Consents given under the Petroleum Act 1998 and Reviews under the Assessment of Environmental Effects Regulations 1999

Shell

Bardolino

Shell is planning to drill a single well tied back via a new manifold and 2 km long 6" production pipeline, with piggy-backed 3" gas lift line to the Howe sub-sea manifold, which itself is tied-back to the Nelson platform. A separate electro-hydraulic and chemical control umbilical will also be installed between Bardolino and Howe.

Situated within Blocks 21/11, 22/12 and 22/13, the Bardolino development lies approximately 190 km east of Peterhead and 40 km west of the UK/Netherlands median line.

The well will be drilled using a conventional semi-submersible drilling rig anchored over the single well location. The well will be drilled as deviated well using routine drilling fluids and chemicals. Any used oil based mud and cuttings will be shipped to shore where they will be treated. No extended well test will be carried out but the well will be cleaned over a period of 48 hours.

Pipelay operations will be conducted using a DP vessel and therefore avoid using anchors. The pipeline will be trenched and to a depth of up to 1.8 metres and covered using either backfill or rock dumping. The umbilical will also be trenched and buried using a DP vessel but no rock dumping will be required.

A production manifold will be positioned close the well using a DP vessel and secured in place using four hammer driven piles approximately 20 metres long. Mattresses will be required to protect some of the manifold structure and well tree.

The EIA identified a number of activities as having the potential to cause an environmental impact and were discussed further within the ES.

The EIA addressed all the key environmental impacts and the
key environmental sensitivities. All of which were addressed in detail within the ES.

Following public consultation and the provision of the additional information DECC and its consultees were satisfied that this project is not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any sites or species protected under the Habitats Regulations.