



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

## Equinor UK Limited

### Cadet Field Development Environmental Statement Summary

**To:** Jonathan Ward

**From:** Marc McKay

**Date:** 22 August 2019

<b>ES Title:</b>	Cadet Field Development (Cadet)
<b>Developer:</b>	Equinor UK Limited
<b>Consultants:</b>	Xodus Group
<b>OGA Field Group:</b>	Northern North Sea
<b>ES Report No:</b>	D/4234/2019
<b>ES Submission Date:</b>	29 May 2019
<b>Block No:</b>	8/15a and 9/11a
<b>Development Type:</b>	Oil and gas development

#### Project Description

The Cadet field is located within UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) Block 8/15a, approximately 134 kilometres (km) from the Shetland Isles coastline, in a water depth of approximately 105 metres (m). Equinor UK Limited (Equinor) propose to develop the field using three production wells and one water injector well, all drilled from the existing Mariner A platform located within UKCS Block 9/11a, with production also processed via the Mariner A platform. The four wells will replace proposed wells that will no longer be drilled for the Mariner field development. As both the drilling and production will take place at the Mariner A platform, there will be no new topside or subsea infrastructure associated with the Cadet field development and all impacts are considered in relation to the operation of the Mariner A platform.

First oil is scheduled for the third quarter of 2026, with anticipated peak production of approximately 1,100 tonnes of oil and approximately 27,000 m<sup>3</sup> of gas per day in 2028. As oil production is anticipated to exceed 500 tonnes per day an Environmental Statement (ES) was required under the Offshore Petroleum and Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended).

#### Key Environmental Impacts

The ES identified and discussed the following as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- Discharges to sea;
- Atmospheric emissions; and
- Accidental events.

#### Key Environmental Sensitivities

The ES identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- **Fish:** The area is a recognised spawning area for haddock; Norway pout, saithe, sandeels and Nephrops (the Norway lobster, Dublin Bay prawn, langoustine or scampi); and a nursery area for anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, European hake, ling, Norway pout, saithe, whiting, herring, mackerel, sandeels and Nephrops. However, the spawning and nursery areas are extensive and the proposed activities are unlikely to have any significant impact on these species. The potential impacts of accidental events (hydrocarbon releases) on these receptors have been considered within the ES.
- **Seabirds:** The most abundant seabirds in the vicinity of the development are Atlantic puffins, black legged kittiwakes, common guillemots, northern fulmars, northern gannets and razorbills. Seabird sensitivity in the vicinity of the Mariner A platform is considered to be low throughout the year with the exception of May when it is considered to be medium and is extremely high in the adjacent UKCS Block 8/15. It is considered that sufficient mitigation measures will be in place to prevent accidental spills that could have a significant impact on seabirds, and Equinor will have an amended Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) in place prior to any operations relating to the Cadet development.
- **Protected Sites:** There are no protected sites or known sensitive habitats within 40 km of the Mariner A platform. The nearest protected site is the Braemar Pockmarks Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located approximately 69 km from the Mariner A platform. The proposed activities are unlikely to have any impact upon this site.
- **Protected Species:** Atlantic white sided dolphin, harbour porpoise, killer whale, minke whale and white beaked dolphin have all been recorded in the vicinity of the Mariner A platform. There are no activities proposed that would be likely to result in significant noise emissions and it has been concluded that there are unlikely to be any adverse effects or disturbance of the protected species.
- **Coastal sensitivities:** The ES identified coastal sensitivities on the Shetland and Orkney Isles and the mainland Scottish coastline, including designated SACs, Special Protected Areas (SPA) and Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Whilst these coastal sensitivities would not be affected by the drilling or production operations, it was recognised that they could potentially be impacted by a significant hydrocarbon spill. However, sufficient mitigation measures will be in place to prevent and respond to accidental spills.
- **Other users of the sea:** The Mariner A platform is situated within the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 48F1 and the relative fishing effort is low. Shipping density in the vicinity of Block 9/11a is also low. Appropriate navigational controls are in place at the Mariner A platform and it is unlikely that there will be any significant impact on other users of the sea.
- **In combination, cumulative and transboundary effects:** No significant in combination, cumulative and transboundary effects are anticipated.

**Key Mitigation Measures (including environmental or monitoring conditions)**

No significant adverse impacts are anticipated that would warrant specific mitigation measures or monitoring conditions. All activities will be undertaken in line with commitments

detailed in the ES and best industry practice.

**Consultation**

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Marine Scotland (MS) were consulted on the project and each confirmed they had no objections. The ES was also subject to public notice and no comments were received.

**Further Information**

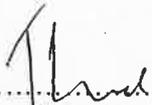
Further information was requested from Equinor to clarify points raised during the internal OPRED review. The additional information received from Equinor on 25 July and 14 August 2019 satisfactorily addressed the points that were raised and there are no outstanding issues

**Determination**

Following review of the ES and the responses received from consultees, and confirmation that the additional information provided by Equinor is not material to the determination, OPRED is satisfied that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the receiving environment or the living resources it supports, or on any protected habitats or species or other users of the sea.

**Recommendation**

On the basis of the information presented within the ES, the comments received from consultees and the additional information provided by Equinor, OPRED is content that there are no objections, and agrees to the OGA issuing the necessary consent or consents for the proposed development. This agreement is not subject to the inclusion of any specific environmental conditions.

  
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Jonathan Ward  
Director, Environmental Operations  
OPRED

23/8/19  
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Date

