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

### **Tullow Oil UK**

#### **Wissey 53/4d**

Tullow Oil UK Limited (TOUK) intends to develop the Wissey gas field, which is located in Block 53/4d of the southern North Sea, approximately 72 kilometres to the north east of Great Yarmouth in water depths of 39 meters. The closest international boundary is the UK Dutch median line which lies approximately 29 kilometres to the east. The Wissey field will be developed through a single subsea well tied back to the Horne and Wren unmanned platform located in block 53/3c, approximately 10 kilometres west of the proposed well. The gas will then be processed on the Thames facility.

The well will be drilled using a jack up drilling rig and will be drilled in four sections. It is estimated that the drilling will generate a maximum total of 603 tonnes of water based mud cuttings.

The subsea pipeline connecting the Wissey field to the Horn and Wren platform will be approximately 10.3 kilometres in length and consist of 8 inch subsea flowline and umbilical. This will be trenched approximately 1.5m below the seabed and be left to naturally backfill.

A number of potential environmental impacts including Seabed disturbance, Atmospheric emissions, Marine discharges and Accidental events were identified as being of significance. These were all discussed in detail in the Wissey Environmental Statement (ES).

Key sensitivities were identified in relation to the area being used as a fish spawning area by lemon sole, mackerel, plaice, sandeels and sprat. Seabird vulnerability is high in February, March and December. In addition the proposed well is located approximately 25 kilometres to the east of the North Norfolk Sandbank which is a designated SAC. These sensitivities have all been addressed within the ES and we are satisfied Tullow

have in place sufficient mitigation methods that this development will cause no significant impacts on the environment.

Following consultation, DECC and its consultees were satisfied that this project was not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any sites or species protected under the Habitats Regulations. The ES was approved on the 26 July 2007.

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