



## ABSTRACT

This study focuses on oilfield drilling practices, well construction and completion with particular reference to exploration of Atlas wildcat well 25/5-7. Located on the North Sea to investigate the hydrocarbon potential of the Brent reservoirs, Stratford and tertiary formations. This well was spudded up with semisubmersible ocean vanguard and drilled to total depth at 3045m. The well

# OILFIELD DRILLING AND WELL COMPLETION PRACTICES TO INVESTIGATE THE HYDROCARBON POTENTIAL OF THE RESERVOIRS: A CASE STUDY OF ATLAS WILDCAT WELL 25/5-7 IN THE NORTH SEA

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## INTRODUCTION

The fundamental analyses for this study performed using outstep data belonging to Atlas field well 25/5-7 in offshore environment in the North Sea. The available data that has been provided by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate as well as the other data from the nearby wells, as shown in Fig 1. The wells were directionally drilled from fixed points. The drilling objective was to reach production target levels with relatively high inclinations. The well was drilled to investigate the hydrocarbon potential of the Brent and Stratford reservoirs and sand in the tertiary section. It was spudded with semi-submersible rigs ocean vanguard and drilled to TD at 3045m at first and later to 1160m. a 9<sup>7/8</sup>



was drilled with sea water and mud with higher rheology to sweeps down to 1160m with oil based mud from 1160m to TD. The results shows that all potential tertiary reservoir were found water based, Stratford was found water wet while the Brent found gas bearing reservoirs, Gas condensate were taken at 2708m and 2689m. The well was drilled for 61 days, however the rig experienced a power shutdown while drilling and opening up tight spots at 438m and was on repair for 5 days from 31 August until September 2010.

**Keywords:** Drilling, Atlas Fields, Well 25/5-7, Wildcat, North Sea, Oil and Gas, exploration, Sandstones.

pilot hole was drill first and later open to 17<sup>1/2</sup>. There was no shallow gas encountered but several tight spot were encountered while drilling and opening up hole. The well was drilled with sea water and mud which has higher rheology to sweeps down to 1160m with oil based mud from 1160m to TD (NPD 2017; SEA 2001a). All potential tertiary reservoir were found water based, Stratford was found water wet while the Brent found gas bearing reservoirs and that the gas density is 0.26 g/cc. The Brent has a net-to-gross of 93%, an average effective porosity of 17.5%, with water saturation of 12%. The well also encountered the middle Jurassic Brent sandstones at 2684m 40m shallower than predicted, the Brent thickness was 27.5m, 45m less than expected (NPD 2017; DWSSP 2012).

| Field & Wellbore Name                    |                                 | Casing and Leak-Off Test                                   |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Type                                     | Exploration                     | Casing Type                                                | Casing Dia. [inch] | Casing Depth [m] | Hole Dia. [inch] | Hole Depth [m] | Lot Mud Eqv., g/cm <sup>3</sup> |
| Purpose                                  | Wildcat                         | Conductor                                                  | 30                 | 220.0            | 36               | 223.0          | 0.00                            |
| Main Area                                | North Sea                       | Surf Cond.                                                 | 13 3/8             | 1149.0           | 17 1/2           | 1157.0         | 1.50                            |
| Drilling Time, Days                      | 61 (123.750 hrs)                | Interm.                                                    | 9 5/8              | 2560.0           | 12 1/4           | 2570.0         | 1.60                            |
| Content                                  | Gas/Cond.                       | Open Hole                                                  |                    | 3045.0           | 8 1/2            | 3045.0         | 0.00                            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> level HC Age & Formation | Middle Jurassic & Brent Gp      |                                                            |                    |                  |                  |                | Lot                             |
| Total Depth, TV D [m]                    | 3045.0                          | Lithostratigraphy                                          |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
| Total Depth, MD [m]                      |                                 | Top depth [m] Lithostrat. Unit                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
| Trajectory                               | Directed                        | Drilling mud                                               |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
| Water Depth, [M]                         | 119.0                           | Depth MD [m] Mud Weight [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ] Visc. [mPa.s] |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
| Drilling Facility                        | Semi-Submersible Ocean Vanguard | 158 1.04 16.0                                              |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
| Gas Density, g/cc                        | 0.26                            | 227 1.03 15.0                                              |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
| Max Inclination [°C]                     | 2.2                             | 438 1.20 20.0                                              |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
| Drilling Fluid Bottom Hole Tempt [°C]    | Seawater & Oil Based Mud 110    | 1160 1.21 18.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 1165 1.21 21.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 2280 1.21 21.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 2444 1.17 23.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 2496 1.30 31.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 2570 1.30 28.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 2633 1.13 18.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 2727 1.11                                                  |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 3040 1.15 22.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |
|                                          |                                 | 3045 1.16 20.0                                             |                    |                  |                  |                |                                 |

Source: (NPD 2017)



## LITERATURE REVIEW

Most of the oil and gas deposits in the North Sea originate from a thick layer of black clay several thousand meters under the seabed and contains significant organic residue (Fact 2013). The field is unique in that the source rock at the seabed was weak and stationary while the upper basing is full of life. (Fact 2013; SEA 2001a; BSEE 2011; Akgun 2002). Fig 2 shows oil formation cycle.

### Obtaining Consent to Drill from Authorities

Exploration and production in the oil and gas industry is regulated solely through a licensing system managed by the exploration and licensing branch of the ministry of petroleum and energy in the UK (Fact 2013; SEA 2001a).

#### Application licensing phases:

- Applicant can apply as person or in groups as company to the directorate's exploration and licensing, in the ministry of petroleum and energy in order of section 23 of subsection 4-4 of the petroleum act.
- Submission of status report with content to separate guidelines as production permit for new fields in order of section 26 resource management of subsection 23 of petroleum regulations.
- This application must be submitted a minimum of six weeks before production start-up and must be of the current calendar year.
- The award of production must be of the application received and its free and fair non-discriminatory pre-announce criteria.
- A permit is not granted until POD is approved or an exemption for such plan has been granted.
- A regular fixed cycle is planned for licensing for rounds in mature fields, ten annual round had been carried out between 2003-2012 for both types of licensing.

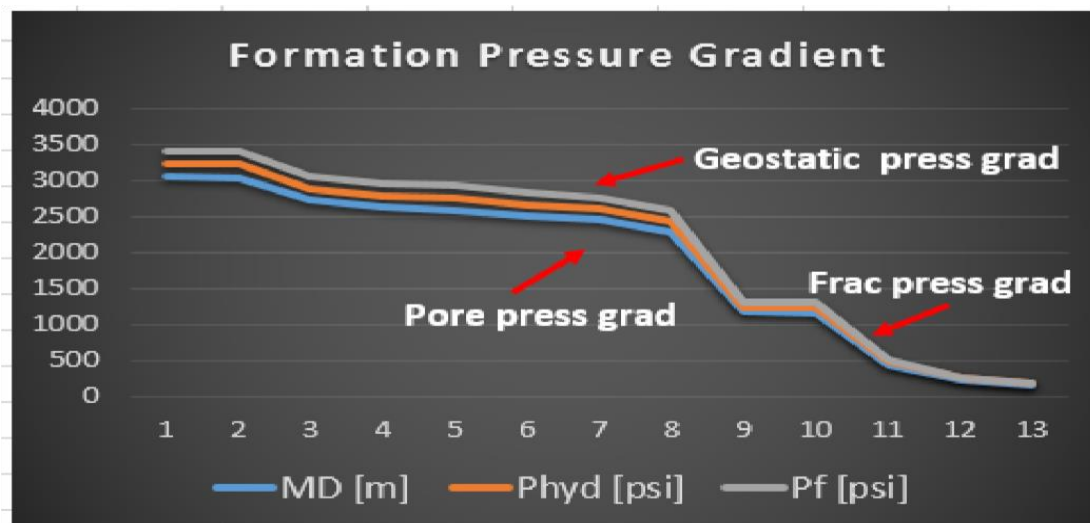
### Establishment of Pressure Regimes

There are significant pressure related issues of concern in oil and gas well drilling and production. Both high and low pressure conditions are indicative of problems that must be tackled to maintain well safety and performance. The pressure varies from well to well with offshore pressures typically higher than onshore (Bassey 2017a; Oilfield review 1998).



**Table 2:** Calculated table of values for pressures regimes

| S/N | MD [m] | MW [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ] | TVD  | Phyd [psi]      | Pf [psi] |
|-----|--------|-------------------------|------|-----------------|----------|
| 1   | 158    | 1.04                    | 3045 | 8.54464         | 8.54464  |
| 2   | 227    | 1.03                    | 3045 | <b>12.15812</b> | 12.1581  |
| 3   | 438    | 1.2                     | 3045 | 27.3312         | 27.3312  |
| 4   | 1160   | 1.21                    | 3045 | <b>72.9872</b>  | 72.9872  |
| 5   | 1165   | 1.21                    | 3045 | 73.3018         | 73.3018  |
| 6   | 2280   | 1.21                    | 3045 | <b>143.4576</b> | 143.458  |
| 7   | 2444   | 1.17                    | 3045 | 148.693         | 148.693  |
| 8   | 2496   | 1.3                     | 3045 | <b>168.7296</b> | 168.73   |
| 9   | 2570   | 1.3                     | 3045 | 173.732         | 173.732  |
| 10  | 2633   | 1.13                    | 3045 | <b>154.7151</b> | 154.715  |
| 11  | 2727   | 1.11                    | 3045 | 157.4024        | 157.402  |
| 12  | 3040   | 1.15                    | 3045 | <b>181.792</b>  | 181.792  |
| 13  | 3045   | 1.16                    | 3045 | 183.6744        | 183.674  |



**Fig 1:** Plotted pressure regimes

### The Formation Pore Pressures

The pressure increases with increase in mud density as well as depth, see Fig 3. The real hydrostatic value for sea water is very close to 0.45 psi/ft, and that of fresh water would be 0.433 psi/ft. This is so because sea water is denser with higher



pressure gradient than fresh water for the dissolve salt in sea water. The North Sea water which is of interest is approximately 0.45 psi/ft. (IWCF n.d.; Bassey 2017c). Fig 5 and 6 shows hydrostatic pressure representations.

### The calculations

The hydrostatic pressure exerted by fluid (mud) with a gradient of 1.04 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in a well 3045 meter true vertical depth (TVD). Hydrostatic pressure = mud gradient x TVD = 1.04 x 3045 = 3166.8 psi

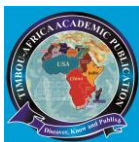
The hydrostatic pressure calculation using density in API system units we measure fluid in pounds per gallon (ppg). There will be the need for conversion between psi/ft and ppg. The constant 0.052 are used for the conversion (IWCF n.d.; Bassey 2017c). See more hydrostatic pressure calculations Fig 4 in appendices.

### Establishment of Formation Fracture Gradients

The force at which an exposed formation will rupture and allow the seepage of drilling fluid from the wellbore within it, the consequences of this is the lost circulation, or lost returns, Fig 8 (i.e fracture formations) (Bassey 2017a) hydrostatic pressure gradient ranges from 0.433 psi/ft for pure water and about 0.50 psi/ft (Bassey 2017a). The density of void water in sedimentary rocks is usually 8.95 lbm/galUS [1.073kg/m<sup>3</sup>], that establishes a normal pressure gradient of 0.465 psi/ft. Fig 7 shows abnormal pressures.

Table 3: Calculated table of values for fracture gradients

| S/N | MD [m] | MW [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ] | TVD  | Phyd [psi]      | Pf [psi] |
|-----|--------|-------------------------|------|-----------------|----------|
| 1   | 158    | 1.04                    | 3045 | 8.54464         | 8.54464  |
| 2   | 227    | 1.03                    | 3045 | <b>12.15812</b> | 12.1581  |
| 3   | 438    | 1.2                     | 3045 | 27.3312         | 27.3312  |
| 4   | 1160   | 1.21                    | 3045 | <b>72.9872</b>  | 72.9872  |
| 5   | 1165   | 1.21                    | 3045 | 73.3018         | 73.3018  |
| 6   | 2280   | 1.21                    | 3045 | <b>143.4576</b> | 143.458  |
| 7   | 2444   | 1.17                    | 3045 | 148.693         | 148.693  |
| 8   | 2496   | 1.3                     | 3045 | <b>168.7296</b> | 168.73   |
| 9   | 2570   | 1.3                     | 3045 | 173.732         | 173.732  |



|  |    |      |      |      |                 |         |
|--|----|------|------|------|-----------------|---------|
|  | 10 | 2633 | 1.13 | 3045 | <b>154.7151</b> | 154.715 |
|  | 11 | 2727 | 1.11 | 3045 | 157.4024        | 157.402 |
|  | 12 | 3040 | 1.15 | 3045 | <b>181.792</b>  | 181.792 |
|  | 13 | 3045 | 1.16 | 3045 | 183.6744        | 183.674 |

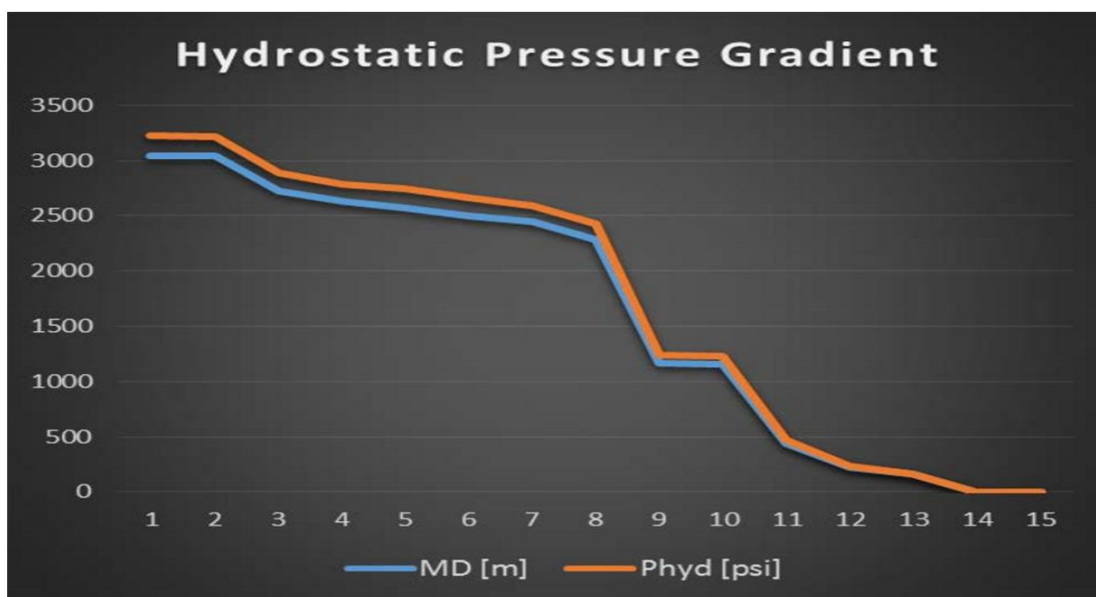


Fig 2: Plotted Fracture Gradient

## METHODOLOGY

### Drilling Programme Preparation and procedures

**Objectives of well:** Exploration of Atlat wildcat well 25/5-7, to investigate the hydrocarbon potential of the Brent reservoirs, Statfjord and tertiary formations.

**Depth of well:** 3045m

**Well location:** UK North Sea

**Targets Location:** Lat: 59° 39" 43.26" N

Long: 2° 34" 15.39" E

X: 6614003.76 NS

Y: 475823.34 EW

**Drilling rig:** semi-submersible ocean vanguard, bingo 3000 type drilling facility was chosen for Atla exploration well

**Drilling days:** The well was drilled for 61 days, however the rig experienced a power shutdown while drilling and opening up tight spots at 438m and was on



repair for 5 days from 31 August until September 2010. (Bassey 2017b; Quaife 2017a; Teodoriu&Cheuffa 2011; Warren et al., 2001; Vaughan 2012; NPD 2017). Fig. 9 and 10, shows well drilling performance and process from the North Sea, while Table 2 shows drilling technologies.

Table 4: Atla Exploration Well Casing Design and Selections.

| Hole Depth [M]                  | Hole Dia. [M]          | Casing Dia [M]           | Casing Depth [M] | Casing Type                                                                |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Drill to 223.0 and run anchors  | hole section 36''      | run and cement 30''      | Cased to 220.0   | Conductor casing<br><b>Note:</b> for deep water drilling                   |
| Drill to 1149.0 and run anchors | Hole section 9 7/9 ''  | Run and cement 9 7/8 ''  | Cased to 1140.0  | Surface casing<br><b>Note:</b> due to shallow gas low risk, sea water      |
| Drill to 1157.0 and run anchors | Hole section 17 1/2 '' | Run and cement 13 3/8 '' | Cased to 1150.0  | Surface casing<br><b>Note:</b> Run BOP and test                            |
| Drill to 2570.0 and run anchors | Hole section 12 1/4 '' | Run and cement 9 5/8 ''  | Cased to 2560.0  | Intermediate casing<br><b>Note:</b> log drilling, as per logging programme |
| Drill to 2800.0 and run anchors | Hole section 8 1/2 ''  | Run and cement 7 1/2 ''  | Cased to 2755.0  | Production casing                                                          |
| Drill to 3045.0 and run anchors | Hole section 6 1/2 ''  | Run and cement 5 1/2 ''  | Cased to 3045.0  | Liner casing<br><b>Note:</b> abandonment indicative                        |

Sources: (NPD 2017)

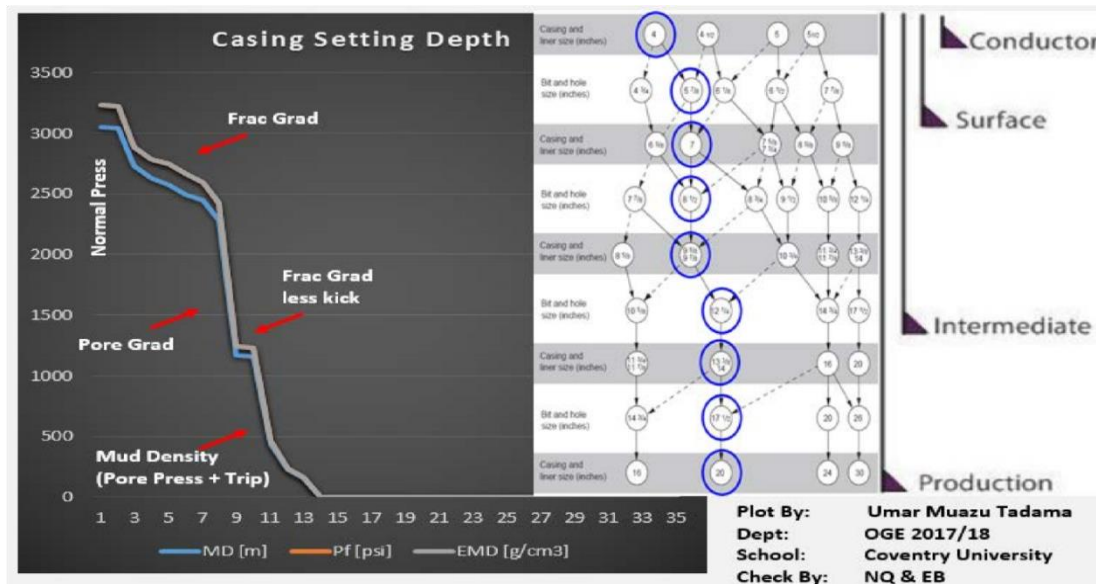


Fig 3: Plotted Casing Depths against Sizes



These casing were tested for the following design factors:  $P_B$ ;  $P_C$ ;  $P_T$ ; and  $P_{TR}$ , for ranges of factors 1.0-1.33, 1.0-1.125, 1.0-2.0, and 1.25 respectively.

1 **Burst load**

$$(P_B) = P_i - P_e$$

**Collapse load**

$$(P_C) = P_e - P_i$$

3 **Tensile load**

$$(P_T) = P_{tb} - P_{ta}$$

4 **Triaxial loads**

$$(P_{TR}) = p_r + p_a + p_t$$

Where  $P_i$  = internal loads;  $P_e$  = external loads;  $P_{ta}$  = tension in casing above;  $P_{tb}$  = tension in casing below;  $P_r$  = radial loads;  $P_a$  = axial loads;  $P_t$  = tangential loads.

**Sample calculations**

The external and internal pressures for a surface casing are measured at 2704psi and 1788.8 psi respectively.

Calculate the burst and collapse pressures within the casing.

$$P_B = P_i - P_e = 2704 - 1788.8 = 915.2 \text{ psi}$$

$$P_C = P_e - P_i = 1788.8 - 2704 = -915.2 \text{ psi}$$

These Casing runs from the top surface up till the bottom of the TVD, firmly connected to the formation using cement. (Bassey 2017c; Devold 2013; Vaughan 2012). Fig 9 shows typical casing design for central North Sea while Fig 23 and 14 gives casing sizes and selections, as table 4 shows the design.

**Wellhead Selection Programme**

They are different types of well head ranging from surface wellheads such as jack up, fixed or movable platform rig to subsea wellheads such as semi-submersible ocean vanguard, (Ifelebuegu 2017a&b). Fig 15 shows types of wellheads. **Atlas Wellhead**

Semi-submersibles ocean vanguard was chosen for Atla exploration well drilling up of 119m water depth for conventional vanguard system. Derrick rig hoisting was employed and the rig rotation was top drive, circulatory system was adequate and maintain (Bassey 2017b; Adams 2012).

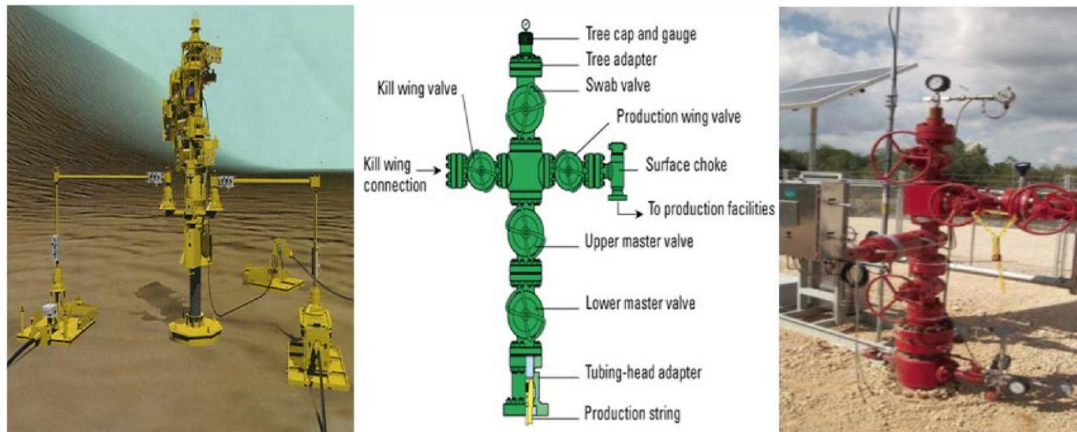


Fig 5: wet and dry wellheads with the sectional view of its components (ifelebuegu 2017a&b)

### Blow out Preventer (BOP) Requirement

This is a defensive mechanism for operators and the well to prevent the escape of underground fluids and subsequent blowout that may occurred due to excessive pressure within the formation, it consist of BOPs and associated safety valves installed on the casing head before drilling forward after rigging (Bassey 2017b; OSHA 2017; NAS 2017). See Fig 6 subsea BOP.

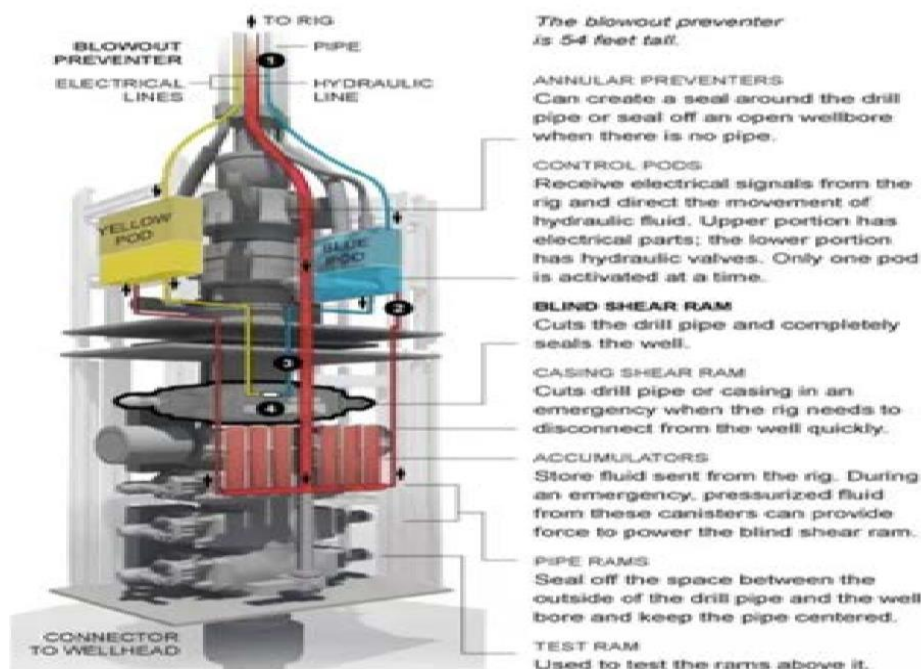


Fig 6: Deepwater horizons BOP showing different sections (OSHA 2017)

### Cementing Programme

Atla is an oil exploration well hence API class G cement was used because of its moderate and high sulphate resistance as well as its moderate and high pressure and temperature resistance.

Table 5: Calculated Water- to –cement ratio for class G cement

| Slurry Weight [ppg] | Cement Required [lb] | Water Required [US gal] | Bentonite Required [lb] |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14.2                | 8.2                  | 0.66                    | 0.33                    |
| 13.2                | 6.7                  | 0.73                    | 0.54                    |
| 12.6                | 5.6                  | 0.76                    | 0.67                    |

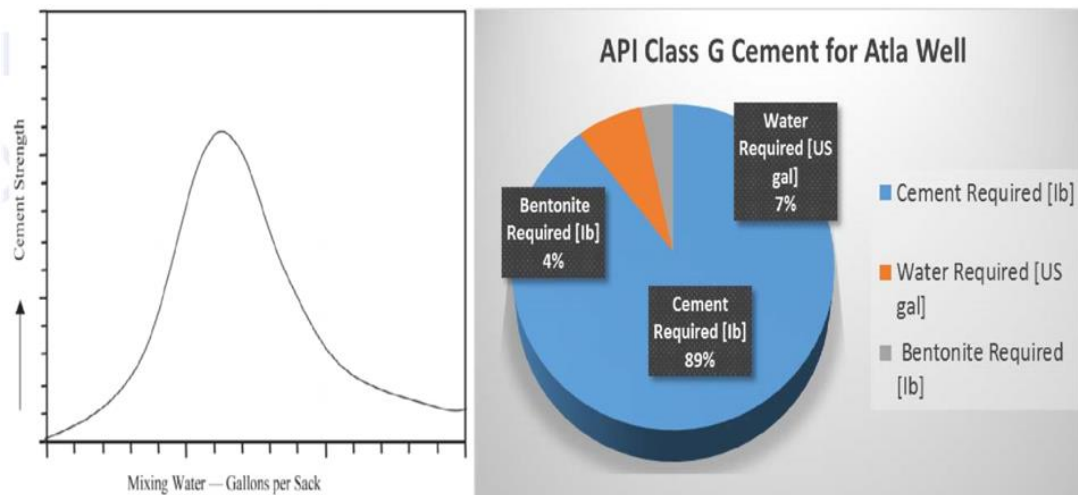


Fig. 6: plotted cement requirement and composition for API class G cement atlas well.

### Sample Calculations Atla Well Cementing

Consider a class G single stage cementing job for 9<sup>5/8</sup> casing in Atla well below, with slurry density 15.9ppg, cement density of 1.14ft/sk, water to cement ration of 4.96gal/sk, with 2% retarders and 1% friction reducers, and assume 20% excess in open hole.

| Casing [inch]     | Type | Casing Depth [ft] | Volume of Slurry [lb/ft] | Volumetric Capacity. [ft <sup>3</sup> /ft] |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>5/8</sup>  |      | 14,100            | 47                       | 0.411                                      |
| 12 <sup>1/4</sup> |      | 14,110            | 58                       | 0.8185                                     |
| 13 <sup>3/8</sup> |      | 6500              | 68                       | 0.3132                                     |



**Volume between casing and hole**

Volumetric =  $0.3132 \text{ ft}^3/\text{ft}$   
Annular vol. =  $2800 \times 0.3132 = 877 \text{ ft}^3$   
20% excess =  $175 \text{ ft}^3$   
Total vol. =  $1052 \text{ ft}^3$

**Total volume** =  $1052 + 25 + 10 = 1087 \text{ ft}^3$   
= total cement slurry volume

**Number of sacks of cement** =  $1087/1.14 = 954$  sacks

**Volume of mixwater** =  $954 \times 4.96 = 4732 \text{ gal}$

**Amount of additives** = retarders D13R (0.2%)  
 $0.002 \times 954 \times 94 = 180 \text{ lb}$

= reducers D65 (1%)  
 $0.01 \times 954 \times 94 = 897 \text{ lb}$   
0.02

**Displacement volume** =  $0.4110 \times 14040 = 5770 \text{ ft}^3 = 1028 \text{ bbls}$   
surface liner  $1028 + 2 = 1030 \text{ bbls}$

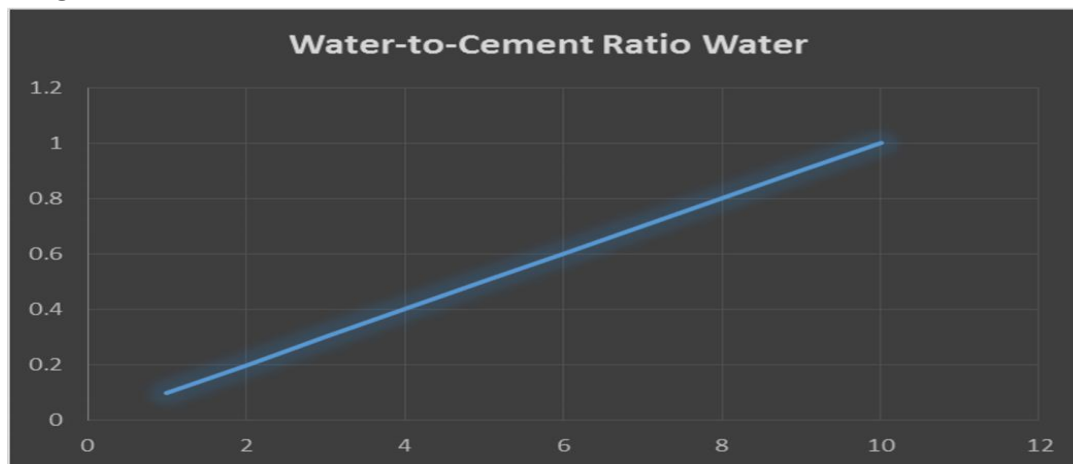
**Number of strokes** =  $1030/0.138 = 7464$  strokes

**Volume below the float collar**

Volumetric =  $0.4110 \text{ ft}^3/\text{ft}$   
Vol.  $60 \times 0.4110 = 25 \text{ ft}^3$

**Volume in the rat hole**  
Volumetric =  $0.8185 \text{ ft}^3/\text{ft}$   
Vol =  $10 \times 0.8185 = 8.19 \text{ ft}^3$   
20% excess =  $1.8 \text{ ft}^3$

The maximum strength for water-to-cement ratio for this design is found at about 2.8 gal/sack of class G cement.



**Fig 7:** Plotted water-to-cement ratio for class G cement

Cementing is pumped down to the annulus through the casing into the open hole beneath the casing string Fig 17 (Bassey 2017d). Table 5 shows the info summary for cement while table 6 mentions the cementing operating techniques.



### Directional Well Drilling Programme

Majority wells drilled for oil and gas exploration or production objectives are vertical wells-drilled straight down into the earth. However, drilling at an angle other than  $90^\circ$  to obtain information, hit targets and to stimulate reservoirs in manners that can not be achieved vertically. Sidetrack well are of two forms as shown in the Fig 18 and 19. below (Bassey 2017d; Vaughan 2012).

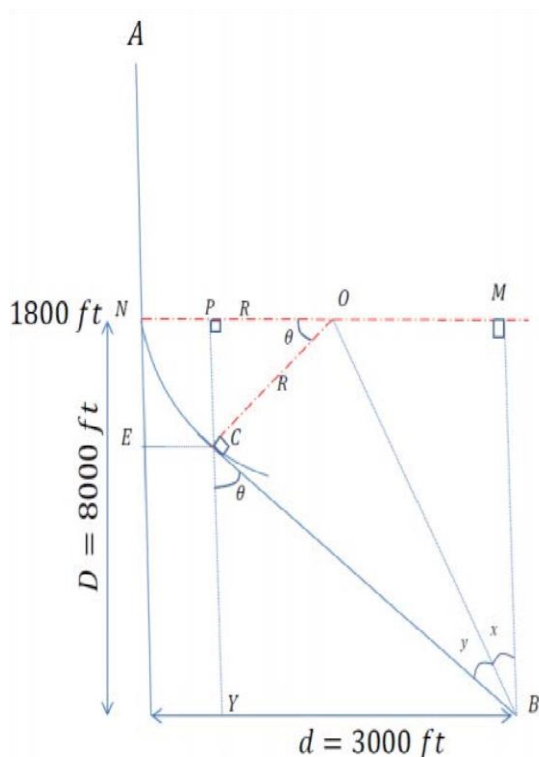
Side tracking Atlaexploratiuon well from 1800 ft with the build and hold profile with the following details: Build up rate:  $2.2^\circ/100$  ft

Target depth: 3045 ft

HD: 3000 ft

### The radius of buildup section:

$$\frac{v}{360} = \frac{100\text{ft}}{2\pi R} \quad R = \frac{36000}{2\pi(2.2)} = 2291 \text{ ft}$$



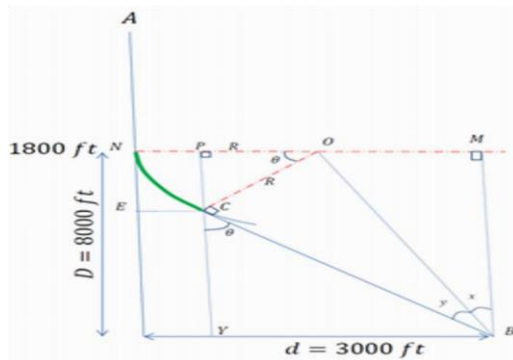
$$R = 2292 \text{ ft}$$

$$\tan x = \frac{d - R}{D} = \frac{3000 - 2292}{8000} = 0.0885 \rightarrow x = 5.1$$

$$\sin y = \frac{R}{D} = \frac{R \cos x}{D} = \frac{2292 \cos(5.1)}{8000} = 0.285$$

$$y = 16.6$$

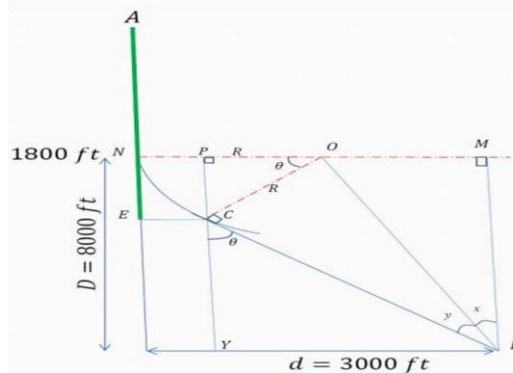
$$\theta = x + y = 5.1 + 16.6 = 21.7$$



MD of build section

$$R = 2292 \text{ ft} \quad \theta = 21.7$$

$$\frac{\theta}{360} = \frac{NC}{2\pi R} = \frac{\theta}{360} = \frac{NC}{2\pi(2292)} \quad NC = 867.6 \text{ ft}$$

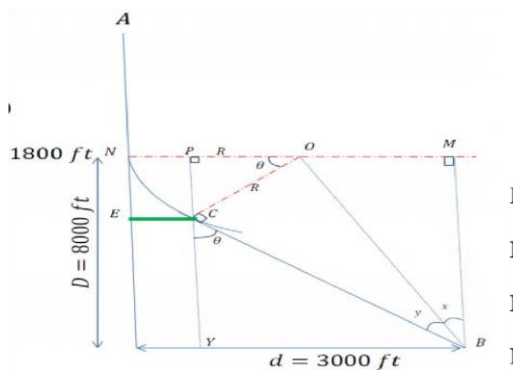


**TVD at the end of build section:**

$$R = 2292 \text{ ft} \quad \theta = 21.7$$

$$AE = AN + NE = AN + R \cos \theta$$

$$AE = 1800 + 2292 \sin 21.7 = 2647.5 \text{ ft}$$

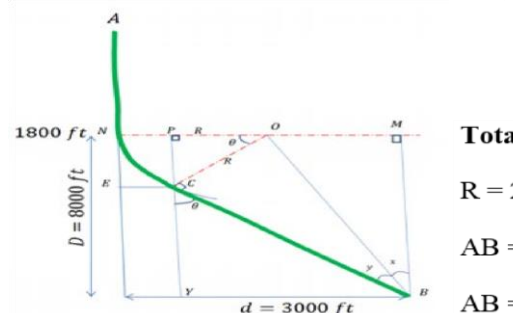


**Displacement at the end of build section:**

$$R = 2292 \text{ ft} \quad \theta = 21.7$$

$$EC = ON - OP = R - R \cos \theta = R(1 - \cos \theta)$$

$$EC = 2292(1 - \cos 21.7) = 162.4 \text{ ft}$$



**Total measurement depth:**

$$R = 2292 \text{ ft} \quad \theta = 21.7$$

$$AB = AN + NC + CB$$

$$AB = 1800 + 867.6 + (OC / \tan y) = 10359 \text{ ft}$$

**Drilling Fluids (Mud) Programme**

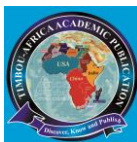


Table 6: Principle components and characteristics of atlas well drilling fluids

| Fluids Type     | Principle Components                        | General Characteristics                                                                                    | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Simple seawater | Sea water and hi-vis sweeps down to 1160m   | Low cost, offshore applications, bentonite and barite may be added to increase cuttings-carrying capacity  | Several tight spots were encountered because of the thin viscosity and insufficient cleaning by the seawater. The rig experienced a shutdown at 438m for 123.75 hrs, because of tight spots. |
| Spud mud        | Non-aqueous oil based mud from 1160m to TVD | Moderate cost, low press shallow reservoirs, water used to increase density and cuttings-carrying capacity | Reached the targets depth because of its thick viscosity and weighting properties. Strong environmental restriction may apply                                                                |

Source: (Quaife 2017 a,b,&c; IOM n.d.).

### Drilling Bit Programme

Selecting the bit for Atla well using the outstep data available for three nearby well to determine which bit gives the lowest drilling cost at an operating cost of \$400/hr for trip time of 7 hours.

#### Note that:

- All three bits are hybrid bit that combined the used of both PDC to shear formations and rollers to crush it.
- Each bit operates at near minimum cost per foot attainable for it.
- $F = \text{mean penetration rate (ft/hr)} \times \text{rotating time (hr)}$

Table 7: Types of drill bit operation and cost implication

| Bit | Bit Cost (\$) | Rotating Time (hours) | Connection Time (non-rotating) (hours) | M. Penetration Rate (ft/hr) |
|-----|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A   | 800           | 14.8                  | 0.1                                    | 13.8                        |
| B   | 4,900         | 57.7                  | 0.4                                    | 12.6                        |
| C   | 4,500         | 95.8                  | 0.5                                    | 10.2                        |

#### Solutions:

The cost per foot drilled for each bit are calculated using the equation below.

$$C = \frac{C_b + (T_r + T_{nr} + T_t) C_r}{F}$$

Where:

- C = overall cost per foot (\$/foot)
- C<sub>b</sub> = cost of bit (\$)
- T<sub>r</sub> = rotating time with bit on bottom (hrs)
- T<sub>nr</sub> = total non-rotating time, hrs
- T<sub>t</sub> = round Trip time (hrs)
- C<sub>r</sub> = Cost of operating rig (\$/hrs)
- F = Footage

Bit A cost per foot =  $\frac{800 (14.8 + 0.1 + 7) 400}{13.8 (14.8)}$

=

\$46.81/ft Results for

bit B and C below:

Bit B: \$42.56/ft

Bit C: \$46.89/ft

The lowest drilling cost per foot was obtained from bit B, however it has the highest operating cost but longest life span and an intermediate ROP. It is therefore chosen for Atla well drilling (Quaife 2017b; Pessier and Damschen 2010). Fig 22 shows type of bits. Fig 23 shows drill bit performance while Table 8 shows bit selection for Atla well.

### Well Evaluation and Test Requirement Programme

There are number of factors and events seeable and un-seeable which affect the time and cost to drilling a well (Kaiser, 2007; Bassey 2017c&d).

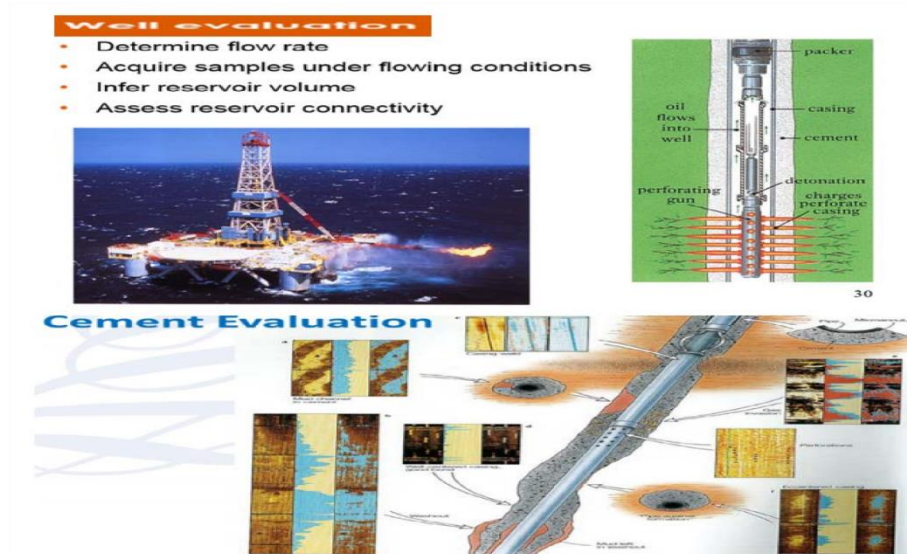


Fig 7 well and cement evaluation (Bassey 2017c&d)

## Authorization for Expenditure (AFE)

AFE involves the preparation of cost estimates for drilling a well and obtaining management approval as the final step in well planning. AFE are often accompanied together with projected payout schedule or forecast (Quaife 2017a). see table 10 and 11. Before getting the approval to drill a well the drilling operator must prepare an AFE- Fig 25 shows operational procedures and time depth graph. Graphs A, B, and C Fig 25 is arranged clockwise starting from top left and are described as follows: (A) Comparison planned versus actual Time of each section in Atla well; (B) Graph of planned and actual day versus depth of Atla well (C) Comparison of productive time versus non-productive time of Atla well.

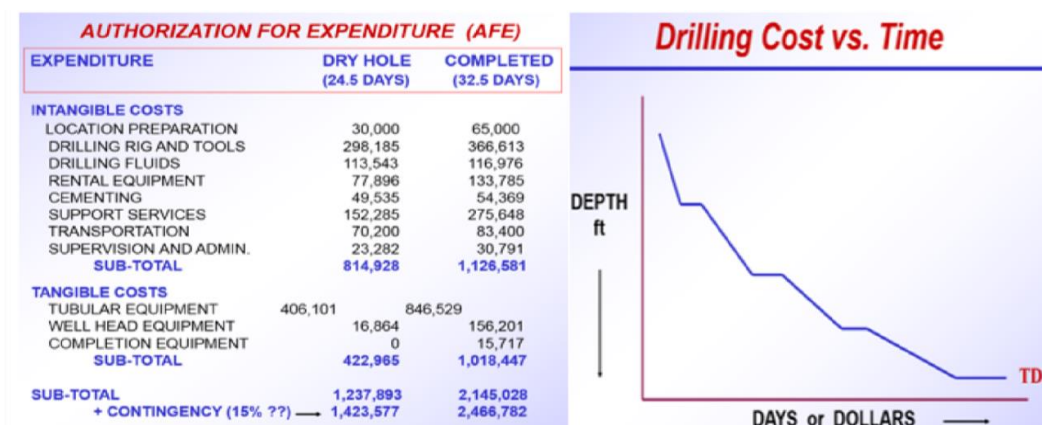


Fig 8: authorization for expenditure and dept time graph

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results showed that all potential reservoirs in the tertiary were found water bearing. The Brent reservoir was found gas bearing. The statfjord was found water wet. Petrophysical interpretation indicated that the Brent reservoir has a net-to-gross of 93%, an average effective porosity of 17.5% and water saturation of 12%. The MDT results showed that the mobility in reservoirs are high and that the gas density is 0.26 g/cc. One 54m core with 100% recovery was cut from 2690m down to 2744m covering most of the Brent reservoir sands. MDT gas samples with condensate were taken at 2708m and at 2689m. New rules and regulations following the Deepwater Horizon, and other subsea incidences have really resulted in significant changes to subsea well design, especially in the design of casing, to achieve casing collapse integrity, heavy



wall 14<sup>1/2</sup> inch casing is now commonly used at the intermediate casing strings (Bassey 2017c; Quaife 2017a). According to (Decom World 2017) a recent estimate suggested that 34% of North Sea wells face integrity issues today.

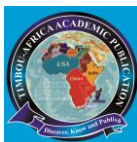
## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Atlat well info summary in Fig 1, has a long history of oil and gas discovery, Atla is an exploration well dug to determine the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons and to provide geological data for wire, cores and logs evaluation and testing production potential (Quaife 2017a; DWSSP2012; Fact 2013; NPD 2017; SEA 2001; SEA 2001a).

- Subsea drilling, horizontal and directional allow producers to tap reserves in old reservoirs or areas previously not considered economically feasible.
- Oil producers should reconsidered ways to downsize the number of physical devices utilization in control circuit in order to improve the reliability of local control, by using network node and PID controller all in one package.
- Oil producers should ensure that critical components are operating safely and the process shuts down if any incident should occur.
- All produce fluids, drill chips, cement, cement returns, acid wash, scaling and other solids should be captured, and classified, recycled or disposed, hazardous waste should be segregated to prevent contamination of non-hazardous materials

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