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Losing or securing supply: The potential of undeveloped gas discoveries to boost the UK's energy security

Claire Black, Welligence Energy Analytics May 2025



Agenda

Setting the scene – UK supply and demand

Remaining undeveloped gas discoveries

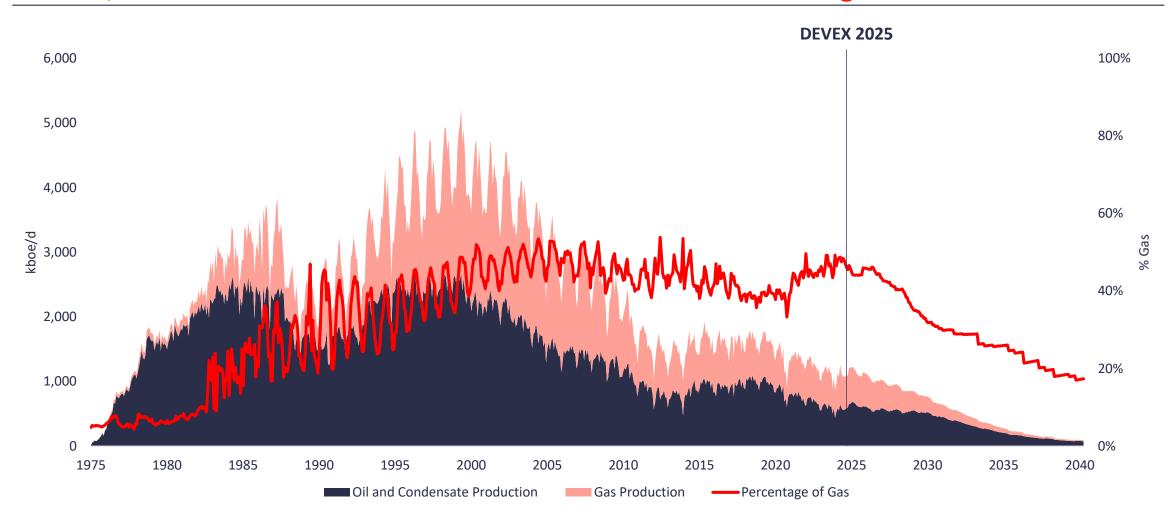
Focus: Southern North Sea & West of Shetlands

Conclusion



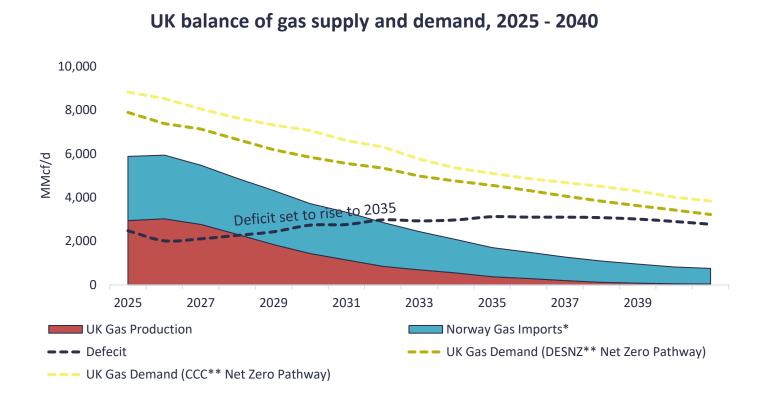
Setting the scene – UK production

To date, the UKCS has delivered over 28 bnbbl oil and 17 bnboe gas



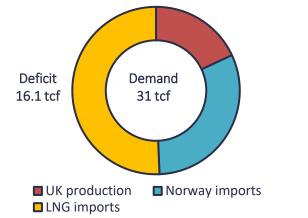
There is an acute need for more domestic gas...

Dictated by demand, emissions targets and security of supply

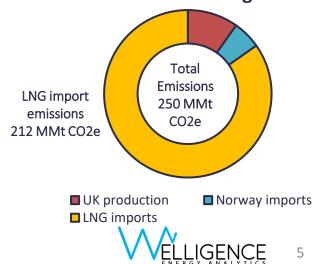


 LNG is expected to deliver 51% of gas demand, but will be responsible for over 80% of emissions

Gas volumes to meet demand to 2040



Associated emissions in meeting demand to 2040



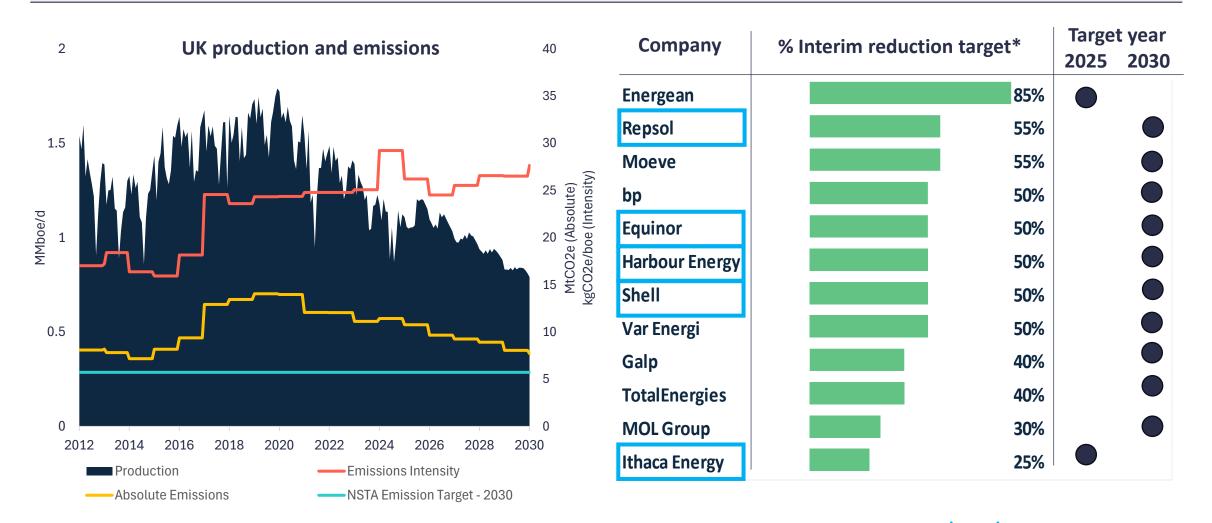
Source: Welligence Energy Analytics and NSTA

^{*}Gas imports are assumed to remain proportionally the same as 2022 - 22.5% of Norway production.

^{**}DESNZ (Dept. for Energy Security and Net Zero); CCC (Climate Change Committee).

...coupled with a need to reduce emissions

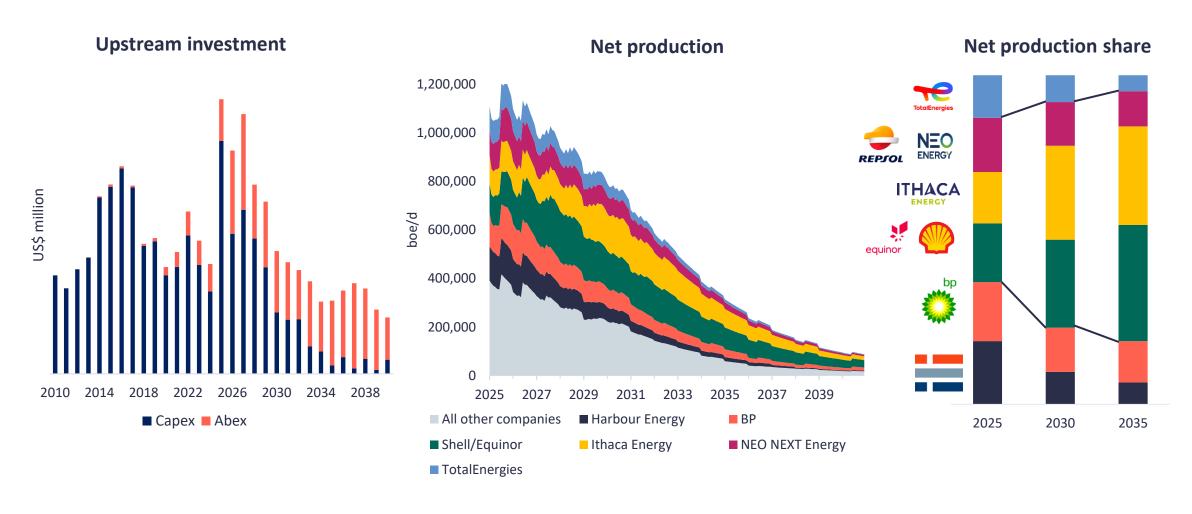
In Europe, both regulators and companies are setting emissions reduction targets





Setting the scene – UK investment and company production

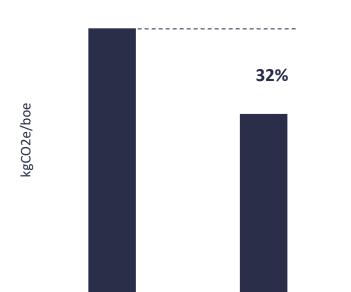
Capital investment is entering a decline and the top producers are changing



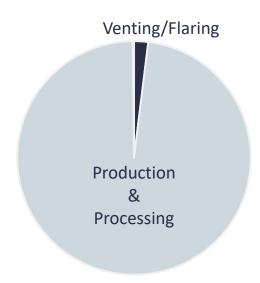
Impact of exploration success on hub emissions - Selene example

Delivering new gas production and reducing emissions intensity – an example win-win

Remaining emissions intensity

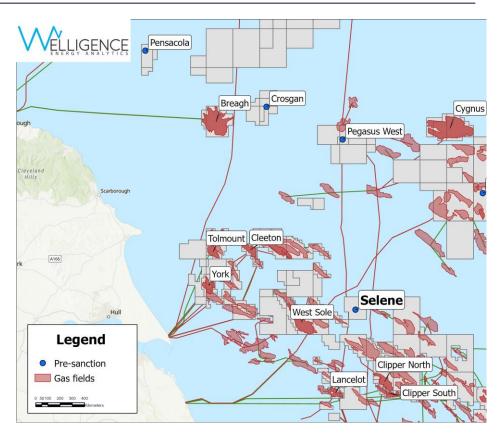


Clipper hub emissions sources



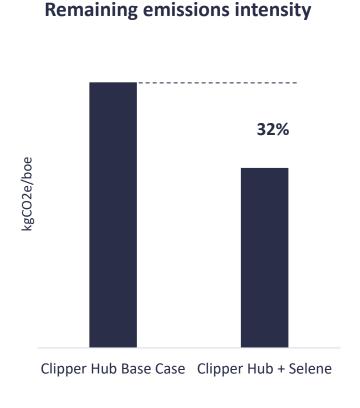
Clipper Hub Base Case Clipper Hub + Selene

- Selene is an example of tieback development which has the potential to materially reduce emissions intensity of the host hub
- Infrastructure proximity, emissions profile, hub capacity and timing all play a part

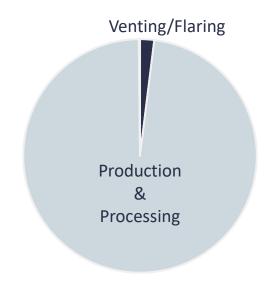


Impact of exploration success on hub emissions - Selene example

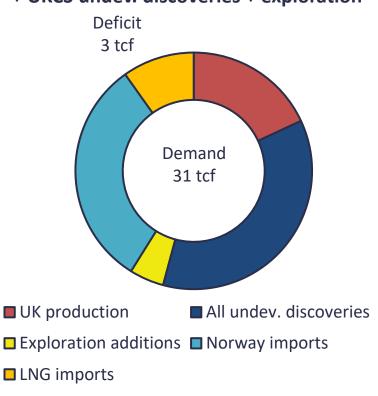
Delivering new gas production and reducing emissions intensity – an example win-win







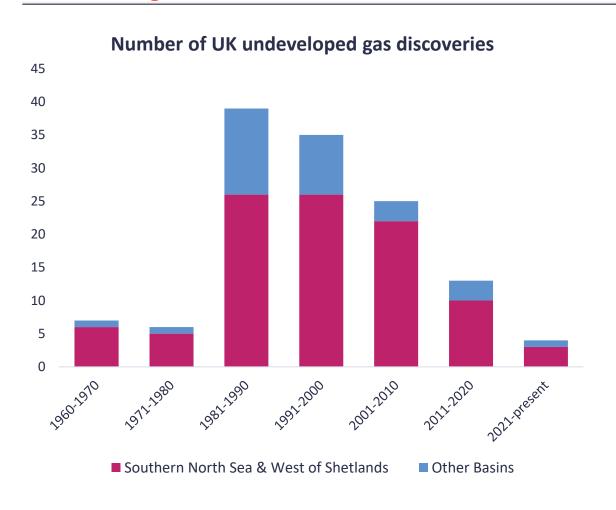
Gas volumes to meet demand to 2040 + UKCS undev. discoveries + exploration



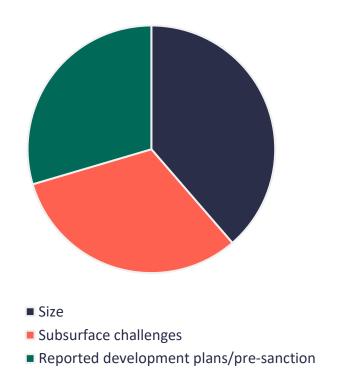
Scale this up – what impact could upside have on the UK's gas supply/demand balance?

Remaining undeveloped gas discoveries

Over 120 gas discoveries – all at risk of remaining undeveloped



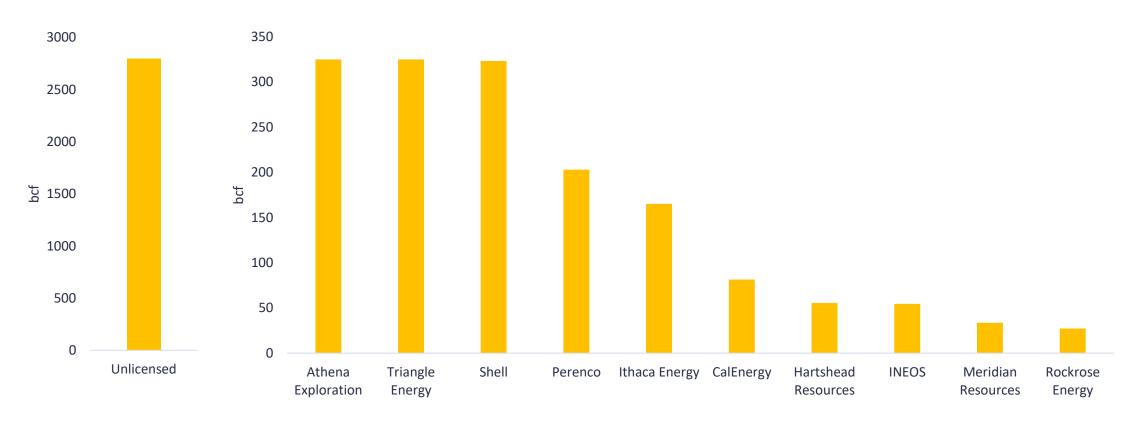
UK undeveloped gas discoveries in Southern North Sea and West of Shetlands



Who owns the gas resources?

Supportive fiscal regime essential to progress developments

Net gas resources by company (top ten) in the Southern North Sea and West of Shetlands



Southern North Sea

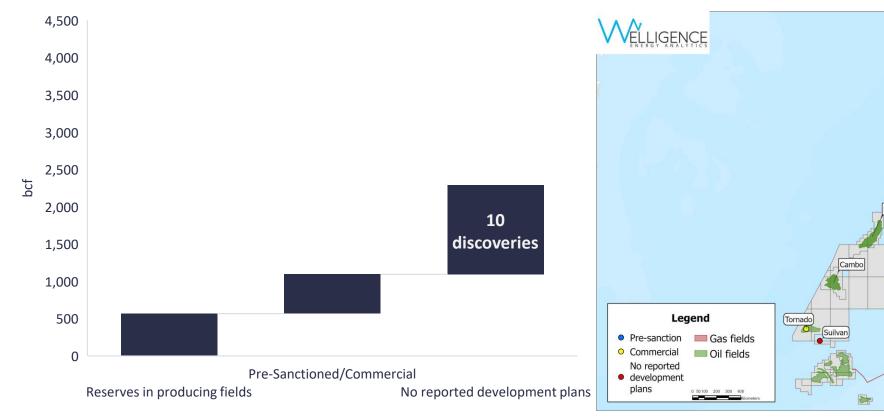
Smaller discoveries and ageing infrastructure



• Only four hubs anticipated to be producing post 2030 requiring urgency to ensure commercial discoveries are developed in time.

West of Shetlands

Big discoveries and longevity in the basin



- Significant developments will bring investment and longevity to the basin.
- However, there is **over 500 bcf** remaining in unlicensed acreage in the basin which is at risk of remaining undeveloped.



Cragganmore

Laxford

N. Laggan

Bombardier

What needs to be done?

- Increasing domestic gas supply will reduce reliance on LNG imports and with it, emissions, while boosting tax revenues, jobs and supply chain.
- Welligence identifies two key things required for increasing domestic gas supply:
 - 1. The right fiscal environment that incentivises new gas developments.
 - 2. An industry roadmap on how it can be achieved.
- Importantly, these have been achieved previously therefore not challenging to implement.
- In addition, licensing rounds need to continue.



SETTING THE STANDARD IN ENERGY RESEARCH AND ANALYTICS