

# The regulatory framework for shale gas

Tony Almond / Trevor Sexty

Health and Safety Policy – Shale Gas

Health & Safety Executive

# The regulatory framework for shale gas

Tony Almond / Trevor Sexty

Health and Safety Policy – Shale Gas

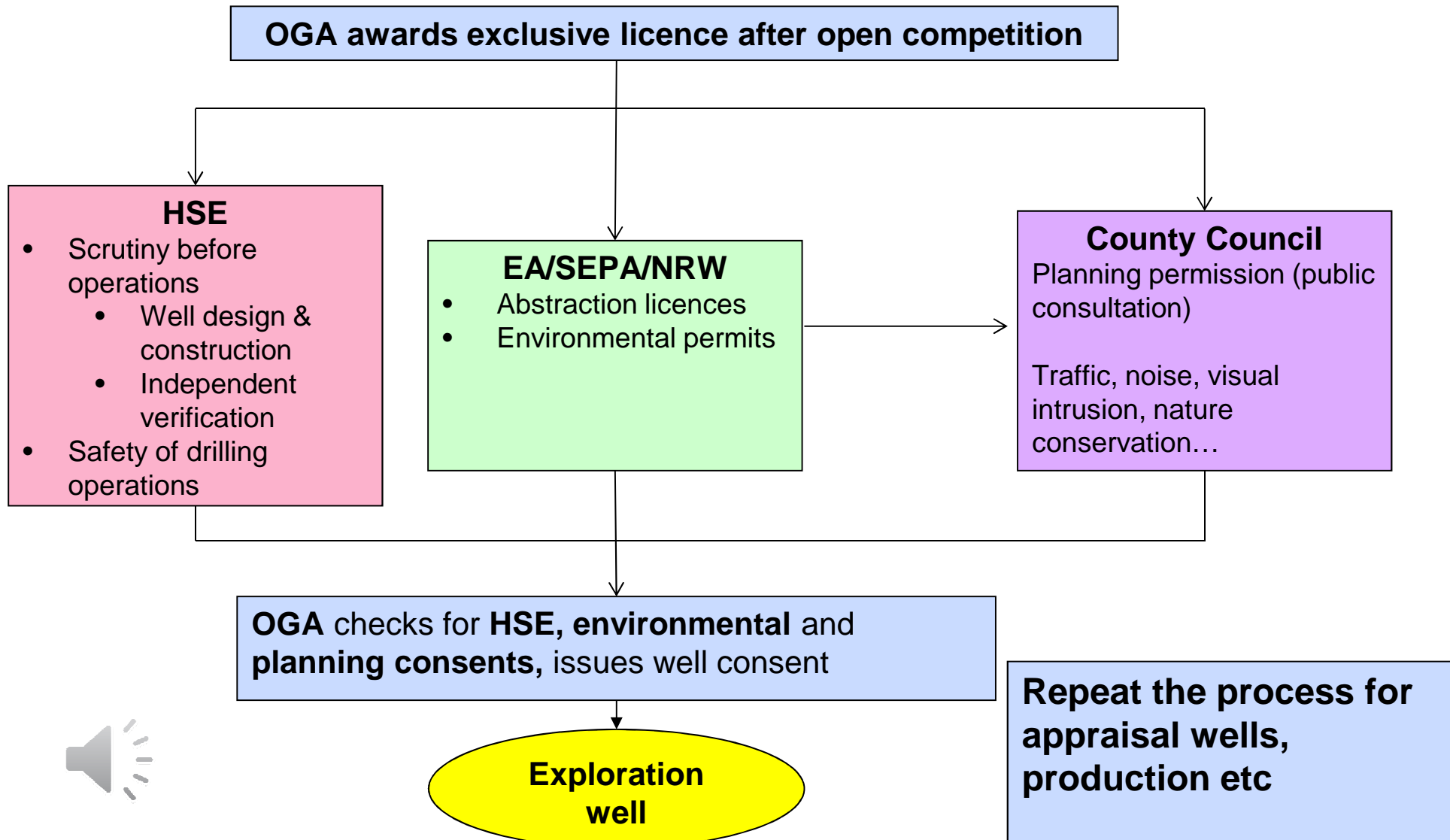
Health & Safety Executive



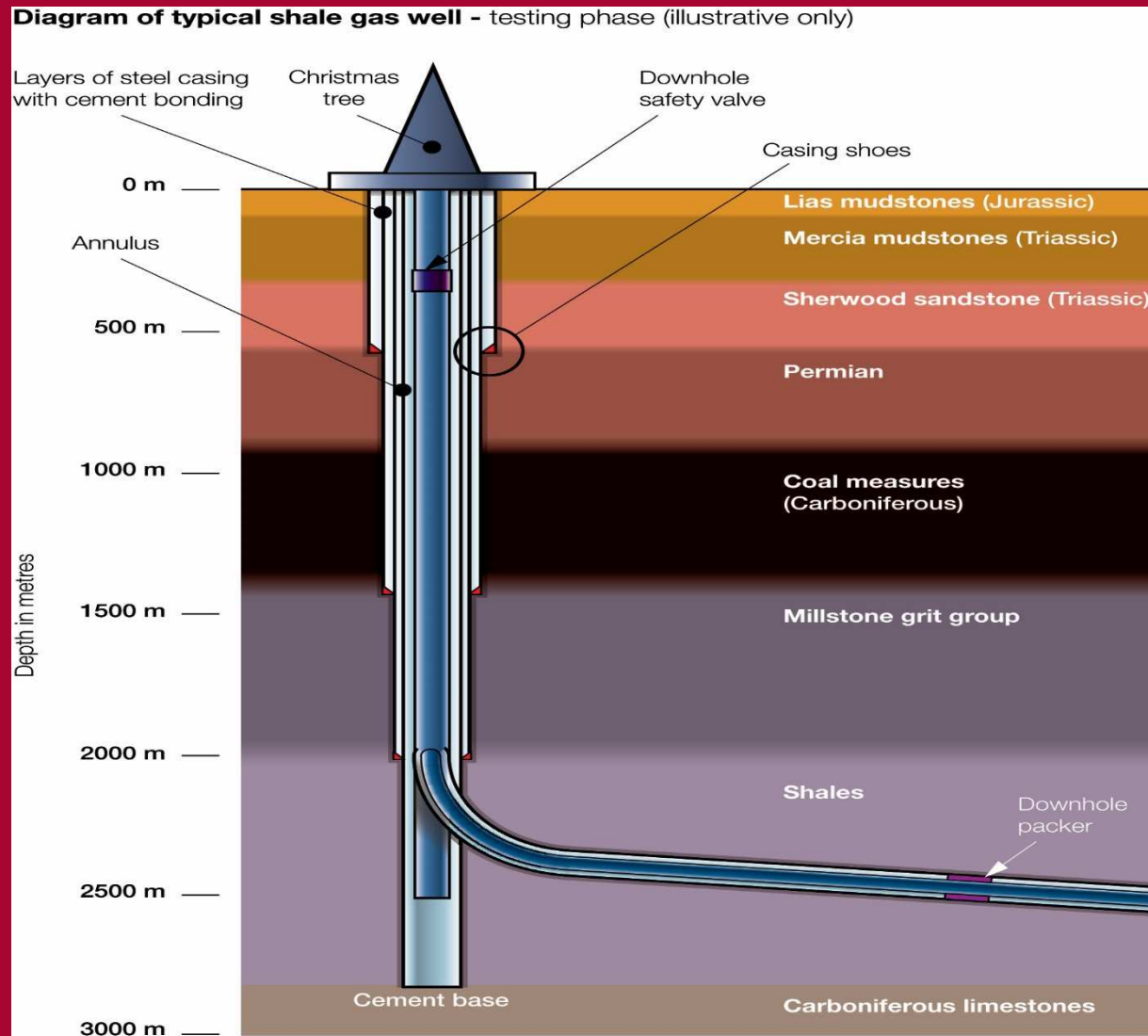
# Health and Safety Executive's role



# Regulatory landscape for unconventional gas



# What are the main hazards?



# The health and safety regulatory regime



# How does HSE conduct interventions?



**Industry standards**

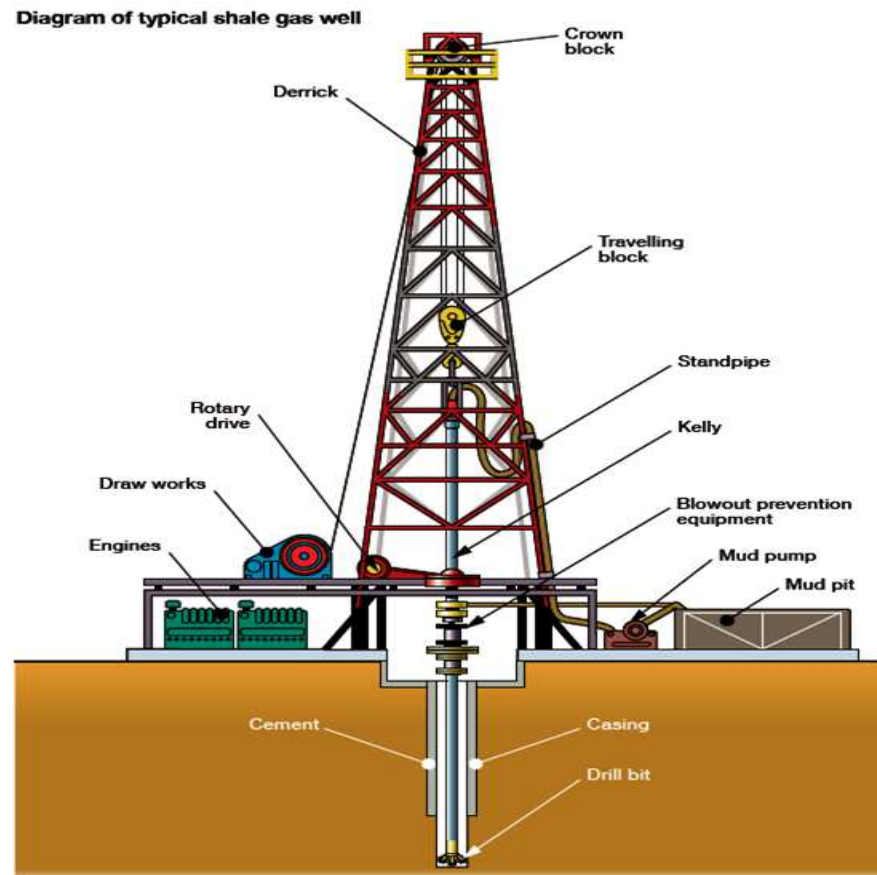
**Inspection activity –  
wells and operators**

**Lifecycle approach**

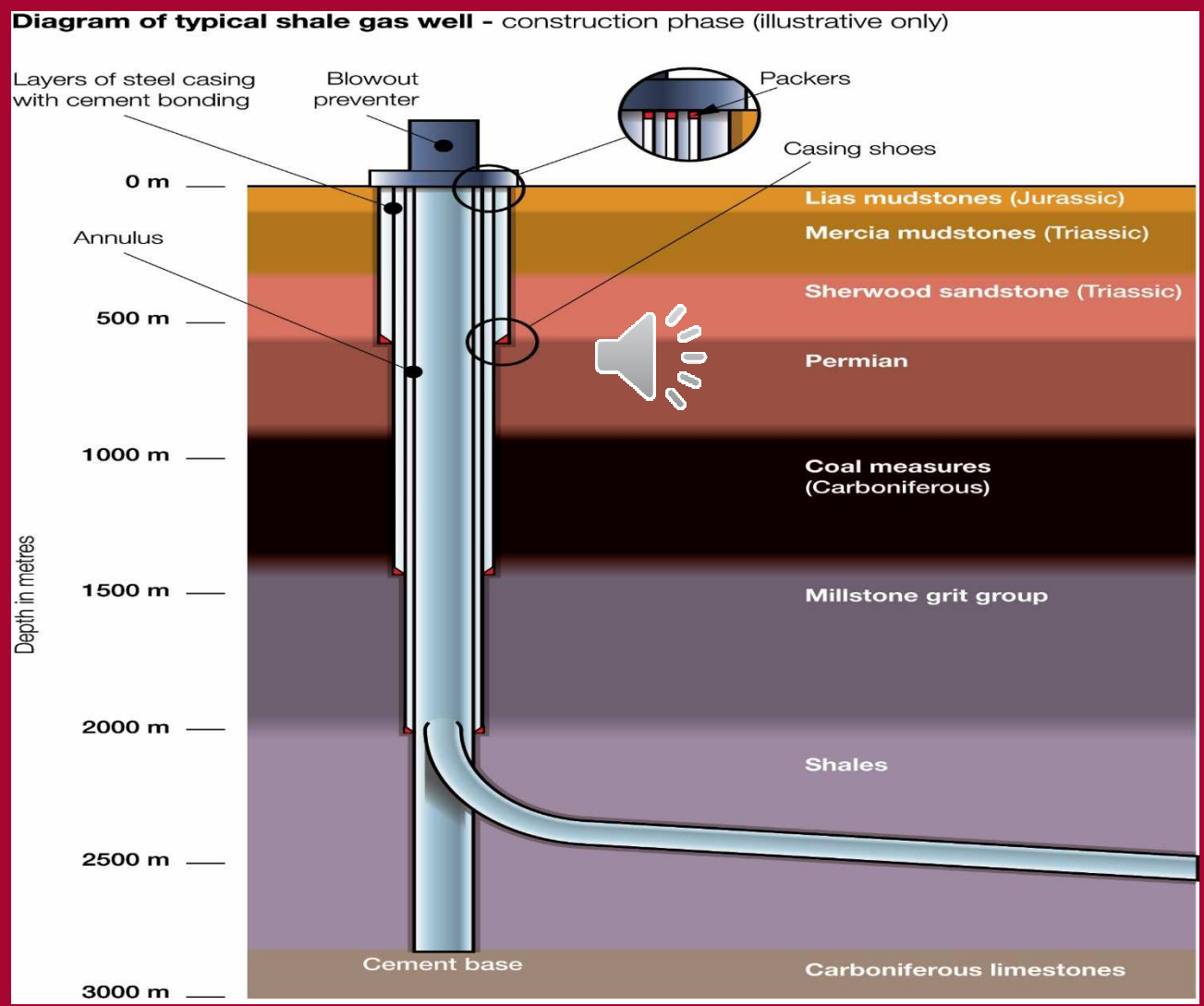
**Joint Regulation**



# Designing the well: notification



# Designing the well: notification



# Constructing the well: weekly report



Details of:

- activity since the work started or since the last report,
- the diameter and depth of the borehole,
- the diameter and depth of the casing,
- drill fluid density

**Purpose** - to check against information in the notification and that the pressure in the well and the well's stability is as expected.

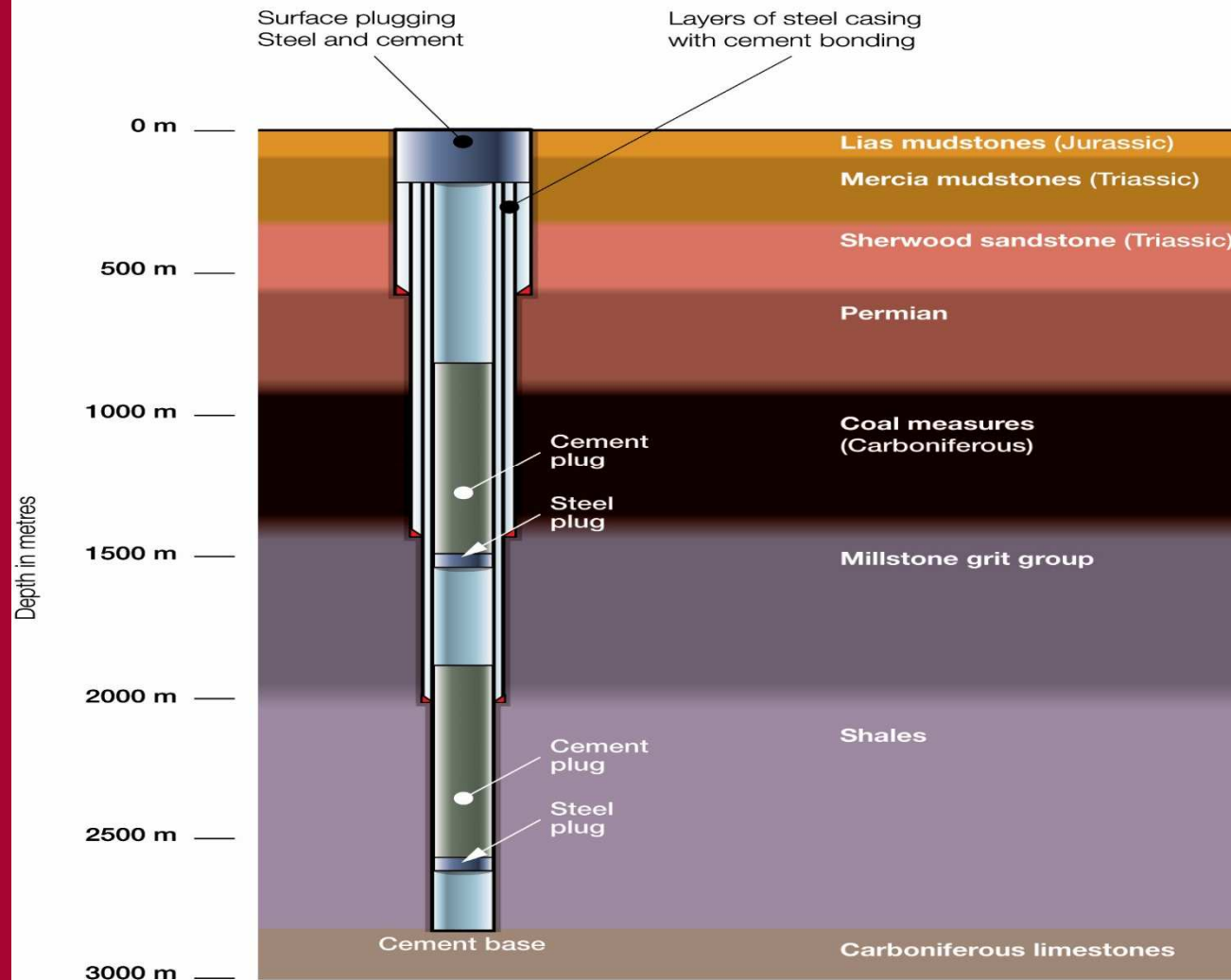


# Operating the well



# Decommissioning

Diagram of typical shale gas well - abandonment (illustrative only)



# The independent well examiner

- Important quality control for the industry
- Independent competent person
- Assess well design, construction and maintenance.
- Review the proposed and actual well operations to confirm they meet the operator's policies and procedures, comply with HSE's Regulations and follow good industry practice.
- HSE checks that the operator has these arrangements in place for the complete lifecycle of the well from design through to final plugging and decommissioning



# Summary



- The health and safety regime
- How HSE regulates
- How HSE and other regulators work together
- Independent Well Examiner

[www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/unconventional-gas.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/unconventional-gas.htm)



# Summary



- The health and safety regime
- How HSE regulates
- How HSE and other regulators work together
- Independent Well Examiner

[www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/unconventional-gas.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/unconventional-gas.htm)