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Planning and Environment Service  
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3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

Dear Mr Haine,

#### **CUADRILLA BOWLAND LIMITED – UPDATE TO WORKS**

I am writing to provide a progress update in accordance with Planning permission LCC/2023/0002, granted 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023, condition 1, 2, 11, 12 and 14.

As you are aware condition 1 requires:

*The decommissioning works required by condition 11a) shall be completed by not later than a period of 18 months from the date of this planning permission. The soil treatment and replacement works required by condition 11 b) and c) shall be completed within a period of 2 years from the date of this planning permission.*

Condition 11a) expires on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and states:

*all plant, buildings, security and acoustic fencing, pollution control membranes, aggregates and concrete hard standings forming part of the drilling compound shall be removed from the land.*

Before the above works can start, two existing wellbores require decommissioning. The timeline to complete the wellbore decommissioning is dependent on rig availability. There is a very limited supply of suitable rigs in the UK, but I can confirm that Cuadrilla has contractually secured a workover rig for the work. However, the rig is currently operating at another UK onshore site and is not scheduled to be finished there until January 2025. Consequently, the rig is scheduled to arrive at Preston New Road in January/ February 2025. The exact arrival date of the rig is linked to the date of completion of its ongoing work, and we will keep the Council updated accordingly.

As per condition 2 Cuadrilla will provide a notification within 7 days of starting of the well decommissioning. It is expected that the wellbore decommissioning programme will be completed by the end of March 2025, subject to the arrival of the workover rig in January/February.

Regarding the restoration phase, Cuadrilla has started the procurement process to select a civil engineering contractor. Selection of the contractor is expected to be completed in January 2025.

Civil engineering works to restore the site can begin in March, subject to wellbore decommissioning progress. Temporary plant and equipment will be mobilised to site setting up cabins and begin the removal of acoustic panels, membranes, aggregate and hard standing. Works for the removal of the acoustic panels will be influenced by Condition 8 noise limit during the wellbore decommissioning works.

It is anticipated that the restoration works will take 2-3 months including the requirements of condition 11 b) and c) before the June 2025 permission expiry. Condition 11 b) and c) require:

*b) the upper layers of the subsoil material shall be subsoiled to a depth of 600 mm using a heavy duty winged subsoiler prior to the replacement of topsoils to relive compaction and remove materials injurious to plant life and any rock, stone or other materials capable of preventing or impeding normal agricultural use or land drainage operations.*

*c) following treatment of the subsoil, the topsoil from the soil storage mounds on the site shall be distributed evenly across the site to a minimum depth of 150 mm and shall then be ripped, cultivated and left in a state that will enable the land to be brought to a standard fit for agricultural use.*

The above conditions will form part of the contractor's scope of works.

## **Condition 12**

In accordance with condition 12 (see below text), a scheme will be submitted to Lancashire County Council in January. It is Cuadrilla's intention to put forward a scheme that restores the site entrance for agricultural purposes. Further details will be provided in a separate submission.

*12. Following the restoration of the wellsite compound the site access track and junction with the A583 shall be restored in accordance with a scheme to be first submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority. The scheme shall contain details of the following:*

- a) details for the restoration of the access road to a standard necessary to provide for agricultural access*
- b) the removal of all security fencing and gates and replacement with agricultural access gates and fencing*
- c) the reduction in size of the junction with the A583 to a standard necessary for agricultural use*
- d) the removal of the traffic island and ghost island markings in the A583 carriageway*
- e) details of the new hedge planting around the configured access including layout of planting, numbers and sizes of species to be planted, details of planting techniques and protection measures.*



## Condition 14

In accordance with condition 14 (see text below),

*14. A report shall be submitted to the County Planning Authority by not later than 7th December 2023 and at six monthly intervals thereafter until the date of completion of restoration describing the works that have taken place over the previous six-month period to progress the plugging and abandonment of the boreholes and restoration of the site. As well as physical works on the exploration site, the report shall also contain details of the actions that have taken place to gain regulatory approval from the North Sea Transition Authority, Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive for the plugging and abandonment of the boreholes and surrender of the environmental permit.*

Cuadrilla can report the following update:

- a) The wellbore decommissioning (plug and abandonment) programme has been submitted to the independent well examiner who has completed his review.
- b) The wellbore BSOR notification has been submitted to the HSE.
- c) The NSTA have been notified via the WONS system.
- d) Notification to the Environment Agency has been sent providing an update to the upcoming works and continuation of groundwater and surface water monitoring.
- e) The Workover Rig contract has been signed and we are now waiting on rig arrival.
- f) Procurement of civil engineering contractor to conduct the restoration is underway with an anticipated selection in January 2025.

Regulatory submissions are required before the start of the wellbore decommissioning phase before Cuadrilla can proceed. The HSE notification requires 21 days' notice before the wells are decommissioned in accordance with The Borehole Sites and Operations Regulations 1995. The Environment Agency requires 1 month notification as agreed in writing. At the time of writing this update Cuadrilla is waiting on responses from both regulators.

Groundwater monitoring boreholes will remain in situ to continue monitoring the decommissioned wellbores in accordance with the Environment Agency permit. It remains Cuadrilla's intention to restore the site back to its original condition by June 2025 and the Environment Agency permit to be surrendered in 2026. It is anticipated the groundwater boreholes will be decommissioned in Q1/Q2 2026.

I trust the above information provides a satisfactory overview of the planned programme of works. If you require further information, please contact me or Cuadrilla.

Yours sincerely



**Nick Mace**  
**Cuadrilla Resources**

