

**Brechin Field Development Block 22/23a
ES Web Comments**

ES Title:	Environmental Statement for the Brechin Field Development
Operator:	Paladin Expro Limited
ES Report No:	D/2267/2004
ES Date:	August 2004
Block Nos:	22/23a
Development Type:	Single well subsea tie back to the Arkwright Manifold via a new 3.4Km, 6/8" production pipeline and then to the Montrose Platform via the Arbroath Platform.

Synopsis:

Paladin intend to develop the Brechin Field by means of a single well subsea tied-back with a new 3.5Km flow line to the Arkwright manifold and thence through existing infrastructure onto the Montrose platform via the Arbroath platform. The Brechin field is located in block 22/23a of the central North Sea and is approximately 3.4Km ESE from the Arkwright Manifold and lies in water depths of approximately 90m of water. It lies 214Km off the east coast of Scotland and 43.5Km west of the UK/Norwegian Median Line. Primary separation will occur at the Arbroath facility while the main processing of fluids will take place at Montrose. Brechin fluids will be combined with the fluids from Montrose, Arbroath, and Arkwright fields and exported to the Forties Charlie platform and then through the existing export line to Kinneil. Produced gas will be used as fuel gas, for gas lift, with any excess flared.

It is proposed to drill the single production well including a possible sidetrack, in November 2004 and it is anticipated drilling will last approximately 60days. The tie back to Arkwright is planned for May 2005 with first oil expected in June 2005. The peak average daily oil flowrate is predicted to be 384 scm/day (2,413 bbls/day), with a field life expected to be until 2015. It is proposed to drill the well using a combination of Water Based Mud (WBM) and Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM), with all LTOBM recovered with onshore disposal (738 tonnes). Approximately 944 tonnes of WBM will be discharged to sea. Following drilling the well will be cleaned up over a maximum of 20 hour period with a maximum of 59.17 tonnes of gas and 385.39 tonnes of oil to be flared.

It is proposed that a 6" or 8" flow line and a 2" or 3" gas lift line will be trenched as will the umbilical and no requirement for rock dumping is anticipated. The tie-in is expected to take approximately 16 days. The tie in will not involve any modifications to Montrose or Arbroath.

Brechin contributes to the overall significant gas flare from the Montrose field with a peak predicted flare of 226.42 tonnes of gas per day flared, with 31 tonnes per day attributable to Brechin.

Due to the incremental increase in the level of flare at Montrose, additional information was requested with regard to the cost benefit analysis undertaken by Paladin in relation to the provision of a gas export line to take the gas from the Monarb area including Brechin. Paladin provided additional information on this and other queries raised, in a letter dated the 12 November 2004 and the 22 November 2004. Whilst evidence has been presented that the installation of a gas export line is not viable in this case, Paladin have demonstrated a real commitment to the provision of a gas export line in connection with future developments within the Monarb area. Following consultation and the provision of additional information, we are satisfied that this project is not likely to have a significant impact on any sites protected under the Habitats Regulations.

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

FRS:- FRS agreed with the conclusion of the ES namely that the impacts will be localised and insignificant and have no objections to consent being granted.

JNCC:- JNCC made comment on the gas flaring situation, Paladins target for oil spills and sought confirmation regarding the position of Brechin in relation to the Montrose field and the surveys that had been undertaken to validate the assumptions that the sediments and benthos are similar between the two areas. However 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: The project should be granted consent.