

A black and white photograph showing several workers in full-body protective suits and boots running across a wet, reflective surface. The workers are in motion, with their legs and feet visible in the foreground. In the background, there are industrial structures, including a large building and a crane, under an overcast sky.

# Archer

## Piper Alpha (A Moment for Safety)

2014 IADC Health, Safety Environment & Training Conference & Exhibition  
Omni Hotel West Houston,  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Archer**  
The well company

## Offshore experience 1983 - 1988

**Archer**

**Brae Alpha**



**North Alwyn**

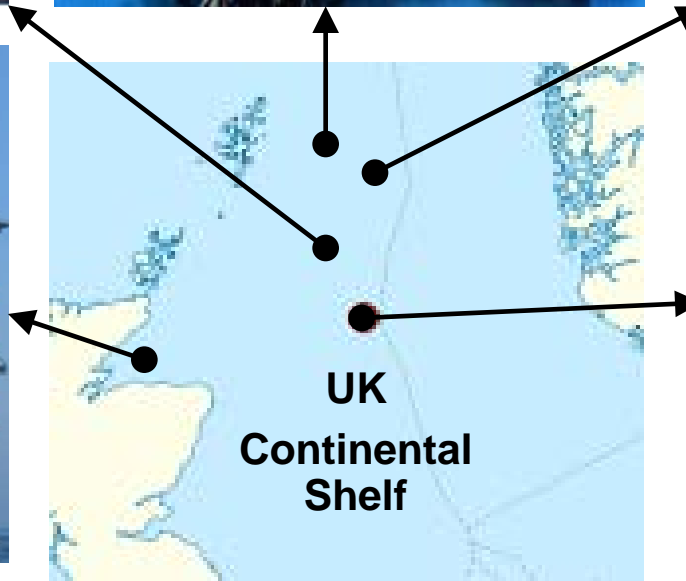


**Brent Alpha**



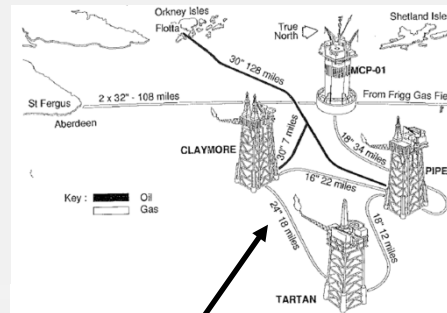
**Beatrice Alpha**

**Forties Alpha**



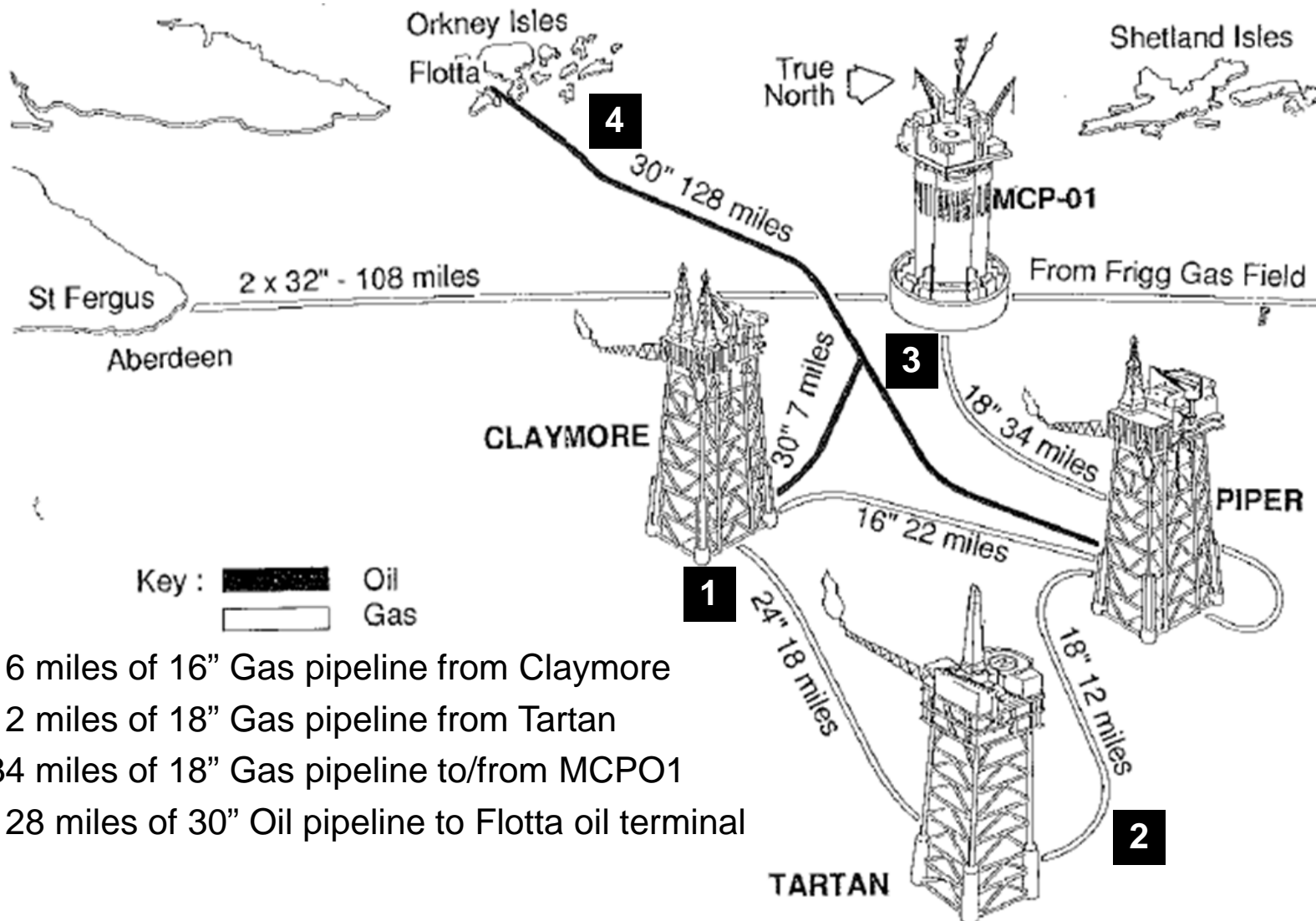
# Piper Alpha – Where did it all take place

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# Piper Alpha – Field location & pipeline network



# Piper Alpha, One of the first platforms in the UKCS

- Discovered 1973
- Started Production 1976
- Peak production 300,000 bbls a day 1978

6<sup>th</sup> July 1988

- Crude Production 138,000 bbls
- Gas Condensate 7,500 bbls
- Gas from Claymore & Tartan 43 MMSCF
- Gas throughput from MCPO1 51 MMSCF



## •On Going Activities

- Installation of a Chanter field production riser
- Change out of Gas Compressor Module
- Structural Modifications to process modules
- Overhaul of the physical metering skids
- Maintenance work on the gas lift lines
- PSV recertification campaign
- Full Drilling Operations
- Night time Diving Operations

## Piper Alpha, 22:02hrs 6th July 1988

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- **6<sup>th</sup> July 1988 22:00hrs First explosion had just taken place**
- **Main fire water deluge system was rendered inoperable by the blast**
- **The radio room was overcome by smoke**
- **The control room was partially destroyed**
- **Access to the lifeboats was accessible**



## Piper Alpha, 22:20hrs 6th July 1988

- Main Gas supply pipeline from Tartan explodes and ruptures
- Situation is clearly escalated out of control
- Helideck unreachable for air evacuation
- Rescue vessel Tharos tried but was unable to start Fire-fighting equipment
- There were already people being rescued from sea



## Piper Alpha, 22:50hrs 6th July 1988

- Main Gas Pipeline from MCPO1 explodes platform completely engulfed in flames
- Fire being fuelled by ruptured Gas and Oil Pipe Lines some as long as 30 miles
- Claymore platform at this time was still pumping Gas into the pipeline





## Piper Alpha, 10:00hrs 7th July 1988

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- 60% of the platform has disappeared beneath the sea
- Still burning through ruptured wells
- Still missing people although presumed dead
- Death toll 165
- Survivors 61



# Remembering Piper – the night that changed our world

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