

Exploration Well 98/12a ES Web Comments

ES Title: **Exploration Well 98/12a**
Operator: **Elf**
ES Report No: **W/180/1998**
ES Date: **December 1998**
Block Nos: **98/12a**

Background:

This well is an obligation under the terms of the offshore licence for the block. The well is 8 Km due south from Hengistbury Head on the south coast and 13Km due west by south from The Needles on the Isle Of Wight.

The well will be drilled vertically from a jack-up and drilling will take approximately 5 to 9 weeks to drill.

Well testing:

No conventional well testing (flaring) proposed, rather, hydrocarbons will be collected down-hole by a sampling procedure.

Well abandonment

On completion of drilling, the well will be plugged and abandoned. The well will be overtrawled in order to ensure no obstructions are present. A debris-clearance survey will be instigated after abandonment; any debris will be retrieved.

Environmental Sensitivities:

The operator has identified four potentially significant areas of impact:

Physical presence of rig; recreational area; effect on the sub-littoral habitat; possible interaction with fixed fishing gear.

Cuttiings discharges (wbm)

Power generation atmospheric emissions

Oil spillage

The model used to predict atmospheric emissions shows, under a worst case scenario, that concentrations of nitrogen oxides and particulates are elevated at the nearest point of land (Hengistbury Head).

Benthic monitoring to provide baseline information has taken place. A post drilling survey to identify any changes in seabed conditions will be carried out.

Cuttiings discharges have been modelled for the wbm, which will be used exclusively; modelling predictions will be checked in the post drilling survey.

A shipping survey has been commissioned and DETR have been consulted.

Query as to whether NRA have been consulted as the proposed well is within 12 miles of coastline.

Consultees:

Comments were received from statutory and non-statutory bodies

Recommendation:

Based on the information presented within the ES it is recommended that approval should be given.