



[Home](#) | [Field Index](#)

Consents given under the Petroleum Act 1998 and Reviews under the Assessment of Environmental Effects Regulations 1999

Shell

BLOCK 26/4-A

Pursuant to Regulation 5(8) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry gives notice that, being content that the requirements of the above Regulations have been satisfied, he has, pursuant to Licence P987, granted a consent to Shell U.K. Exploration and Production Limited to the getting of petroleum and the drilling of an exploration well in Block 26/4-A (hereafter referred to as "the project") subject to Shell U.K. Exploration and Production Limited conducting operations in respect of the project in accordance with the relevant environmental statement. The consent for the well was given on 21/11/01.

Background

Shell U.K. Exploration and Production Limited submitted this Environmental Statement for the drilling of an exploration well in the Forth Approaches on 16th August 2001. The project comprises the drilling of a single vertical exploration well to a depth of about 1372 m below the seabed in Block 26/4a. The area lies roughly 44 km due east of Aberdeen in 65 m of water. The well will take 30 days to complete. The location has high bird vulnerability throughout the year and is near an area used by herring for spawning during August/September: licence conditions preclude drilling during these months. Drilling is scheduled to commence in October. Shell intends to drill the well using water based muds, with discharge to sea of the cuttings. There will be no testing. Following completion, the well will be plugged and abandoned in accordance with PON 5 requirements and a post drilling survey undertaken (PON 2).

The environmental statement does not identify, nor are we aware of any habitats or concentrations of species that could be considered as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and therefore consider that the above-proposed activity would not affect any possible future SAC. Following clarification from Shell on the drilling schedule, and discussions with the statutory consultees, the environmental statement was approved.

Recommendation

No significant environmental impact was identified. Overall, the ES is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development. Recommend that consent for the development is given.