

SHELL BRENT FIELD DECOMMISSIONING



FACT SHEET
HISTORY OF THE BRENT FIELD

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Brent Bravo production platform is a concrete gravity structure with three legs

The Brent Field was discovered off the north-east coast of Scotland in 1971. Since production began in 1976, it has been one of the world's largest hydrocarbon producers and an important contributor to the UK economy.

Shell UK and Esso Exploration and Production UK (Esso) are equal partners, with Shell operating the field. The field has four large platforms – Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Its cutting edge design and the introduction of new technologies throughout its life has enabled the field to remain in production well beyond its initially projected 25 year lifespan, and surpass its original reserves estimates.

At the time, a total investment of £3 billion was needed to develop the Brent Field, install its infrastructure and bring the oil and gas to shore. To date, the field has produced a total of about four billion barrels of oil equivalent. This is almost 10% of the oil and gas so far produced from the UK sector of the North Sea.



Brent Charlie replacement modules during final onshore commissioning for the Brent Field refurbishment programme



Drill floor activities on Brent Charlie

A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

Late 1970s: Three enormous gas compression modules were built to re-inject gas into the reservoir. At the time, these contained the world's largest offshore reciprocating compressors.

1977: A pipeline from the Brent Field to St Fergus in Scotland was completed. It was the world's largest single welded pipeline at the time.

Late 1990s: Brent Field undertook what was at the time the world's largest oil field depressurisation. It remains one of the largest engineering projects ever undertaken in the North Sea.

2000: The Brent Field was externally benchmarked as the highest-performing North Sea field. It was also internationally recognised as leading in the management of its facilities.

RECORD-BREAKING PRODUCTION

In the 1980s, the Brent Field was consistently producing over 400,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day – enough oil in a year to provide energy to over 12 million homes. In 1982, production peaked at 504,000 barrels of oil per day. The one billionth barrel of oil was produced from the Brent Field in March 1987.

By the early 1990s, the Brent Field was supplying 13% of the UK's oil and 10% of the UK's gas needs. In the mid 1990s, Shell started an ambitious project to convert the field from a majority of oil production to one focused predominantly on gas. This cost £1.2 billion and provided jobs for more than 3,000 people.

By 2001, the Brent Field was yielding record levels of gas production; 25.5 million cubic metres per day. Its total oil and gas production reached 700,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The redevelopments, planning and commitment of everyone involved led to Brent's pre-eminence in the UK sector of the North Sea. It has even given its name to the oil benchmark that is used to price two-thirds of the world's internationally traded crude oil.

BRENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UK ECONOMY

In its lifetime, Brent has generated billions of pounds in tax revenues for the UK Government and provided a significant amount of the UK's oil and gas.

The Brent Field has supported tens of thousands of highly skilled jobs, and the UK's oil and gas supply chain generally. This has helped many UK companies enter the global oil and gas marketplace.

At the time of its early development, Brent was one of the deepest offshore oil fields in the world. The skills gained by UK companies in its supply chain have now been exported globally.