

Channon Exploration Well  
ES Web Comments

<b>ES Title:</b>	<b>Channon Exploration Well</b>
<b>Operator:</b>	<b>Venture</b>
<b>ES Report No:</b>	<b>W/2741/2005</b>
<b>ES Date:</b>	<b>July 2005</b>
<b>Block Nos:</b>	<b>47/8</b>
<b>Development Type:</b>	<b>Single exploration well which will be plugged and abandoned.</b>

Synopsis:

Venture is planning to drill a single exploration well in block 47/8 of the Southern North Sea (SNS). The well lies approximately 34 km north-east of the nearest coastline. The well will be vertical with a total depth of 10,450 feet below sea level. The expected hydrocarbons are gas. A well test will be undertaken if sufficient gas bearing sands are encountered. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 48 days to drill the well.

Once the well has been drilled it will be plugged and abandoned as per the UKOOA guidelines.

Drilling is to be undertaken by a Jack-up rig, the Noble Julie Robertson.

The wells will be drilled using WBM and OBM. It is expected that approximately 1,235 tonnes of drill cuttings will be discharged to sea.

As a result of an environmental risk assessment there were 11 aspects identified and addressed within the ES, none of which were found to be significant:

- Physical presence
- Seabed disturbance
- Noise
- Atmospheric emissions
- Drilling mud discharges
- Drill cutting discharges
- Drainage and sewage discharge
- Solid waste disposal
- Accidental events
- Cumulative impacts
- Transboundary impacts

Mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum. Following the provision of additional information on the 20 December 2005, we are satisfied that the ES addresses the impacts of the proposed exploration well and overall no significant environmental impacts have been identified. We are therefore satisfied that this project is not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment and in particular is unlikely to have a significant effect on any sites

protected under the Habitats Regulations.

Consultees:

CEFAS: No objections

JNCC: No objections

Recommendation: Based on the information in the Environmental Statement, it is recommended that project consent be given.