

**Cavendish Area Development  
Blocks 32/19a & 43/20b  
ES Web Comments**

<b>ES Title:</b>	<b>Environmental Statement for the Cavendish Area Development</b>
<b>Operator:</b>	<b>RWE Dea UK Development Limited</b>
<b>ES Report No:</b>	<b>D/2196/2004</b>
<b>ES Date:</b>	<b>June 2004</b>
<b>Block Nos:</b>	<b>43/19a, 43/20b</b>
<b>Development Type:</b>	<b>The Cavendish Area Development consists of the Cavendish and Kepler (formerly known as Cavendish East) fields. The field will be developed by means of a minimum facilities platform at Cavendish and 3 wells and a subsea manifold at Kepler, initially with a single well. The gas &amp; condensate will be exported via a new 47Km x 10" pipeline to the Murdoch platform for partial processing and then via the existing Caister Murdoch System (CMS) to the Theddlethorpe terminal in Lincolnshire.</b>

**Synopsis:**

The proposed Cavendish Area Development, comprising the Cavendish and Kepler (formerly known as the Cavendish East) gas fields, is located in the Southern North Sea approximately 125km east of Flamborough Head on the east English coast, in blocks 43/19a & 43/20b. It is also some 65 Km distant for the Dutch median line.

It is proposed to develop the Cavendish Area by construction of a minimum facilities platform at Cavendish and the drilling of three wells at Cavendish and initially a single well, with the possibility for future expansion to two wells at Kepler; which will be produced by means of a subsea manifold. The development is to proceed in two phases, with drilling commencing at Cavendish and with Kepler to be developed at a later stage.

It is planned to drill the wells with water based mud (WBM), with each well expected to take approximately 115 days to drill. All water based mud cuttings will be discharged to sea, with a total of 3,938 tonnes generated from the 3 Cavendish wells and 1311 tonnes from Kepler. The wells will be cleaned up but no well test will be undertaken.

The new 47 Km, 10" flowline from Cavendish via the Kepler subsea facility and then directly to the Murdoch platform, will be trenched and buried. A 3" methanol line will be piggy-backed to the main flow line and a 2-3" umbilical will be laid in a separate trench approximately 30 to 40 m distant.

First gas is expected from Cavendish in October 2006 and the expected life of field is 15 years. The Cavendish gas will be partially processed at Murdoch and then exported via the existing Caister Murdoch System (CMS) to the Theddlethorpe terminal in Lincolnshire. Peak production is expected to be a maximum of 96 scf/d for Cavendish.

Initially no produced water is anticipated from the Cavendish Area until year 7 when 8 bbl/mmscf is expected.

#### Habitats Issues

The proposed Cavendish platform location lies on the southern edge of the Dogger Bank in a water depth of approximately 18 m. Whilst the majority of the pipeline is off the Dogger Bank, the whole of the Cavendish Area Development lies within the draft boundary of the UKCS sector of the Dogger Bank potential SAC, as defined by JNCC (JNCC 2004).

Further information was requested in relation to a number of issues mainly in relation to the pipeline, the Dogger Bank sandbank habitat, the presence of *Sabellaria spinulosa*, the potential impacts on the populations of seabirds from the Flamborough Head and piling and cumulative effects. RWE Dea provided additional information in relation to the queries raised, in meeting of 5 May 2005 and a further document referenced "RWE Dea response to the DTI comments to the Cavendish Area Development Environmental Statement 43/19a & 43/20b D/2196/2004 Version 2 (Metoc Ref: PAPER48\_V2)".

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 result in 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 and shellfish species spawn at or near to this location, they do not believe that this programme, will adversely affect these stocks. CEFAS confirmed that 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 in relation to the Dogger Bank pSAC status, on demonstrating that the presence of *Sabellaria spinulosa* is unlikely, on the impact on seabirds from the Flamborough Head SPA, on pipeline issues (trenching, scouring, rock dumping), piling, monitoring and cumulative effects. However following the provision of additional information as detailed above, JNCC commented that they were content for the project to proceed but recommended that a screening for an appropriate assessment be carried out by DTI and also recommended pre & post installation benthic monitoring be undertaken in relation to the pipeline.

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

**Recommendation:** The project should be granted consent.