Geological description of five vibrocores from the South Pod Site, Store fisker Banke area, Danish North Sea

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF DENMARK AND GREENLAND MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



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Five vibrocorings were carried out as part of a site survey by Gardline Surveys Ltd. for Amarada Hess Limited as operator in the Danish Block 5604/30 (Gardline Surveys Ltd. 2001).

The cores have been delivered to GEUS by DONG according to law no. 293, § 34, of 10. June 1981 and no. 13 of 7. January 1991.

Geological description of vibrocores

Location

Amarada Hess Ltd presented five vibrocores from block 5604/30 from a site called South Pod to GEUS. The name South Pod is a temporary name as no well has yet been drilled. The South Pod site is situated at 56°01'20" N 04°17'50"E. The vibrocores are located in a 2km x 2km survey area. The area is situated in the southern part of the Store Fisker Banke area bordering the Tail End area. The position of the cores is indicated on the map, Enclosure 1, and given on the table, Enclosure 2.

Geological setting

The proposed South Pod hydrocarbon well site is situated in the Danish Central Graben area (Enclosure 3).

According to the industrial report (Gardline Surveys Ltd. 2001) the seabed is practically flat, and water depths in the survey area range from 53.5 to 54.8 m, slightly increasing to the north west.

In the seismics the shallow sediments are generally made up of continuous sequences of seabed parallel reflectors. A broad shallow channel is observed to the east of the survey area reaching > 20 m below seabed.

The sediment above the first mapped reflector comprises a veneer of fine sand, as observed on the seabed, underlain by a unit of very soft clay, which is approximately 2-3 m thick. A unit of fine sand underlies this. The first reflector is situated around 5 m below seabed. The underlying sequence of seabed parallel reflectors is expected to comprise interbedded sand, silt and clay. In the upper part of this sequence a series of poorly defined channels are observed to truncate deeper channels to a maximum depth of 91 m below seabed.

A seismic marker horizon at 358 m below seabed could represent the Base Quaternary, but this is not confirmed.

Sedimentological core log

The result of the geological description of the core **DGU no. 560430.17**, Havb 131-31-590013, Gardline Survey South Pod VC2, is given in Enclosure 5.

The upper 0.17 m of this 3.50 m core is made up of silty, very fine sand with many shells and shell fragments. The section to 1.57 m core depth is made up of a laminated heterolith of slightly silty to sticky clay, and of silty, very fine sand. This heterolith is bioturbated with few shell fragments. The section 1.57 - 2.56 m is made up of fine silty sand, partly laminated with clayey laminae, partly bioturbated with few shells and shell fragments. In the section 2.56 - 2.80 m a silty, faintly laminated clay with fine sand laminae occurs. The lower part of the core is made up of fine sand with rootlets and peaty laminae. The lowermost 0.12 m section of the core holds many shells and shell fragments that are interpreted to be contamination caused during coring process.

The result of the geological description of the core **DGU no. 560430.13**, Havb 131-31-590014, Gardline Survey South Pod VC3, is given in Enclosure 6.

This 5.00 m core is made up a top of 0.15 m of slightly silty fine sand with many shell fragments. The section 0.15 - 1.83 m consists of laminated or bioturbated, silty, fine sand with little shell fragments. At 1.83 - 4.91 m core depth a bioturbated, sticky clay with sand pods and few shell fragments is found. The base 0.09 m of the core is fine to medium, slightly silty sand with shell fragments.

The result of the geological description of the core **DGU no. 560430.14**, Havb 131-31-590015, Gardline Survey South Pod VC4, is given in Enclosure 7.

The 3.51 m core is made up an upper part of silty, fine sand with few shell fragments, in the uppermost 0.07 m with shells and a little gyttja. The interval 0.81 - 1.20 m is a heterolith of laminated, fine, silty sand and silty clay with few shell fragments. The interval 1.20 - 1.67 m is a laminated, very silty clay with sand laminae and few shell fragments. The lower 1.84 m of the core is laminated, fine sand with few clayey laminae and few shell fragments.

The result of the geological description of the core **DGU no. 560430.15**, Havb 131-31-590016, Gardline Survey South Pod VC6, is given in Enclosure 8.

The 3.22 m core consists of an upper 1.05 m of laminated, silty, fine sand with clayey laminae in the lower part. In the section 1.05 - 2.67 m a bioturbated and laminated sticky clay with laminae of silty, fine sand is found followed by 0.18 m of bioturbated, very silty, fine sand with many shells fragments. The lowermost section of the core, below 2.85 m, is made up of laminated, slightly silty, fine sand with few plant fragments.

The result of the geological description of the core **DGU no. 560430.16**, Havb 131-31-590017, Gardline Survey South Pod VC7, is given in Enclosure 9.

The upper part of this 3.20 m core is made up of 0.87 m of silty, fine sand with few shell fragments, in the uppermost 0.20 m with few gravel size clasts and many shells. The section 0.87 - 3.45 m is a sticky, laminated, silty clay with few shell fragments and with upcore decreasing number of laminae of silty, fine sand. Underneath the clay is followed by 0.08 m of laminated, silty, fine sand with much shell fragments. The lower 0.47 m of the core is made up of laminated, slightly silty, fine sand with many peat-like laminae and plant fragments.

Core photos

The photos of the core DGU no. 560430.17 are seen in Enclosure 12a & 12b. The photos of the core DGU no. 560430.13 are seen in Enclosure 13a &13b. The photos of the core DGU no. 560430.14 are seen in Enclosure 14a & 14b. The photos of the core DGU no. 560430.15 are seen in Enclosure 15a & 15b. The photos of the core DGU no. 560430.16 are seen in Enclosure 16a & 16b.

Correlation between cores

All cores, except core 560430.15, have a top layer of varying thickness with many, comparatively large shells or shell fragments (enclosure 10 & 11). The layer may hold gravel-size clasts. The top layer seems to form the uppermost part of a section of silty, fine sand with few shell fragments. In the fine sand an (indistinct) lamination can be seen. In the lower part laminae of silty clay are identified and the sediment may (gradually) turn into a heterolith often showing bioturbation. Downcore the heterolith is mostly followed by a bioturbated, sticky clay with a varying number of silty fine sand laminae. Below the clay a bioturbated, laminated, fine sand is found with (many) shell fragments and few clayey laminae. In core 560430.17 the shelly, fine sand is underlain by a non-calcareous, faintly laminated, silty clay, which is followed downcore by a silty, fine sand including organic material. In the cores 560430.16 and 560430.15 the shelly fine sand is underlain by a laminated, slightly silty, fine sand with plant fragments, and probably compares to the fine sand in the lower part of core 560430.17 (enclosure 10).

Interpretation of genesis

Most of the cores are made up of strata including marine shells and shell fragments. These strata are marine and of Holocene age. The fine sand with organic remnants, as well as the non-calcareous clay, of the cores 560430.15, 560430.16 and 560430.17 are interpreted to be limnic deposits. They are most probably of Late Weichselian or Early Holocene age and deposited before the marine inundation of the North Sea in the Early Holocene. The lower sandy part of the marine section with (many) shells is thought to have been deposited in the early part of the marine transgression followed by the sticky clay deposited during succeeding quiet environmental conditions. The top layer with comparatively large shells and shell fragments and occasionally gravel-size clasts is probably deposited in the late Holocene after a change in the hydrographic situation (Leth 1996, Konradi 2000).

Correlation with seismic

The industrial report indicates the first reflector around 5 m below seabed in the area of the vibrocores. Information of the sediments above the reflector is based on the data from the vibrocores. The sediments below the first reflector are not disclosed in the vibrocores.

Conclusion and suggested correlation to stratigraphy

The uppermost toplayer with larger shells or shell fragments is expected to be equivalent to the Terschellingbank Member of the Nieuw Zeeland Gronden Formation (Cameron et al. 1992, Jeffery et al. 1990). The middle sections of the cores that includes an upper part with fine sand with few shell fragments which passes downcore into a middle part with a sandy to clayey heterolith or a sticky clay that is underlain by a fine sand with (many) shells or shell fragments is believed to correlate to Elbow Formation (Oele 1969). The limnic deposits of non-calcareous clay and of fine sand with organic remnants can not immediately be correlated to any known formation. From a lithological point of view the slight micaceous character of the sediment may point to correlation to the Late Weichselian Well Ground Formation (Cameron et al. 1989) even though this formation is found only south of 55° N and west of 4° in the Dutch sector. Comparing to sediments encountered in other vibrocores in the Danish sector e.g. the Nini-3 site (Konradi and Czakó 2002a) and the Hejre-1 site (Konradi and Czakó 2002b) a correlation to the Twente Formation could also be a possibility.

Holocene	Nieuw Zeeland Gronden Formation	Terschellingbank Member				
	Elbow Formation					
Late Weichselian	Well Ground Formation ? / Twente Formation ?					

Table 1: Generalised stratigraphy of the Late Weichselian and Holocene of the southern North Sea (after Cameron *et al.* 1989 and Jeffery *et al.* 1990).

Stored cores

The core DGU no. 560430.16 and core DGU no. 560430.17 are stored at the GEUS core stores for comparison and further stratigraphic studies.

Literature

Cameron, T.D.J., Schüttenhelm, R.T.E. & Laban, C. 1989: Middle and Upper Pleistocene and Holocene stratigraphy in the southern North Sea between 52° and 54° N, 2° to 4° E. *In*: Henriet J.P. & de Moor, G. (Eds.) The Quaternary and Tertiary geology of the Southern Bight, North Sea.

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- Konradi, P. and Czakó, T. 2002a: Geological description of vibrocores from the NINI-3 site, Store Fisker Banke area, Danish North Sea, Danmarks og Grønlands Geologiske Undersøgelse Rapport 2002/2
- Konradi, P. and Czakó, T. 2002b: Geological description of six vibrocores from the Hejre-1 site, Store Fisker Banke area, Danish North Sea (formerly East Gert-1 site), Danmarks og Grønlands Geologiske Undersøgelse Rapport 2002/32
- Oele, E. 1969: The Quaternary geology of the Dutch part of the North Sea, north of the Frisian Islands. Geologie en Mijnbouw 48, 467-480.

Enclosures

2 - 5- 560430.17 VIBROCORE LOCATION (DGU WELL No)

Scale 1:25 000

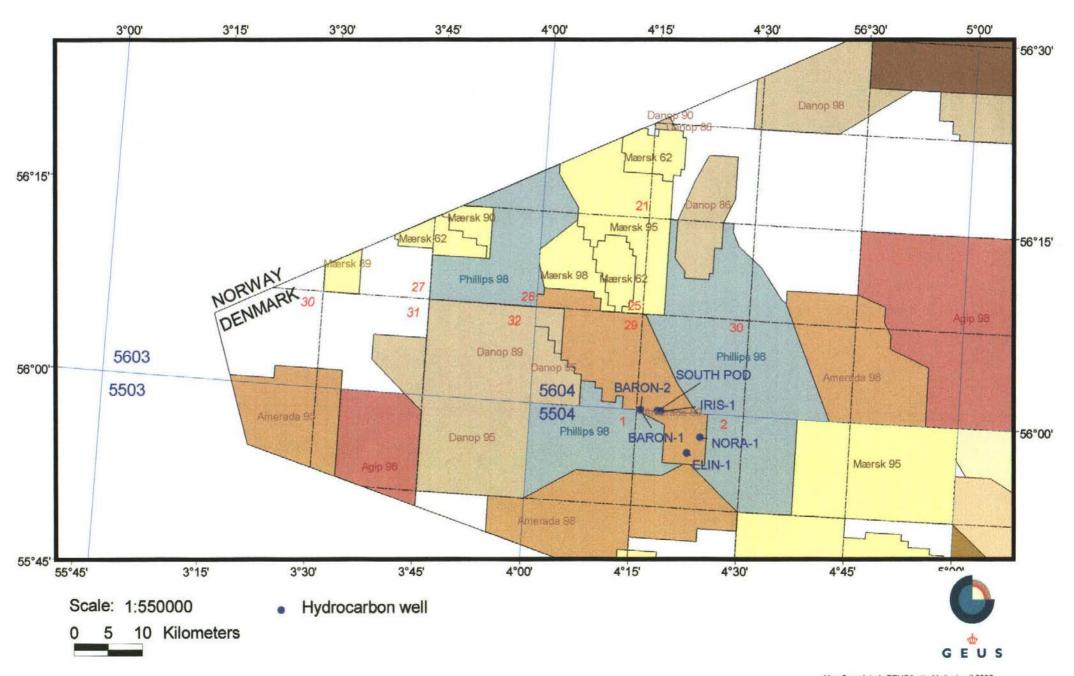
GARDLINE Figure 1.1

Vibrocores from South Pod site, Danish North Sea

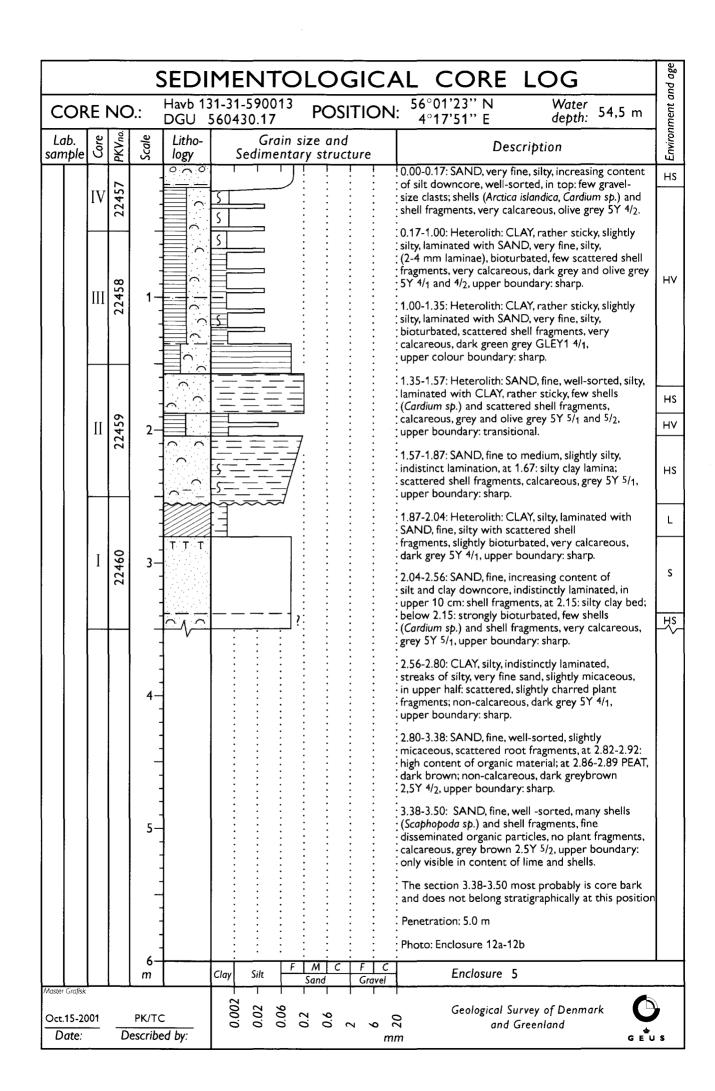
Enclosure 2

Gardlines	Core	Water	UTM	3d E	Geographic	al position	DGU Well File no	Danish North Sea Well no
sample no	Recovery	depth(m)	Easting	Northing	Latitude	Longitude	in Jupiter database	in Samba database
	depth(m)					_		
2	0.00-0.50	54.5	580880	6209544	56d01'23"N	4d17'51"E	560430.17	HAVB 131-31-590013
	0.50-1.50							
	1.50-2.50							
<u></u>	2.50-3.50							
	10.00.4.00	T 540	500050	0000000	50-104100IINI	4-14-710-4-11-	50040040	
3	0.00-1.08	54.8	580356	6209636	56d01'26"N	401/21"E	560430.13	HAVB 131-31-590014
	1.08-2.00							
	2.00-3.00	1 1						
	3.00-4.00							
	14.00-5.00]					<u> </u>	
4	0.00-0.61	55	581005	6210064	56d01'39"N	4d18'59"E	560430.14	HAVB 131-31-590015
	0.61-1.61							
	1.61-2.61							
	2.61-3.51							
6	0.00-0.48	54.2	581379	6209285	56d01'14"N	4d18'19"E	560430.15	HAVB 131-31-590016
J	0.48-1.42	j						
	1.42-2.42							
	2.42-3.32							
	<u>la aaaa</u>	540	5000.10	0000010	50 104100 11	4 14 = 14 4 11 =	500,400,40	LLAN (D. 404 O4 500047
7	0.00-1.00	54.6	580340	6209640	56d01'03"N	4d1/'41"E	560430.16	HAVB 131-31-590017
	1.00-2.00							
	2.00-3.00							
	3.00-4.00							

Enclosure 3: Location map of South Pod site, Danish North Sea.

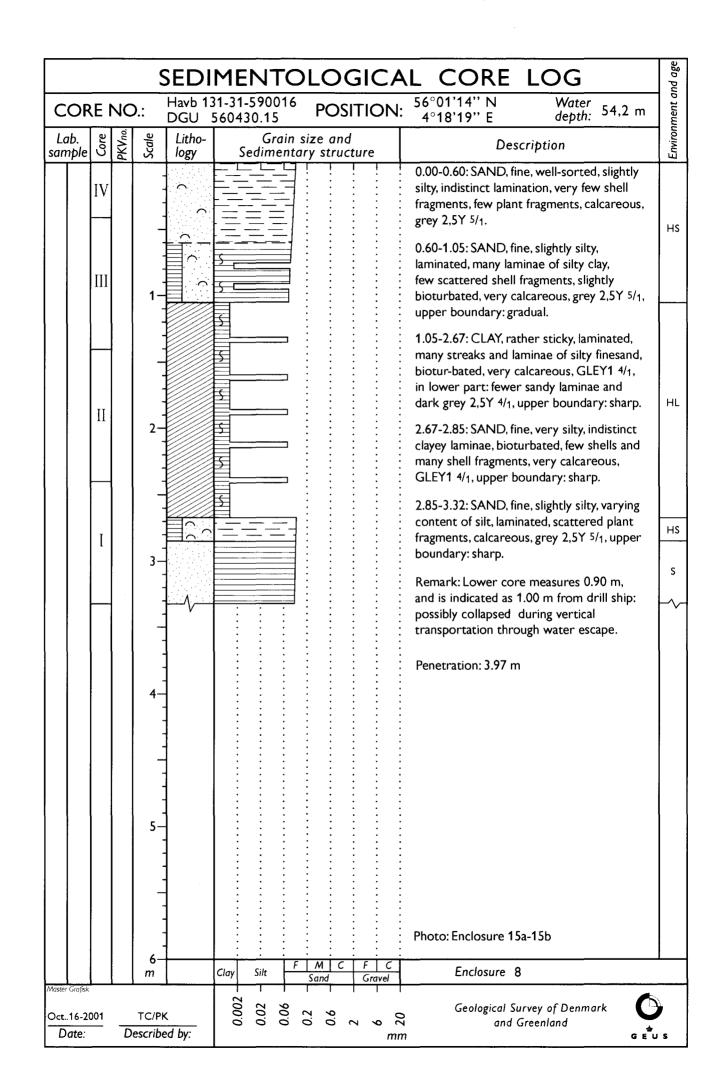


Enclosure 4



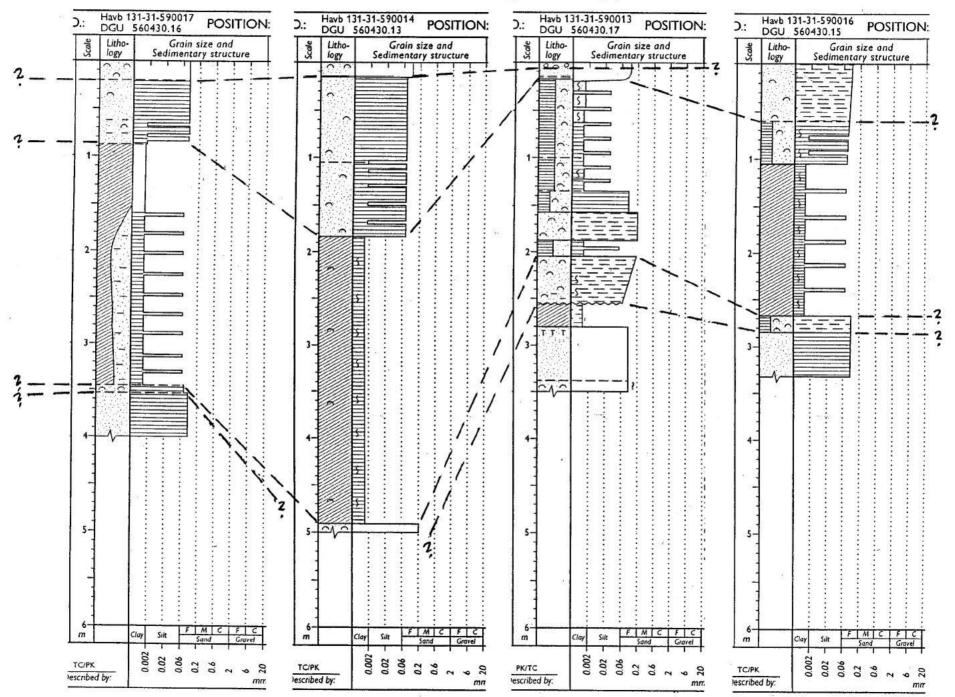
SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CORE LOG

CORE	SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CORE LOG CORE NO.: Havb 131-31-590015 POSITION: 56°01'39" N Water 55,0 m						it and age	
Lab. sample	Lat			560430.14 Grain	POSITION size and rry structure	4°18'59" E	depth: 55,0 m	Environment and age
IV		8			The structure of the st	0.00-0.42: SAND, fir sorted, upper 7cm: gyttja, few scattered in lower part: indist calcareous, dark gro	many shells, with d plant fragments; tinctly laminated;	HS
III		1—				fragments, few plan	ery fine, very silty, aks of silty clay, few shell t fragments, calcareous, upper boundary: gradual.	HV
		1 1 1			i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	shell fragments, low medium sand with	AY, silty, few scattered ver 10 cm: fine and clay beds; calcareous,	HL
I		2—			7	1.67-3.51: SAND, fir 15 cm: fine to medi brown grey 2,5Y 5/ increasing content fragments, few scat at 1.80 - 1.95: claye bioturbated, calcare	of silt, scattered shell tered plant fragments, y streaks and laminae,	нѕ
		4				Penetration: 4,35 m		
		6- m		Clay Silt F	M C F C	Photo: Enclosure 14 Enclosure 7	···	
Master Grafisk Oct.15-2001 Date:		PK/TC		7	Sand Gravel	Geological St	urvey of Denmark Greenland	u s



CORE NO.:	SEDIMENTOLOGICA Havb 131-31-590017 DGU 560430.16 POSITION:	E49042032 NI 14/
Lab. e XX sample S X	Litho- Grain size and logy Sedimentary structure	Description
7 V		0.00-0.20: SAND, fine, slightly silty, well-sorted, few gravel-size clasts, many shell fragments (<i>Arctica sp., Cardium sp.</i>), very calcareous, dark grey 2.5Y 4/1. 0.20-0.87: SAND, fine, very silty, laminated, in lower part: many laminae and streaks
22462	1-	of silty clay, scattered shell fragments, very calcareous, dark grey 2.5Y 4/1, upper boundary: gradual. 0.87-3.45: CLAY, rather sticky, silty, in uppermost part: few laminae of silty finesand; downcore: several laminae of
== 22463	2	silty finesand; bioturbated, few scattered shell fragments, few black plant fragments, very calcareous, dark grey 2,5Y 4/1, upper boundary: short and gradual.
	3	3.45-3.53: SAND, fine, silty, laminated, many shell fragments, very calcareous, grey 5Y 5/1, upper boundary: short and gradual.
22464	4	3.53-4.00: SAND, fine, slightly silty, laminated, plant fragments, at 3.65: peaty layer; non-calcareous, grey 5Y 5/1, upper boundary: gradual. Remark: uppermost layer, 0.0-0.20 m is
		presumably reworked sediment from underlying sand. Penetration: 4.6 m
	5-	
	6 Clay Silt F M C F C	Photo: Enclosure 16a-16b Enclosure 9
Aaster Grafisk		

Enclosure 10: Correlation between sedimentological core logs, South Pod Vibrocores 7-3-2-6



Enclosure 11: Correlation between sedimentological core logs, South Pod Vibrocores 2-4

