national parks or AONB within 5km of the site. There are no world heritage sites or schedule monuments within 1km of the site.

As the Proposed Development is below the indicative criteria and threshold of this type of development, as set out in the PPG, the MPA must consider the selection criteria set out at Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations.

Schedule 3

Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations set out selection criteria which relate to specific matters, including: the characteristics of the development; the location of the development; and the types and characteristics of the potential impact. These factors should be considered as part of the screening process.

Table 2 sets out a review of all the screening criteria and requirements which specifically addresses the Proposed Development scope; stages 1-3.

Table 2: Review of Screening Criteria³ for EIA

EIA Details	
Is the project Schedule 1 development according to Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations?	No
If YES, which description of development (THEN GO TO Q4)	N/A
Is the project Schedule 2 development under the EIA Regulations?	No
If YES, under which description of development in Column 1 and Column 2?	N/A
Is the development within, partly within, or near a 'sensitive area' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations?	No
If YES, which area?	N/A
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded/met?	
If yes, which applicable threshold/criteria?	
LPA/SOS SCREENING	
Has the LPA or SoS issued a Screening Opinion (SO) or Screening Direction (SD)? (In the case of Enforcement appeals, has a Regulation 37 notice been issued)	Previous screening opinion issued by Lancashire County Council
If yes, is a copy of the SO/SD on the file?	Yes
If yes, is the SO/SD positive?	Positive
Environmental Statement	
Has the applicant supplied an ES for the current or previous (if reserved matters or conditions) application?	Yes – Application LCC/2014/0096

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment>

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
Natural Resources	
Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	The site is an existing hydrocarbon wellsite which was constructed in 2017. The wellsite size is approximately 2.5 hectares including the access and egress track. The Proposed Development is for a 2-year time extension which will include a period of suspension followed by a short period of plugging and decommissioning the wells. This will be followed by a restoration stage which will be return the wellsite back to its original agricultural use.
Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources above or below ground such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy which are non-renewable or in short supply?	The operation is designed to plug and decommission the wells and restore the site back to its original use. There are no plans to extract hydrocarbons within the scope of this application.
Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, e.g. forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	No, the wellsite is existing, and all planned operations are self-contained within the wellsite boundary. The final stage of the operation is to restore the site back to its original condition.
Waste	
Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	<p>Solid waste will be generated by the operational phase of plugging and decommissioning the wells. The quantities of waste are in the region of 1-2 tonnes of cement waste and the use of general waste skips including wood and metal. The extractive waste streams are permitted and regulated by the Environment Agency under the sites existing Installation permit EPR/AB3101MW.</p> <p>All waste streams will conform to the Waste Management Plan and protection measures described which includes a wellsite wide impermeable membrane, sampling and integrity checks of containers and conformance with the waste duty of care requirements.</p>

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
	<p>The decommissioning of the wellsite will also follow the principles of the Waste Management Plan and prevailing waste regulations. The main waste stream will be the HDPE membrane and removal of stone. However, exemptions exist to reuse the stone under existing waste legislation and will be considered were compliant.</p>
Pollution and Nuisances	
Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	<p>There are no emissions from the well suspension phase.</p> <p>On-site generators and the rig (both diesel powered) would produce temporary, localised emissions to air, likely to include NOx, SOx, PM10 and PM2.5, CO and VOC during the well decommissioning phase. Generators would be sized appropriately for site energy requirements and would be efficient, with emissions reduced as far as possible. These would be similar to generators on a small construction site. The duration of use is a matter of weeks during the wellbore plugging stage.</p> <p>Emissions from the rig would also be reduced through choice of an efficient rig appropriate for the operation, with minimal emissions.</p> <p>The total duration of generators associated with the operational phases will be present on the site for less than eight months in total.</p> <p>Road traffic associated with the Proposed Development would also produce emissions to air during the temporary stage 2 and 3 phases, similar to a small construction site. There would be no operational flaring or venting during the proposed activities. The scale of the proposed activities is such that significant effects to air quality are not anticipated. There are no Air Quality Management Areas in the vicinity of Proposed Development.</p>
Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	<p>Stage 2 and 3 operations will generate light and noise. The operational hours will adhere to condition 19 and noise conditions 26, 28 and principally condition 29. A sperate lighting plan will be discharged in accordance with condition 33.</p> <p>The scale of the proposed activities is such that significant effects to noise and light are not anticipated. There are no planned night-time operations.</p>

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
	Furthermore, there have been no changes to the nearest residential receptor since the planning permission was granted in October 2016.
Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	<p>The wellsite discharges clean and uncontaminated rainwater from a containment ditch during the suspension phase of operations. This has been agreed in writing with the Environment Agency. Carr Bridge brook sampling remains a requirement of the Installation permit, EPR/AB3101MW.</p> <p>Once phase 2 and 3 are in operations the discharge valve is closed and the wellsite is isolated from surface waters.</p> <p>Groundwater remains isolated from hydrocarbons by the wellbores well integrity, which has been audited by the HSE and Environment Agency. Groundwater continues to be monitored as a requirement of the wellsite Environment Agency permit. All groundwater data has shown no evidence of groundwater contamination from the surface and subsurface operations.</p> <p>Land remains isolated by the wellsite wide HDPE impermeable membrane.</p>
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No
Population and Human Health	
Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?	<p>No - the wellsite is suspended, and the two operational stages of plugging and decommissioning as well as civil engineering to restore the site back to its original condition do not present a major accident hazard.</p> <p>The wellsite is not a lower or upper COMAH installation.</p>

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
<p>Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or decommissioning? (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)</p>	<p>No – the localised rural density of the population represents a small and discrete number of local receptors.</p> <p>The wellsite has been suspended since 2019, and the two operational stages of plugging and decommissioning the wells along with civil engineering to restore the wellsite back to its original condition do not impact human health or pose a risk to the localise population. The operations are self-contained and isolated from the local population by a 4m high sound wall and bunding. The wellsite is further isolated by an HDPE impermeable membrane across the pad. The temporary and short-term nature of the development is principally to restore the site back to its original condition.</p> <p>The scale of the proposed activities is such that significant effects to human health via water or air pollution are not anticipated.</p>
Water Resources	
<p>Are there any water resources including surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?</p>	<p>The site is located within flood zone 1 designation.</p> <p>The wellsite discharges clean and uncontaminated rainwater from a containment ditch during the suspension phase of operations. This has been agreed in writing with the Environment Agency. Carr Bridge brook sampling remains a requirement of the Installation permit.</p> <p>A permit condition requires the wellsite to close the discharge valve if a flood alert is issued along Carr Bridge brook.</p>
Biodiversity (species and habitats)	
<p>Are there any protected areas which are designated or classified for their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological</p>	<p>There are no statutory designations identified within the wellsite or within close proximity to the wellsite (i.e. within a 3km radius). Marton Mere is located 3.2km north-west of the wellsite and is designated as a Site of</p>

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
<p>value, or any non-designated / non-classified areas which are important or sensitive for reasons of their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, located on or around the location and which could be affected by the project? (e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water-bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, undesignated nature reserves or parks. (Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local))).</p>	<p>Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR). In relation to internationally designated sites, the following sites have been identified within a 10km radius of the wellsite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site located approximately 6.7km south. • Morecambe Bay SPA and Ramsar (and Wyre Estuary SSSI) located approximately 6.7km to the north. • Liverpool Bay SPA located approximately 7.4km to the west • The Lytham Moss Biological Heritage Site (BHS) which is approximately 2.1km south west of the main Site is a non-statutory designation but is functionally linked to the SPA sites as it supports pink-footed geese and whooper swans. <p>The Proposed Development will maintain the existing biodiversity mitigation measures as per condition 37 and 39. The wellsite operations will be isolated and are of a short term and temporary nature. With the compensated and enhancement measures already implemented the Proposed Development will maintain the ecology enhancement during stages 1-3, however the final restoration phase will remove the planted hedgerows and compensation areas returning the wellsite back to its original condition or as described in section 7 of the Biodiversity Management Plan. As a result, there is not anticipated to be any significant effect on biodiversity.</p>
<p>Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be affected by the project?</p>	<p>See detail above.</p>
<p>Landscape and visual</p>	
<p>Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected</p>	<p>No - the wellsite is located in the coastal plain status with no designated landscapes, including national parks, AONB's within 5km of the site.</p>

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non-designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? ⁴ Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).	<p>The existing wellsite is condition by 40 and 41 which has mitigated the landscape effects including tree and hedgerow planting.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is predominately low lying, temporary and short term with the restoration phase restoring the site back to its original condition. Therefore, there is not anticipated to be a significant effect on the setting of landscape or visual features.</p>
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? (If so, from where, what direction, and what distance?)	<p>The previous Landscape and Visual Impact assessment judged that the visual effects to be major to moderate adverse effects. The scale and duration of the Proposed Development is a shorter term and temporary effect than the original development proposal of drilling and hydraulic fracturing four wells over a 30-month period.</p> <p>Stage 3 of the Proposed Development is to return the wellsite back to its original condition. The location is not highly viable to many people and with embedded mitigation in the Landscape Maintenance and Management Strategy it is not anticipated to cause a significant effect.</p>
Cultural Heritage/Archaeology	
Are there any areas or features which are protected for their cultural heritage or archaeological value, or any non-designated / classified areas and/or features of cultural heritage or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level of	<p>No- the wellsite is existing and there are no proposed operations which can impact archaeology of value. The development was constructed in accordance with planning condition 43.</p>

⁴ See question 8.1 for consideration of impacts on heritage designations and receptors, including on views to, within and from designated areas.

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
designation (international, national, regional or local).	
Transport and Access	
Are there any routes on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	<p>No- the Proposed Development vehicle movement are low level and temporary in nature. The Proposed Development will be managed by the existing TMP which does not have restrictions on number or frequency of movements. Stage 1 well suspension HGV movement for wellhead maintenance is ad hoc, approx. 1 to 2 per month.</p> <p>Stage 2 mobilisation/ demobilisation a maximum of 10 HGVs per day reducing to 3 HGVs per day during the plugging and decommissioning of the wellbores.</p> <p>Stage 3 is anticipated to have the highest frequency of HGV movements. The number of HGV movements will peak up to a maximum of 5 per hour during the removal of stone or a maximum of 40 per day. This will be a modest period of 2-4 weeks during the 4-month stage.</p> <p>The wellsite is accessed by the A583 with a single bus stop located to the west of the bell mouth entrance. The bus stop will not be impacted by the Proposed Development. It is not anticipated to be a significant effect on traffic or transport.</p>
Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	A transport route is defined in the existing TMP which is not susceptible to regular congestion and has capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development.
Land Use	
Are there existing land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project? E.g. housing, densely populated	No – searches from the Lancashire County Council Mario map does not identify any proposed developments to the existing wellsite or those that could impact the Cuadrilla project or there have been any changes to land use which could be affected since the application was granted in 2016.

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Screening Criteria Question	Proposed Development
areas, industry / commerce, farm/agricultural holdings, forestry, tourism, mining, quarrying, facilities relating to health, education, places of worship, leisure /sports / recreation.	Application LCC/2021/0061, which is directly north approximately 1.6km from the wellsite is to raise ground level to maintain the agricultural use of the land. The activity is not anticipated to be impacted by Proposed Development.
Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No – see above comment.
Land Stability and Climate	
Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions, e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No. The site is existing and has not suffered from land instability issues or impacted from climatic conditions other than those expected e.g., strong winds. The Proposed Development is a short duration and is less intense than previous phases.
Cumulative Effects	
Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulation of impacts together during the construction/operation phase?	No. There are no significant impacts expected to arise from either an existing or an approved development.
Transboundary Effects	
Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects?	No. The Regulations require consideration of the transboundary nature of the impact. Due to the England's geographical location the vast majority of TCPA cases are unlikely to result in transboundary impacts

5.0 Conclusion

This screening assessment has considered whether the upcoming Proposed Development is likely to give rise to significant effects on the environment. The Proposed Development falls under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations as its area exceeds the legislative thresholds. However, it does not exceed indicative thresholds and criteria within the PPG and is not located in a sensitive area as defined by the EIA Regulations.

The site is an existing hydrocarbon oil and gas exploration wellsite which requires a time extension to carry out well plugging and decommissioning and site restoration activities which are routine and temporary. The potential exists for effects on ground and surface water, air quality, views and noise. However, the wellsite is located in an agricultural area with few adjacent sensitive receptors and therefore the potential for significant effects is considered to be unlikely.

Standard proven mitigation measures will be employed as used on other similar types of development as set out in Appendix 3. The future S73 planning application for a time extension would comply with the existing planning conditions and associated management plans which have been previously discharged. There is no proposal to restart hydraulic fracturing or drilling within the scope of this screening request or upcoming S73 planning application.

Accordingly, the screening assessment has identified that significant effects on the environment are not considered either alone or in combination with other development. Therefore, the Proposed Development should not be considered to constitute EIA development as defined by the EIA Regulations.

Appendix A Site Location Plans

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0m 1cm = 25m 125m
Scale 1:2500



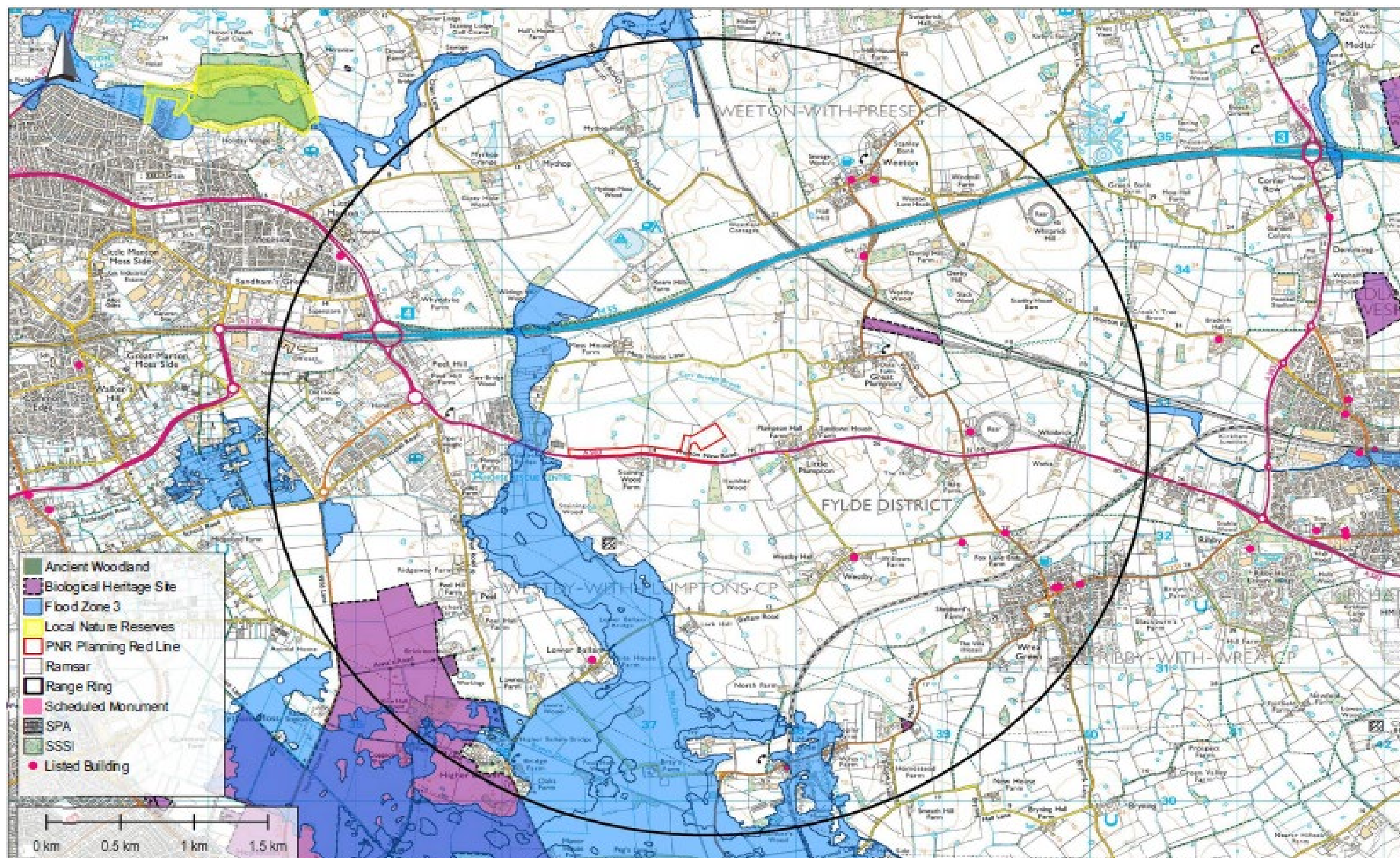
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Appendix B: Designation within 3km of PNR



Appendix C Summary of Mitigation Measures

Stage 1: Well Suspension

The wellsite suspension phase will require routine wellhead maintenance and surveillance environmental monitoring which includes groundwater, fugitive methane and surface water. There is no activity planned for this stage and consequently no further mitigation measures are required.

Stage 2: Plug & Decommission of Wellbores

The following mitigation measures are embedded into the existing wellsite

1. A wellsite wide impermeable membrane isolates the soil, groundwater and surface water from spills and leaks during the operation.
2. An existing TMP will direct and control traffic and routes into and out of the wellsite as well as delivery hours.
3. A rig will be selected to comply with the 36m height restriction to reduce the visual impact.
4. A 4m high sound wall which surrounds the perimeter of the site will remain for the stage of operations reducing the visual and noise impacts from the operations.
5. Operations are planned for daylight hours only eliminating the impact of noise at night.
6. The surface discharge valve will be closed during the stage of operations isolating the site from Carr Bridge Brook.
7. The well has been designed in accordance with the Borehole Regulations reviewed by the HSE and by an independent third party well examiner to ensure wellbore integrity. During drilling each layer of casing will be tested as appropriate to the geological conditions and technical requirements, to confirm integrity.
8. At decommissioning, two permanent barriers would be set within the wellbore to seal the well. These would be pressure tested and tagged to ensure integrity.
9. Groundwater and surface water monitoring will continue to validate the integrity of the well and surface water discharge valve are isolating the site from receptors. Wellhead monitoring will continue after the stage is completed to detect fugitive emissions.
10. The use of generators will be temporary and generate localised emissions. Generators will be maintained and be compliant with the latest medium combustion legislation where thresholds are met.

Stage 3: Restoration

1. Aggregate and concrete (pad and cellar) would be fully removed from site before the impermeable liner is removed so any residual contamination would not be washed into soil.
2. The HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) impermeable membrane will be removed and disposed of in a sectioned approach reducing the risk of residual contaminants flowing on to soil.
3. Soil bunds have been maintained and will be used to reinstate the subsoil and topsoil from the original earthworks and stripping.
4. As per the Biodiversity strategy, agreement will be reached regarding the retention of hedges, trees and biodiversity improvements with the council and landowner.
5. Soil sampling will be undertaken post restoration and compared to the baseline report for changes in soil quality.
6. An aftercare programme of 5 years is implemented to monitor the success of the restoration stage.