

# AGR Drills Remote Wildcat Exploration Well in the Falkland Islands (Deepest Well in UK Waters)



## CHALLENGE

To drill four deepwater, Wildcat wells in a remote location with limited offset data.

AGR was contracted by two small independent Operators to design, manage and construct their exploration drilling venture in the Southern and Eastern Falkland Island Basins.

AGR had to overcome geological uncertainties and provide flexible but robust well designs based primarily upon 3D seismic interpretation and pore pressure and fracture gradient studies.

## APPROACH

AGR used conservative pore pressure scenarios, ensuring robust design if worstcase pressure developed and flexibility if low-case encountered. Real-time rock strength analysis was used effectively alongside pore pressure analysis to monitor setting depths and maximum burst pressures expected. Intermediate checkshot data interpretation results were analysed by AGR to ensure casing setting depths were optimised throughout. AGR re-designed the final well following analysis of analogous formation in previous well - resulted in deepening of 20" and 13-3/8" setting depths and ultimately omitting a string of casing, with TD reached in 12-1/4".

AGR effectively re-engineered and redesigned the programmes at short notice as additional subsea information was

gained, whilst utilising the in-country stock mobilised to best affect. This flexibility is vital in Wildcat/exploration wells.

AGR planned from the start to use standard size/grade of casings and wellheads across the campaign to ensure compatibility, allowing contingency strings for every scenario - most important in a remote region. 24,000MT of equipment was planned and mobilised by AGR - no time was spent waiting on AGR planned/mobilised equipment.

## RESULT

- Deepest well drilled in UK registered waters, designed with only limited offset data. Reached all targets and proved hydrocarbon source.
- Final well saved -£12m due to redesign omitting 9-5/8" casing. Excluding rig downtime, well came in under AFE time and cost and proved hydrocarbon source.
- 3rd well completed 1 day over AFE despite running additional contingency casing string.
- AGR delivered substantial results in the Falklands, and can provide a proven track record of success in remote deepwater wildcat wells.

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