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ABSTRACT

An underwater well system in which an initially vertical drilling riser conduit (5A) is fixed by a template (7,13,15) at the seabed (6) in a non-vertical orientation. Drilling is carried out through wellhead (30) in the template which also includes a valve tree (28) allowing the production fluid to be brought to the surface along a line separate from the drilling riser conduit. The template may be a junction template allowing several wells to be drilled from a single template, or allowing the template to be connected by one or more drilling conduits (12,14) to further templates such that a wide area of the seabed can be covered for a single drilling riser conduit.

FIG. 1