

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

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

### **BG plc**

#### **BLOCK 22/5-b**

BG plc proposes drilling an exploration well in block 22/5-b. The drilling location lies 3.8km from the Norwegian median line and 2km northeast of the Armada platform. The expected hydrocarbons are gas and condensate.

The well is planned to be drilled from the semi-submersible rig Sedco 714 in August 2004 and is expected to last 104 days. A logging programme will inform the decision as to whether to abandon the well or to develop NW Seymour as the second Seymour field well. There is a contingency for running a well test to establish the quantity of reserves in the reservoir, with flaring lasting up to 30 hours and producing 240 tonnes condensate and 1,132,674 m<sup>3</sup> gas. The well will be drilled using WBM and OBM, with 1408 tonnes of WBM cuttings to be discharged. OBM cuttings will be contained and shipped to shore for processing. If the well is a success it will be tied back to the Armada installation by a production flowline on the seabed. If the well is unsuccessful, it will be plugged and abandoned.

#### **Sensitivities**

The environmental statement identifies a range of potential environmental hazards and outlines proposed mitigation measures, including:

Flaring Discharge of drilling mud, completion fluid and hydrotest fluid Discharge of drilled cuttings Seabed disturbance Noise disturbance Conservation areas Interactions with other sea users Transboundary impacts Cumulative impacts

#### **Recommendation**

Overall the environmental statement is satisfactory and adequately assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed operation. It is recommended that consent is given

to the project.

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[Top of page](#)