

**Mimas & Tethys 48/09 & 49/11b  
ES Web Comments**

<b>ES Title:</b>	Mimas & Tethys 48/09 & 49/11b
<b>Operator:</b>	ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd
<b>ES Report No:</b>	D/2840/2005
<b>ES Date:</b>	October 2005
<b>Block Nos:</b>	48/09 and 49/11b
<b>Development Type:</b>	Exploration Well

**Synopsis:**

The Mimas & Tethys are two Southern North Sea gas developments in blocks 48/9a and 49/11b respectively. Mimas will be linked by a 13.5km, 10" export pipeline to the Saturn platform that is tied back to the existing ConocoPhillips Lincolnshire Offshore Gas Gathering System (LOGGS). Export gas from Tethys will be transported via a new 10" pipeline to the Saturn-LOGGS pipeline. To suppress hydrate formation, methanol will be supplied from LOGGS via Saturn's 3" methanol pipeline for injection into the wellheads at Mimas and Tethys. The pipelines will be conventionally installed using trenching and backfilling.

The Mimas development will consist of the installation of a Normally Unmanned Installation (NUI) with two well slots, one of which will be drilled. The Tethys development will also consist of the installation of an NUI with two well slots, one of which will also be drilled. After installation, an ROV survey will be undertaken to assess the possible risk of scour. If scour should occur, rock-dumping will be required to ensure rig stability.

Drilling will be carried out using a jack-up drilling rig at each location. Each well will be drilled using water based mud (WBM) for the top-hole sections and possibly oil based mud (OBM) for the lower hole sections.

Post drilling, a well clean-up will be required for each well during which an anticipated 4,200,000 m<sup>3</sup> of gas will be flared from each well.

Both the 13.5km, 10" Mimas to Saturn pipeline and the Tethys 3.7 km 10" Tethys to Saturn Pipeline will be trenched and then buried using conventional pipelaying techniques.

Both wells are located outwith the Norfolk banks; a proposed dSAC under the Habitats Directive.

The Environmental Description covers all the relevant main areas.

The EIA identified the following significant risks

- Physical presence,
- Discharge of water-based mud
- Pipeline installation
- Gas blowout,
- Diesel spill

The potential effects and the control measures in place to minimise the effects are described.

*Physical presence* – Fishing will be excluded from an area of c0.8km<sup>2</sup>. The spud cans will have a localised impact. There is a contingency to rock dump over 3,000 tonnes of rock should rig stabilisation be required. Should this be required the impact would be permanent but localised.

*Discharge of water-based mud* – The discharge of WBM could cause localised cuttings mounds and the release of drilling and cementing chemicals. Cuttings dispersion modelling has indicated that the cuttings discharged will decrease to a level of less than 0.1 mm at 500m from the discharge location. The majority of chemicals used will be PLONOR and therefore the impacts to the receiving environment will be minimised and minimal.

*Pipeline Installation* – It is estimated that the total width of the excavated trenches for each of the pipelines plus the two mounds of excavated material would be about 10 metres; therefore the calculated total area affected by trenching operations from the pipelines will be approximately 0.2 km<sup>2</sup>. The anchors from the lay barge will also have an impact.

There is a planned contingency rock-dump of 37,000 tonnes to ensure pipeline stability. This will have a permanent impact on the seabed.

*Atmospheric emissions* – There is no planned well test associated with this project. Consequently, atmospheric emissions are limited to those arising from fuel usage for power production both onboard the rig and from the supply vessels. These levels are relatively low.

*Gas blowout* – To date there have been no blowouts on the UKCS.

*Solid waste disposal* – All solid waste will be shipped to shore.

*Accidental hydrocarbon spill* – The Mimas & Tethys wells are gas and condensate wells and so there is no chance of a crude oil spill. Any condensate spilled would evaporate or disperse rapidly. The only other source of spill is from fuel. There is a risk that there could be a diesel spill during the operations. Modelling of 1,200m<sup>3</sup> of diesel indicated this would disperse over a 10 day period. There would be an impact on the seabirds and marine mammals but it is not predicted to reach the coast.

Transboundary and cumulative impacts have been addressed in detail within the ES and both have indicated that the proposed operations are unlikely to have a significant effect.

**Habitats** – The proposed well is near but not on the Norfolk Banks

The ES has identified and satisfactorily addressed the main potential impacts arising from the development.

**Consultees:**

JNCC and Cefas responded that there was unlikely to be a significant environmental impact.

**Recommendation:**

Based on the information presented in the environmental statement and further information provided, it is recommended that consent be given.