



## Environmental Baseline Monitoring in Lancashire

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has initiated a science-based environmental monitoring programme in The Fylde, Lancashire where planning applications were submitted by Cuadrilla for the development of shale gas. This monitoring is independent of the industry and regulators and represents the first independent, integrated monitoring programme to characterise the environmental baseline in an area subject to interest from the shale gas industry. More information on the project can be found here:

[www.bgs.ac.uk/research/groundwater/shaleGas/monitoring/lancashire.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/groundwater/shaleGas/monitoring/lancashire.html)

We have already undertaken a number of groundwater and surface water sampling campaigns, and are extremely grateful for the support provided locally to allow us access to privately-owned boreholes and wells that has made this possible. We will continue to monitor these sites but would also like to install a small number of additional boreholes in locations where there are no suitable sampling points.

This will require us to drill boreholes using a drilling rig which will be positioned at each site for approximately one week. The boreholes will only be used for environmental monitoring. Photographs of the drill rigs that will be used for this project are shown overleaf. All the drilling will be carried out by Drilcorp Ltd on behalf of BGS. BGS staff will also be in attendance at site at all times during the drilling operations to supervise the drilling and to carry out geological characterisation and monitoring.

In total we plan to drill 6 pairs of shallow boreholes (maximum depth 40m) and a single deeper borehole (maximum depth 500m) into the two aquifers in this area. The shallow aquifer is used in the area for private water supply by local businesses. The deeper aquifer is not used as a water supply locally as the water it contains is expected to be saline. However there is very little known about it currently and so we need to drill the borehole to establish the environmental baseline.

Information on the sampling and monitoring that we will be carrying out can be found here:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/groundwater/shaleGas/monitoring/waterQuality.html>.

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