



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

## Environmental Statement (ES) Summary and Sign-Off

<b>Title:</b>	Dunbar Field Production Increase Environmental Statement
<b>Operator:</b>	Total Exploration and Production UK Ltd (Total)
<b>Report No:</b>	D/4182/2015
<b>Submission Date:</b>	November 2015
<b>Block No:</b>	3/14a
<b>Development Type:</b>	Increase in Production
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Julie Cook
<b>Date:</b>	April 2016

### A) Project Description:

The Dunbar field is located in Block 3/14a in the Northern North Sea, approximately 133 kilometres (km) east of the Scottish coastline and 15 kilometres west of the UK / Norway median line, in a water depth of approximately 143 metres (m).

The Dunbar field was discovered in 1973 and was brought on-line in 1994. Dunbar comprises of a fixed steel wellhead platform and supports Dunbar, Ellon and Grant fields. Process facilities on the Dunbar platform are limited to a single production separator for Ellon fluids which are routed via Dunbar to the Alwyn North Bravo (NAB) platform. All other fluids are transported via a 16" multi-phase pipeline directly to the NAB platform where they are comingled with North Alwyn production. Oil is exported to Cormorant Alpha and then to the Sullom Voe Terminal (SVT) via the Brent System pipeline. Gas is exported through the Frigg UK gas pipeline (FUKA) to the St Fergus Terminal.

Total plan to undertake drilling operations from the Dunbar platform by re-entering six existing wells to improve production output. Drilling operations are expected to result in an increase in production of oil and gas from Dunbar field from 2016. The increase in production is expected to be above the 500 tonnes per day of oil and 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> per day of gas threshold and therefore an ES was required under the Offshore Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended).

The increase in production is from the Dunbar field is within the design capacity of the Dunbar and NAB platforms and no process plant modification is required. The Dunbar field has an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) covering its operations.

### B) Key Environmental Impacts:

The EIA identified and discussed the following key activities as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- Production – atmospheric emissions, power generation, flaring, venting, produced water processes, flow assurance and chemical applications atmospheric emissions, accidental hydrocarbon spills.
- Wider concerns – accidental events, transboundary issues, cumulative effects

### **C) Key Environmental Sensitivities:**

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- **Fish:** The Dunbar field is located within the spawning grounds of cod, sandeel, whiting, haddock, saithe and Norway pout and as a nursery area for cod, sandeel, whiting, haddock, Norway pout, anglerfish, blue whiting, European hake, herring, ling, mackerel and spurdog. The spawning and nursery areas are extensive and the increase in production is unlikely to have an impact on these species.
- **Seabirds:** Seabird vulnerability is high in July and November and moderate to low for the rest of the year. It has been assessed that there are sufficient mitigation measures in place to prevent accidental spills that could have a significant impact on seabirds and this will also be covered by the OPEP.
- **Protected habitats and Marine Protected Areas (MPA):** The closest identified Annex I habitat is the Pobie Bank Reef Site of Community Importance (SCI) located 85 km to the southwest. The closest MPA in the vicinity of Dunbar platform are the Fetlar to Haroldswick 131 km to the west on the Shetland coastline, the north-east Faroe-Shetland Channel 175 km to the north and the Faroe-Shetland sponge belt 190 km to the north-west. The increase in production is not expected to have any significant impact on the protected habitat.
- **Protected species:** Harbour porpoise, White-beaked dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, killer whale and long-finned pilot whale have been recorded low densities in the Dunbar area with highest numbers recorded during the period of May to November. Grey and Common Seals inhabit the coastal waters around the North Sea and have occasionally been observed to travel long distances when foraging, both species are unlikely to be present in large numbers at both fields. No disturbance of marine mammals is expected as a result of the increase in production.
- **Other users of the sea:** The proposed development is situated within ICES rectangles 49F1 and 50F1, and relative fishing effort in the area is low. Shipping density in the vicinity of Block 3/14a is very low. Appropriate navigational controls are already in place, and it is not anticipated that there will be any significant impact on other users of the sea from the increase in production.

### **D) Consultation:**

Comments were received from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Marine Scotland (MS), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Ministry of Defence (MoD). The ES was also subject to public notice.

**JNCC:** JNCC confirmed that they have no objections

**MS:** MS confirmed that they were content for the ES to be accepted.

**MCA:** MCA confirmed that they have no objections.

**MoD:** MoD confirmed that they have no objections.

**Public Notice:** No comments were received in response to the public notice.

**E) Further Information:**

Further information was requested from Total, which addressed the issues raised by JNCC, MS and the internal DECC review. The information requested included clarification on dispersion modelling and potential impact on conservation areas. The additional information received from Total on 4 April 2016 adequately addressed the issues raised.

**F) Conclusion:**

Following review of the ES, the response received from consultees and the additional information provided by Total, DECC OGED is satisfied that this project will not have a significant adverse impact on the receiving environment or the living resources it supports, or on any protected sites or species or other users of the sea.

**G) Recommendation:**

On the basis of the information presented within the ES and advice received from consultees, DECC OGED is content that there are no environmental or navigational objections to approval of the proposals, and has advised the OGA that there are no objections to the grant of the relevant consents.

**Approved: Sarah Pritchard  
Head of Offshore Environmental Operations**

*Sarah Pritchard*

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**Date:** 28/04/2016.....