



Linked #2

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.

BBL Newsletter
Edition June 2005

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Pipeline from BBL's facilities to Transco's terminal using the horizontal directional drilling technique

BBL, which will be transporting gas from the Netherlands to the UK from the end of 2006, will be connected from Shell's Terminal to Transco's terminal at Bacton. In August this year, the pipeline will be laid under the road that divides the two terminals using the horizontal directional drilling technique. The drilled hole for the pipeline will cross the road at a depth of approximately twelve metres.

Preparations for this drilling activity which will be carried out under the supervision of Shell Exploration & Production and the EPC contractor – Amec Group Limited – are now underway. A temporary fence will be erected on the eastern side of the Transco terminal and a total of some three hectares will be fenced off. This space is

required to weld the pipe sections that will be pulled into the drilled hole under the road. The pipe is approximately 600 metres long. The horizontal drilling itself will be carried out from the Shell terminal. This is also where the drilling machine will be placed.

Project manager Piet Bijmold, who represents BBL Company in Bacton and is closely monitoring work on-site, was asked whether the horizontal drilling would involve any disruption in and around Bacton. 'People won't really notice much happening,' he replied. 'The supply of the thirty pipe sections that will be welded together will bring some extra heavy traffic to the area. Other than that, the disruption caused to the residents of Bacton will be minimal'.

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Tunnel completed in Bacton

BBL is scheduled for completion due 2006. Preparatory work in Bacton is now finished. The purpose of this work was to facilitate the pipeline landfall at Bacton through the construction of a shaft and a tunnel. The contractor began this preparatory work in October last year. The first step involved excavating a mound of soil at the shaft site. A start was then made on placing the first shaft ring. The shaft has an internal diameter of approximately 10 metres and a depth of approximately 17 metres. The next step in the project was to build the tunnel. This has now been done.



Preparations of the shaft at Bacton



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You've mentioned a temporary fence - when will that be removed?

Bijmold: 'Part of it will be taken away as soon as the drilling is complete. Another section will remain in place because we can't complete the connection to the Transco terminal until 2006'.

Piet Bijmold, project manager



What else will people soon be noticing about work on the BBL pipeline?

Bijmold: 'In September we'll be starting on preparations for the landfall from the sea. Bacton residents will certainly be able to see that, although much of the work will be done out at sea. In any case, we won't be starting before September so as not to interfere with Bacton's tourist season'.

Offshore pipeline construction in 2006

The offshore pipeline will be laid by Saipem UK. This will begin in 2006 with a shallow draft pipe laybarge anchoring off Bacton so that the pipe can be pulled ashore into a cofferdam. A tie-in between the Bacton shore crossing section and the offshore section will be made on the beach around March 2006. After laying two kilometres offshore, the shallow draft laybarge will reposition to Dutch waters. When it arrives off the Dutch coast, a similar operation will follow and the pipeline will be pulled to the beach through a pre installed cofferdam construction.

A shallow draft laybarge will then continue laying to a location approximately eight kilometres from the coast in the Netherlands. At this time, the Castoro Sei laybarge (see picture below) will pick up the pipe again at the UK end. This big laybarge will complete the lay between UK and the Netherlands.



Laybarge

Measures to assure the safety of the Bacton community

Due to the extra traffic involved, BBL Company will be taking various steps to assure the safety of the Bacton community:

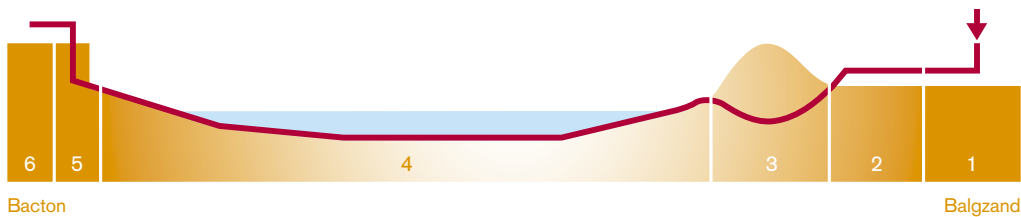
- access roads to the town now have flashing warning signs to remind drivers of the 30 mile-an-hour speed limit. BBL Company believes this will assist traffic safety in Bacton. Obviously, the warning signs are needed for the work traffic that will be coming into Bacton during the construction of the BBL, but they will remain there permanently once the project has been completed.
- BBL Company will also be cofinancing the construction of a cycle/footpath between Paston and Mundesley, beginning with a project specification.

What is BBL?

BBL Company, in which subsidiaries of Gasunie (the Netherlands), E.ON Ruhrgas (Germany) and Fluxys (Belgium) are joint shareholders, is building a pipeline from the Netherlands to the United Kingdom. The pipeline, known as BBL, will connect Balgzand in the Netherlands to Bacton on the Norfolk coast and will have a total length of 235 kilometres. The project involves an investment of around 500 million euros and is scheduled for completion due 2006. The pipeline will have a diameter of 36 inches. BBL involves the construction of a compressor station in

the province of Noord-Holland, a short section of onshore pipeline and the crossing of the coastal sand dunes in the Netherlands (approximately 5 kilometres), 230 kilometres of offshore pipeline across the North Sea and landfall and receiving facilities in Bacton.

BBL will require the building of a compressor station (1) in the province of Noord-Holland, a short section of onshore pipeline (2) and the crossing of the coastal sand dunes (3) in the Netherlands, 230 kilometres of offshore pipeline across the North Sea (4), landfall (5) and receiving facilities in Bacton (6) .



New BBL company website

The BBL Company website has been improved. The new site has been laid out so that all available information about the various parts of the project can be found quickly. The 'Project BBL' section includes a detailed description of the various construction phases. The 'news' feature keeps you informed of the latest progress in the BBL project. It contains items such as press releases and recent presentations. Older presentations are filed in the archive.



Contact

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

General project matters:

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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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