

Preston New Road

Following extensive public consultation Cuadrilla submitted a planning application to Lancashire County Council (LCC) for its proposed exploration site at Preston New Road at the end of May 2014. Plans were also submitted to install a network of seismic monitoring stations within a 4km radius of the proposed exploration site. The applications for Preston New Road were validated by LCC in June 2014.

A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out, documented in the form of an Environmental Statement (ES) and submitted along with the planning application. The EIA and ES were completed by experts at Arup, a world leading independent UK consultancy. The ES contains 21 chapters, providing an assessment of a wide range of issues including air quality, lighting, noise, transport, water and visual impact. A non-technical summary of the Environmental Statement is also available [here](#).

On 21st January 2015 LCC's Planning Officers issued a recommendation for refusal for the Preston New Road Planning application based on night time noise concerns. Cuadrilla submitted additional information to the Planning Officers to address this issue. As a result, on 28th January 2015 LCC's Development Control Committee deferred determination of the planning application to allow for proper public consultation of the additional information. This public consultation was run by LCC from 20th March 2015 until 17th April 2015. LCC then announced that determination of the Preston New Road planning applications would be heard on the 23rd and 24th June 2015.

The additional information, as well as the original applications, the Environmental Statements and plans can be viewed on the Council's website [here](#) (application number LCC/2014/0096). The application for monitoring works is also available on this website (application number LCC/2014/0097).

On 15th June 2015, LCC's Planning Officer's issued a recommendation that the Council's Development Control Committee grant planning consent for the application at Preston New Road.

The Preston New Road application was determined on the 29th June 2015 by LCC's Development Control Committee, who refused planning consent on the basis of visual impact on the landscape and noise concerns. The Committee also denied consent for the separate planning application to install seismic and ground water monitoring stations around the site.

On the 23rd July 2015 Cuadrilla announced plans to appeal the refused planning consents for both the main site and monitoring stations around the proposed site.

Cuadrilla submitted both applications for appeal to the Planning Inspectorate which are available to view on the Planning Inspectorate website [here](#). The Public Inquiry for the appeals began on 9th February 2016 at Blackpool Football Club and closed on 17th March. All the inquiry details can be found [here](#). The Planning Inspector submitted her report and recommendation to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 4th July 2016.

In October 2016 the Secretary of State for Department for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, responded to our appeal and granted planning consent for our applications to drill, hydraulically fracture and test the flow of gas from up to four exploration wells at its Preston New Road site in Lancashire. Work commenced to build the site in January 2017 and the drilling phase of operations commenced on schedule in Q2 2017.