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

Wellington Exploration Well, Block 205/24

The Wellington Exploration Well is located in Block 205/24, west of Shetland, approximately 60km west from the island of Foula. Hurricane Exploration plc propose to drill a single vertical well using the Bredford Dolphin, a semi-submersible, anchored drilling rig to a depth of 1,100m using Water Based Mud. No well test is planned and the completed well will be abandoned in accordance with DTI requirements. Proposed activities will take place over 18 days in August 2006.

The environmental sensitivities at the proposed location and the potential impacts arising from the proposed development have been assessed within the Environmental Statement submitted to the Department in March 2006. A detailed impact assessment has been undertaken. Where the assessment identified issues of potential significance, mitigation measures are in place to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum. Details of environmental management systems and spill contingency were also presented.

After a period of public consultation and having taken onboard the advice from statutory consultees, the Environmental Statement was approved on 11 August 2006.

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