

**Munro Development 44/17
ES Web Comments**

ES Title:	Munro Development
Operator:	ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited
ES Report No:	D/2339/2004
ES Date:	October 2004
Block Nos:	44/17
Development Type:	Field Development

Synopsis:

The Munro gas condensate field is located in Block 44/17, 5km southwest of the subsea Hawksley facilities. Gas production is expected to be 80 mmscf/day for the first two years and decreasing thereafter until 2016.

The project lies wholly within the proposed Dogger Bank cSAC.

The project comprises of:

- The installation of a Normally Unmanned Installation wellhead platform.
- The re-entry and completion of an existing exploration well. (Previously drilled by GDF and subject to an ES).
- The laying of a 5 km self-burying 10" export line with a 3" piggyback, from the Munro field to the subsea Hawksley facilities.

The NUI will be installed in two sections using an HLV. The HLV and associated vessels will use anchors during the installation and pile driving will be required. There is a contingency for rig stabilisation material to be used.

The previously drilled exploration well will be re-entered and sidetracked using a jack-up drilling rig. Water-based muds (WBM) will be used; although there is a contingency for the use of oil-based muds. A well clean-up will be required during which an estimated 200mmscf of gas and 200bbbls of condensate will be flared.

Pipe laying will be undertaken using a conventional anchor lay barge. The pipeline is of a self-burying design and therefore no trenching or burying is required. There is a contingency for up to 50 metres of the line to be rock-dumped.

Munro produced water will be transported to Theddlethorpe Gas terminal where it is treated and discharged.

The Environmental Description covers all the relevant main areas.

The EIA identified the following significant environmental risks likely to be arising from this development and addressed them in detail.

- Physical presence of jack-up rig.
- Pipeline installation and physical presence.
- Blow-out gas and condensate.
- Diesel spill from jack-up and vessels.

Areas of concern

The ES did not adequately address the potential impacts arising from the development with respect to the impacts on an Annex I Habitat under the Habitats Directive.

Following the submission of the ES there were a number of meetings held between ConocoPhillips, JNCC and DTI.

Most discussions concerned the potential impacts in the proposed Dogger Bank cSAC and the requirement to demonstrate clearly that there is unlikely to be a significant impact.

Subsequent information provided by ConocoPhillips addressed the remaining concerns. This included using the information sources previously suggested, the provision of a more detailed assessment on the likely impacts of laying a self-burying pipeline and a detailed pipeline route survey.

We have undertaken a screening exercise for an Appropriate Assessment that indicates that the overall impact of the project will be 0.015 km², effecting 0.00011% of the proposed Dogger Bank cSAC. On this basis it has been concluded that there is unlikely to be a significant affect on the structure, function and integrity of the site.

The DTI will be requesting that ConocoPhillips undertake a post-pipelay benthic and sediment survey.

Consultees:

Cefas responded with no concerns over the development of this project.

JNCC expressed a number of significant concerns. However they are content with the project proceeding.

Recommendation:

On the basis of the information presented within the ES, subsequent information provided and the conclusions from the Appropriate Assessment screening exercise it is recommended that the ES should be approved.