

## Activities in Bacton

Work on the BBL pipeline land fall on the beach at Bacton will start in earnest at the beginning of 2006; the preparatory phase is already complete. So what precisely can you expect over the next few months, and how will it affect you as a Bacton resident?

### Work on the beach

BBL Project manager for Bacton, Piet Bijmold, takes up the story: 'In January 2006, part of the revetment will be removed to make way for a temporary cofferdam. The pipeline will eventually be fed into the concrete tunnel on the beach and concrete shaft behind the cliff face, which were built during the winter of 2004-2005. After installing the pipeline, the cofferdam will be taken away and the revetment will be reinstated. This is scheduled for completion by the end of May.'

### Work offshore

Piet: 'Dredging work to sink the pipeline approximately four metres under the beach and the seabed will begin in March. We'll need to do this to ensure that the pipeline won't be exposed, even during severe storms. The dredging work will last about six weeks. A winch platform will be positioned at the low water line, on top of the cofferdam. The Tog Mor, a shallow draft laybarge will be anchored offshore where the 36 inch pipeline sections will be welded together and pulled into a cofferdam using the winch. These highly specialist and challenging activities will be clearly visible from the cliff top. During the activities the beach and the cliff top will continue to be accessible to the public.

A temporary dewatering pipeline will also be laid during this period. It will be used to discharge the test water from the pipeline into the sea. As soon as the first few kilometres of offshore pipeline have been laid, a pipe-laying vessel capable of pipelay at 3 kilometres per day will be brought in to build the rest of the pipeline further out to sea in the direction of the Netherlands. We will give you an update on the progress being made in the next issue of this newsletter. We'll also tell you more about our plans to open an information centre on the BBL in Bacton.'

### Information line 0808-2347975 (Free phone)

If you would like more information about the scheduled work in Bacton, please call our free phone number above. The BBL Company project manager, Piet Bijmold, will be happy to help you.

### Activities on the Dutch side

Work is also moving forward on the Dutch side of the pipeline. The compressor station is making steady progress, with the buildings themselves now almost complete. The three compressors which will pump the gas up to pressure before it is fed through the sub-sea pipeline are due to be delivered in January 2006.

### Contact

If you require any additional information or have questions, please contact:

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### Concerns

If you have any concerns about the activities of BBL Company in Bacton, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Linked #3

Linked will keep you regularly informed of BBL Company's activities in Bacton. BBL is a gas pipeline that is being built between the Netherlands and the UK to connect Balgzand and Bacton.

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## BBL Project running to schedule despite tight deadline

In 2003 Shell agreed to manage the construction of the Shell Bacton reception facilities for the BBL gas pipeline from the Netherlands to the UK. This receiving facility includes pressure let down heating, filtering and metering for custody transfer into the UK gas transmission system via the National Grid (formerly Transco) Terminal. Shell are responsible for the construction and commissioning of these facilities and subsequently for their maintenance. BBL Company will own the installation, which will be operated remotely from the Netherlands by Gasunie in Groningen. Shell will supervise the overall ongoing management of the facility and will intervene only where necessary.

Geoff Ward, Project Delivery Manager at Shell, is responsible for all the activities which will take place in Bacton. Completion of the receiving station is tied to a very tight deadline, hence good coordination is essential. 'It's quite unusual to be managing a project for a company other than Shell, but cooperation with BBL Company is going very well. We discuss the progress we've made each week, and also have a monthly meeting with AMEC, the construction contractor, about ongoing activities. Finally, we are in regular telephone contact with each other – which is absolutely crucial in a project as complex as this involving so many stakeholders.

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Geoff Ward,  
Project Delivery Manager

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These stakeholders include not just Shell, BBL Company and AMEC, but also a wide range of subcontractors, Bacton parish council, local residents, Central Government Departments and NNDC, the licensing authority. Completing the work to such a tight deadline with so many different players is a major challenge. After all, the whole facility has to be fully operational by 1 December 2006'.

Shell is pulling out all the stops to meet this deadline. As a result, considerable progress has been made in recent months with civil works well advanced. All the necessary equipment has now been ordered, including the filter separators (which will filter the gas before it enters the UK transmission network) and the extremely large capacity heaters. A pipeline has now been laid under the Shell Bacton installation and highway to a connection point adjacent to the National Grid Terminal using the Horizontal Direct Drilling technique (HDD). This significant construction activity happily went very smoothly and avoided disruption to traffic.

'We're devoting a great deal of attention to safety on the construction site,' explains Geoff. 'When you've got so many people working on an installation which is also fully operational, it's extremely important to apply the most rigorous safety standards. Our staff are fully aware of just how crucial this is. All our activities are being carried

out with extreme precision. This includes the excavation work for the foundations and the pipeline. Since there are already many existing cables and pipelines on the Shell site, this has to be very carefully taken into account.' So far, however, there hasn't been a single incident involving 'lost time'. All employees have been able to return to work the very next day. To mark this achievement, and to re-emphasise the need for extra safety awareness, Shell and AMEC have each donated £ 500 to a local charity nominated by the site staff. They eventually selected the children's playgroup in Bacton, which took delivery of the £ 1,000 cheque in December 2005.

'Safety isn't just important on the construction site; it's also needed in Bacton itself,' says Geoff. 'I make sure I remain closely informed about what's going on locally, so that I can take all this into account. The safety of local residents is our prime concern. The rise in the volume of construction traffic in Bacton means that we've now decided to put up flashing speed signs. We're also conscious of the noise being produced by the construction site, so we're taking measures to ensure that these levels don't exceed the permitted noise thresholds.'

Work will carry on unabated over the next 11 months. During this time, the foundations, the buildings themselves and the supply infrastructure will all be completed and all of the equipment will be installed and commissioned. The gas heaters will be delivered towards the end of the first quarter of 2006. Geoff: 'Further, we will be installing the pipeline into National Grid and you will see considerable activity in the adjacent field. We'll be telling you more about this in the next issue of Linked.'

