

**Tors Field Development
Blocks 42/25a, 43/21a & 43/22a
ES Web Comments**

ES Title:	Tors Development Environmental Impact Assessment
Operator:	ATP Oil & Gas (UK) Limited
ES Report No:	D/2507/2005
ES Date:	February 2005
Block Nos:	42/25a, 43/21a, 43/22a
Development Type:	The Tors Development consists of the Garrow & Kilmar gas fields. Two development wells will be drilled at Garrow and three development wells will be drilled at Kilmar. The development will consist of two NUI, one in each field, with Garrow tied back via a new 8", 22.4 Km flow line to the Kilmar NUI and onwards via a new 12", 21.2 Km pipeline to the Perenco operated Trent platform. From Trent the gas will be exported via the existing Eagles Transportation System (ETS) to the onshore Bacton Terminal.

Synopsis:

The proposed Tors development, comprising the Garrow and Kilmar gas fields, is located in the Southern North Sea approximately 70km east of Flamborough Head on the east English coast, in blocks 42/25a, 43/21a and 43/22a. It is also some 70 Km distant for the Dutch median line. It is proposed to develop Tors by construction of two normally unattended installations, one at Garrow and one at Kilmar. Two new horizontal wells will be drilled at Garrow. Whilst three development wells will be drilled at Kilmar, two will be re-entry into existing suspended wells and the third will be a new high angled well. A combination of water based mud (WBM) and Low toxicity oil based mud (LTOBM) will be used to drill the wells, with all LTOBM shipped to shore for re-use/treatment and appropriate disposal. Estimated quantity of cuttings discharged for the Garrow wells is 2,920 tonnes of WBM discharged to sea & 350 tonnes of LTOBM shipped to shore. For the Kilmar wells it is estimated 1153 tonnes of WBM & 1328 tonnes of LTOBM will be generated. The wells will be cleaned up but no well test will be undertaken.

The Garrow gas will be exported from the Garrow NUI via a new 8", 22.4 Km pipeline to the Kilmar NUI. Gas and fluids from both the Garrow & Kilmar will be co-mingled and exported via a new 21.2 Km 12" pipeline to the existing Perenco operated Trent Platform situated to the east of the development in block 43/24. Here the Tors gas and associated fluids will be separated and processed and then will be co-mingled with Trent gas and exported along the existing Eagles Transportation System (ETS) export line to Bacton. Initially (12/24 months) Tors gas will not require compression. Condensates will also be exported via the produced gas export line to Bacton. It is intended to trench and backfill all new lines.

Peak production at free flow is expected to be between 60 to 100scf/d at a combined rate from both Garrow & Kilmar.

As the Tors gas is a dry gas it is anticipated that produced water levels will remain at a low level throughout the field life which is anticipated to be between 6 to 10 years. Produced water from Tors will pass through the MEG regeneration system and will contribute to the emissions vented to atmosphere from the MEG reboiler vent. Modifications to the Trent platform due to the tie back of the Tors Development have been incorporated into the installation of the compression platform which received approval in March 2005. A permit under the Offshore Installations (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Regulations 2001 has been issued for the Trent compression platform.

Habitats Issues

Although the majority of the proposed Tors Development is outwith the proposed draft boundary of the UKCS sector of the Dogger Bank potential cSAC, as defined by JNCC (JNCC 2004), 18Km of the 21.2 Km export line from the Kilmar NUI to the Trent platform is within the proposed draft boundary. The main area of the Dogger Bank which lies in 20 m of water, the South West Patch, is located approximately 16 Km North of the proposed development and the shortest distance from the Kilmar platform to the proposed draft cSAC boundary is 2.7 Km.

Further information was requested in relation to a number of issues mainly in relation to the pipeline, the Dogger Bank sandbank habitat, the potential impacts on the populations of seabirds from the Flamborough Head and piling.

JNCC advised that a screening for an appropriate assessment be carried out. This was undertaken by the DTI and concluded that the development was unlikely to be any significant environmental impacts from the development.

Following consultation and the provision of this additional information, we are satisfied that this project is not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any sites protected under the Habitats Regulations.

Consultees: The statutory consultees for the ES were the JNCC and CEFAS.

CEFAS:- CEFAS commented that although several fish species spawn in this area, including cod (January to April) and plaice (December to March), they do not believe that this programme, which is mainly outside the spring spawning period, will adversely affect these stocks. There are no fisheries-related restrictions on drilling in these blocks at any time of the year and they have no other concerns.

JNCC:- JNCC requested further clarification on pipeline issues (trenching, backfilling, pre-sweeping, rock dumping), piling, in relation to the Dogger Bank pSAC status, the impact on seabirds from the Flamborough Head SPA, and cumulative effects. Following the provision of additional information as detailed above, JNCC commented that they were content for the project to receive approval.

Public Consultation - No comments were received as a result of public consultation.

Recommendation: Based on the information presented in the environmental statement it is recommended the well consent should be granted.