



BBL nearing completion: gas flow to commence in December

Work on the Balgzand Bacton Line (BBL) is now nearing completion. The last few kilometres of gas pipeline will be laid in the North Sea during the first half of September. In Bacton, final works will also be carried out during the coming weeks. The gas flow between the Netherlands and the UK will commence on 1 December.

The reception facilities at the centre of the Shell terminal in Bacton are also nearly ready. The nearby Lowlands Field will be fully restored to working order by the end of September. The Shell terminal will soon be ready to filter the transported gas

and bring it to the correct pressure and temperature to be supplied to customers in the UK via the National Grid System.

The reception facilities are now almost ready for commissioning. This is an operationalisation process which will ensure that the gas will flow safely through the pipeline and the treatment systems. It will also check that all the systems and instruments are working to the correct specifications. The facilities will consist of several systems and components, all of which must operate safely together.

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Linked #4

BBL Newsletter
Edition September 2006

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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Work at sea

The laying of the pipeline itself across the seabed between the UK and the Netherlands is also making good progress. In September, the specially equipped lay barge Castoro Sei (C6) is expected to lay the final section of pipeline approximately eight kilometres from the Dutch coast, where a large section is already in place.

Work on the beach at Bacton

By early September, work will therefore be ready to start on the beach at Bacton. This will begin with preparations for hydrotesting. The pipeline will be tested for leaks by pumping it full of ordinary seawater (approximately 140,500 cubic metres) through an earlier pipeline. The operation is expected to last 11 days.

Once it has been established that the pipeline is in order, which it almost certainly will be, the enormous volume of seawater will be pumped out again. The pipeline will then be rinsed with fresh water and dried using hot air along similar principles to a hairdryer. Finally, nitrogen will be pumped through. The pipeline will then be completely ready for the safe transportation of the first natural gas flows.

During these testing and drying operations, the beach at Bacton and the cliff top will continue to be accessible to the public, although some sections may occasionally be cordoned off for safety reasons.



Some of this work will also continue at night. To prevent noise nuisance, noise mitigation measures will be taken during the testing and drying operations. Once the gas flow has begun, this noise will cease.

Golden weld

A key element of the work will be the use of 'golden welds', which will permanently seal the joints between the pipeline sections. Because these seams cannot be hydrotested, they will be applied with great precision and subjected to high quality controls. These welds are known by the somewhat rarified term 'golden welds', due to the care required in their application.

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 will be happy to help you.

Activities on the Dutch side

The compressor station in Anna Paulowna is now almost complete, apart from some final adjustments to the terminal itself. The pipeline has been fed under the dunes and is now being operationalised. A team of specialists from Gasunie and Siemens is also testing and making ready the compressors themselves. Two final golden welds must be applied on the Dutch side, and will be done at the same time as those in Bacton.



Photograph © Colin Turner

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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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