

BRENT E-NEWS

SHELL BRENT FIELD DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT

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www.shell.co.uk/brentdecomm



A WORD FROM DUNCAN

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of Brent e-news.

The last few months have been especially busy for the Brent decommissioning project team with lots of positive progress during 2014. However, there have been and will continue to be challenges to overcome as we develop the project. This means we must continue to engage with our stakeholders, and pool our knowledge and ideas whilst maintaining a strong focus on safety and efficient delivery.

Much of our effort in recent months has centred on cell sampling, knowing how important gaining an understanding of cell contents and composition is. These were obtained despite tight weather windows. This is a testament to the hard work and focus of the team, and I would like to thank everyone involved.

All the samples have now been through an independent laboratory in Aberdeen



for analysis and we are currently evaluating them. This includes a rerun of our modelling system to enable us to make an informed decision on how best to deal with the contents of the concrete cells that lie at the base of three of the Brent platforms. This will mark a big step forward for the project.

“...I WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS AND AM ALWAYS HAPPY TO MEET ANYONE WHO WANTS TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT”

I have also been holding one-to-one briefings with the members of the Cell Management Stakeholder Task Group to explain the cell sampling process. I have received positive feedback so far, and once we have the results finalised I will meet with the members again.

There has also been a flurry of other activity offshore as we prepare ourselves for the single-lift of the Delta topside.

We have submitted the Decommissioning Programme (DP) to DECC for the Delta Topsides in February and there will be a 30 day public consultation, which closes on 21 March 2015. Any comments or queries can be submitted via the [Shell](#) or [DECC](#) websites.



We will make our final detailed recommendations on how best to decommission the full Brent oil and gas field when we are confident the proposals are safe, technically achievable, environmentally sound and financially responsible.

It is very important for the team to engage with stakeholders throughout this project, as we all look to find the best possible ways to achieve a safe, successful and environmentally friendly decommissioning project. I will continue to hold one-to-one sessions and am always happy to meet anyone who wants to discuss the project, whether they are new to Brent or have spoken to the team previously.

Duncan
Business Opportunity Manager

ONE-TO-ONE ENGAGEMENT

If you would like to be briefed one-to-one on any aspect of the Brent Decommissioning Project's developments, or would like to raise any particular queries or issues with the Project team, please contact us at www.shell.co.uk/brentdecomm or, you can also get in touch with the team via the 'Contact us' link on the website.

A WORD FROM ALISTAIR

As Duncan has said, 2014 was a very busy year in which we achieved a lot. As well as the cell sampling process, which was a truly integrated team effort, the Brent decommissioning team has been making significant progress with plugging and making safe the wells in the field and isolating our facilities from the hydrocarbon reservoir.

All the wells for Delta have now been plugged and made safe, which is a really big milestone in the decommissioning project. Monitoring work has also confirmed the integrity of the seals and now the team's focus has shifted towards removing the conductors.

Elsewhere in the field, we are nearly half way through the plugging of the Bravo wells and hope to start the process on the Alpha wells shortly. Work is also under way to install new, heavy-duty equipment that will help us to deal with some of the more difficult wells that we expect to come up against during the remainder of the programme.

Outside the field, there has been some real progress with the single lift vessel that will lift the Brent topsides off in one go. The vessel has been constructed in Korea and has undergone sea trials. The vessel is now in the Port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, for the winter. During its time there, the vessel will be fitted with loading arms, with the aim of doing a test lift in Dutch waters in the spring.

The modular support frame from a previously decommissioned North Sea platform, The North West Hutton, will be used as the test lift platform. Vessel operator Allseas is welding some tanks onto the top of the frame to ensure that it is heavy enough for a suitable test lift.

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Meanwhile, piling work to strengthen the quay at Able UK's yard in Teesside, where the topsides will be recycled, is also off to a good start. Around 100 jobs have been created during this construction phase as Able look to build what will be one of the strongest quays in Europe to support the weight of the Delta topside.

We are delighted to have made so much progress and to have done so safely. However, there is still a great deal of work left to do so we must continue this strong performance and improve our efficiency to ensure that we can complete the bulk of the platform work in 2015 ahead of the topside lift in 2016.

Alistair
Project Director

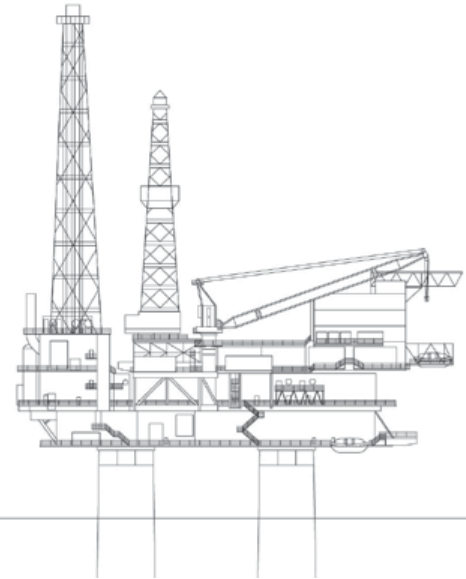


CONTACT US

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BRENT DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAMME TO MOVE FORWARD WITH BRENT DELTA TOPSIDE



With the support of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (“DECC”), Shell has made the decision to bring forward the submission of the Decommissioning Programme for the Brent Delta topside – ahead of the rest of the Brent Field infrastructure.

The Brent Delta topside is ready to be decommissioned and it is not considered to be of benefit to maintain an obsolete structure (incurring safety risks and costs) where circumstances provide an opportunity for its earlier decommissioning.

Subject to receiving regulatory approval, bringing this submission forward will help ensure there’s an opportunity to lift the Brent Delta topside in 2016 and return it to shore for dismantling and reuse/recycling.

Although all aspects of our Decommissioning Programmes are subject to regulatory approvals, the

long lead times involved often require contracts to be put in place before formal approval is given. Bringing the Brent Delta topside submission forward also means that the contractor Able can ensure continuity of the jobs that have been created at its yard.

“Delta stopped producing in 2011 and engineering down work has been ongoing since then – the alternative would mean having to maintain an aged topside for another 12 months, which would have cost and safety implications,” explained Business Opportunity Manager Duncan Manning.

The standalone Brent Delta topside Decommissioning Programme is available for a 30-day public consultation which closes on 21 March 2015. This will be a chance for stakeholders and members of the public to comment on the programme and to ask questions.

MORE INFORMATION

You will find the programme on the Brent website www.shell.co.uk/brentdecomm, and on [DECC’s consultations page](#).



CELL SAMPLING UPDATE

A dedicated team has completed the offshore sampling of the concrete storage cells that lie at the base of Brent's three gravity based structures (GBS). The aim is to identify the contents of the cells to enable the project team to put forward a preferred option for dealing with them safely and efficiently.

The preferred option will then feed into the main Decommissioning Programme, when we are confident the proposals are safe, technically achievable, environmentally sound and financially responsible.

"Although we have made some assumptions about what lies in the cells and have based our modelling on those assumptions, we need to understand the quantity and composition of the sediments to validate those models and move forward with a decision on how to deal with the contents," explains Business Opportunity Manager, Duncan Manning.

The offshore scope of the cell sampling process had two key phases. First, saturation divers installed base plates, valve and seal assemblies onto the top of each storage cell being sampled for a new remotely operated vehicle drilling

stack. Following this a lubricated drilling tool had to be attached to the base plate so it could core into the 1.1m thick cell tops and extract the samples. Four different types of sample were taken from the cells, including;

- attic oil;
- sediment;
- water; and
- the interface layer.

"... WORK SAFELY AND WITHOUT ANY LEAKS. OVERALL IT WAS AN EXCELLENT TEAM EFFORT BY ALL INVOLVED ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE"

The samples were then shipped to Aberdeen under strict temperature controls before they were handed over to an independent laboratory for analysis. The offshore sampling took about three months to complete and was a real engineering challenge, not least because it was an industry first.

The base of the oil storage cells lies 140 m below the surface of the

Northern North Sea and the cells themselves are 60m high. "Some of the key challenges of the sampling project were integrating multiple technologies together, deploying testing equipment offshore and then using it on a platform clearly designed for oil and gas production," says Duncan.

He continued "The cells were very difficult to access and the whole operation was highly weather sensitive. Huge effort went into managing this work safely and without any leaks. Overall it was an excellent team effort by all involved onshore and offshore."

PREPARING THE DECOMMISSIONING PROGRAMME

The independent laboratory has performed chemical and physical analyses on the cell samples and we are now running them through a modelling system created to test the technical feasibility, impact on society, impact on the environment, safety, and costs of each shortlisted cell decommissioning option.

Only once this is complete can the preferred option be identified and presented in the main Decommissioning Programme.

A FRESH LOOK FOR THE WEBSITE



BRENT FIELD DECOMMISSIONING

The Brent oil and gas field, lying north east of the Shetland Islands, has been a cornerstone of the UK's hugely successful oil and gas industry. The next step in the life cycle is to decommission the Brent Field's four platforms and their related infrastructure.



VIEW THE BRENT
TIMELINE



BRENT NEWS
AND MEDIA



EXPLORE THE
PROJECT



BRENT FAQs

The Brent decommissioning website has had a complete overhaul as we look to involve and engage as many people as possible on this exciting project. The new-look site aims to bring Brent to life for all those who are interested in the decommissioning activities of an historic field that has been so important for the UK's oil and gas supply.

A new computer-generated film takes you on a virtual journey through the Brent Field and explores the platforms from the topsides to the depths of the seabed. An interactive model then provides more details on the scale of the platforms and explains all the key

decommissioning activities. You can find further interaction on the timeline, which sets out the impressive development of the field over its 40+ year life. A download page enables you to access all the latest stakeholder engagement information; past issues of Brent e-news; and some new factsheets that give a snapshot of the field.

We want to provide information about the project in an easily digestible way so that anyone with an interest can find out more. The stakeholders who have been engaged to date have a degree of understanding that has built up over the years, but it is important that we give

those who have not yet been involved in the project the opportunity to learn about what we are doing and why. We believe our new website will do just that.

EXPLORE MORE

To see all of the above and for more exciting new features, please go to www.shell.co.uk/brentdecomm



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