

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-4741U
UKOP Doc Ref:1159462



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED
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Registered No.: 02748866

Date: 13th September 2021

Department for Business, Energy
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Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
PIPELINE PLU5080
MALLARD POWER CABLE REPLACEMENT**

I refer to your amended application dated 13th September 2021, reference PL/2145/1 (Version 2).

It has been determined that the proposed changes to the project is not likely to result in a significant effect on the environment, and therefore an environmental impact assessment is not required.

A screening direction is therefore issued for the changes to the project. An amended schedule of conditions, comments, and main reasons for the decision on the amended application, are attached. A copy of this screening direction will be forwarded to the application consultees, the Oil and Gas Authority and published on the gov.uk website.

If you have any queries in relation to this screening direction or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or email the Environmental Management Team at bst@beis.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020**

**SCREENING DIRECTION CONFIRMING THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT IS NOT REQUIRED**

**PIPELINE PLU5080
MALLARD POWER CABLE REPLACEMENT**

PL/2145/1 (Version 2)

Whereas ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED has made an application dated 13th September 2021, under The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020, and whereas the Secretary of State has considered the application and is satisfied that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment; in exercise of the powers available under regulation 6, the Secretary of State hereby directs that the application for consent in respect of the project need not be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, provided that the project is carried out as described in the application for the screening direction and in accordance with the conditions specified in the attached schedule.

In giving a screening direction under regulation 6 of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State accordingly gives his agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application.

Effective Date: 13th September 2021



THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION CONDITIONS

The grant of this screening direction is conditional upon the screening direction holder complying with the following conditions.

1 Screening direction validity

The screening direction shall be valid from 6 August 2021 until 30 November 2021.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must confirm the dates of commencement and completion of the project covered by the screening direction. Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: bst@beis.gov.uk

3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Grout bags deposits

5.5 tonnes of grout contained within 25 kilogramme capacity biodegradable bags. (The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

Concrete mattress deposits

78 no. concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 15 centimetres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

12 no. concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 30 centimetres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

Within areas as identified within the SAT.

5 Prevention of pollution

The holder of the screening direction must ensure that appropriate measures are taken to minimise discharges, emissions and waste, in particular through the appropriate use of technology; and to ensure that necessary measures are taken to prevent incidents affecting the environment or, where they occur, to limit their



consequences in relation to the environment.

6 Inspections

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient for an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to investigate whether the conditions of the screening direction are being complied with, the holder of the screening direction shall afford the inspector with such facilities and assistance as the inspector considers necessary to exercise the powers conferred by the regulations. The holder of the screening direction shall additionally ensure that copies (electronic or paper) of the screening direction and any other relevant documents are available for inspection by the inspector at:

- a) the premises of the holder of the screening direction; and
- b) the facilities undertaking the project covered by the screening direction.

7 Check monitoring

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient to undertake an independent monitoring programme to assess the impact of the project covered by the screening direction, the screening direction holder shall afford the Department with such facilities and assistance as the Department considers necessary to undertake the work.

8 Atmospheric emissions returns

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall report all relevant atmospheric emissions, such as combustion emissions, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

9 Deposit returns

The holder of the screening direction shall submit a report to the Department following completion of the deposit covered by the screening direction, confirming the quantity of materials deposited and the estimated area of impact, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting form. Where no deposits are made, a 'nil' return is required.

10 Unauthorised deposits

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall recover any materials accidentally or temporarily deposited on the seabed, such as debris, temporary containers, structures or deposits, or scientific instruments, and shall return the materials to land. If it is not possible to recover any of these deposits, full details of the materials remaining on the seabed must be reported to the Department in accordance with the requirements of Petroleum Operations Notice No.2 (PON2).



11 Screening direction variation

In the event that the holder of the screening direction proposes changes to any of the particulars detailed in the application for a screening direction, the holder must notify the Department immediately and submit an application for a post screening direction amendment. The post screening direction must be in place prior to the amended proposals taking effect.

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COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR SCREENING DIRECTION

Section 1

The attention of screening direction holders is drawn to the following provisions regarding The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020.

1) You are deemed to have satisfied yourself that there are no barriers, legal or otherwise, to the carrying out of the project covered by the screening direction. The issue of a screening direction does not absolve the screening direction holder from obtaining such authorisations, consents etc that may be required under any other legislation.

2) The Department would draw your attention to the following comments:

The Department has no further comments

3) All communications relating to the screening direction should be addressed to:

Out-of-hours emergency screening direction variations:

Telephone Met Office out-of-hours service (0330 135 0010) and ask to be connected to the Department's On-call Response Officer (Offshore Environmental Inspectorate).

Routine communications

bst@beis.gov.uk

or

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]



SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

The Secretary of State has decided that, based on the information provided, the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The main reasons for this decision are:

1) Decision reasons

The following provides a summary of the assessments undertaken by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project. It summarises the information considered, the potential impacts and sets out the main reasons for the decision made.

Characteristics of the Project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project are as follows.

Installation of a 16.3 kilometre (km) power cable from the Kittiwake installation to the Mallard Subsea umbilical termination assembly and installation of short (less than 25 metre (m)) electrical jumpers; and
Deposit of concrete mattresses and grout bags to stabilise the power cable and jumpers.

Description of project

Following a fault in the original power cable serving the Mallard field, a replacement power cable is to be laid along with 3 short electrical jumpers. The power cable is approximately 16.3km in length and the electrical jumpers are less than 25m in length.

The power cable will firstly be laid on the seabed using temporary 1 tonne grout bags as turning bollards and then jet trenched. Jumpers will be laid directly on the seabed. Concrete mattresses and 25kg grout bags will be utilised for stabilisation and protection of the power cable and jumpers. Concrete mattresses and grout bags will be deployed from the depositing vessel. The 1 tonne grout bag turning bollards will be recovered to the vessel.

The maximum area of impact is 0.1656km².

No cumulative interactions are foreseen with any other existing or approved projects.

There is no risk to human health from the works to install the power cable and jumpers or deposit the stabilising and protecting materials on the seabed.

There is no credible potential for a major accident or disaster to affect this project.

Any wastes associated with the project will be handled appropriately and no



significant impacts are anticipated.

Location of the Project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 2(a) to (c) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows.

The Kittiwake installation and Mallard fields are in the Central North Sea approximately 170km from the coast of the UK. Water depth along the lengths of the power cable ranges from approximately 85m to 91m. Within the Kittiwake and Mallard locations the prevailing current is to the east.

The seabed habitat along the power cable route is predominantly muddy sand with varying proportions of shell fragments. The Mallard field lies approximately 15km northwest of the East of Gannet and Montrose Fields Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA). The designating features of this area are Ocean Quahog and Offshore deep-sea muds. A power cable route survey identified two potential areas of methane derived authigenic carbonates (MDAC) in the vicinity of the project. The two areas of potential MDAC had a greater density of fauna including sea stars, sea urchin, hydroids, anemones, crabs and sponges. Low numbers of Ocean Quahog were identified on the remainder of the survey route along with low densities of anemones, bryozoa, brittle stars and faunal burrows.

The project will be undertaken at a time when several fish species may be found to be spawning or using the area as nursery locations and is expected to be complete by the time sand eel spawning commences in November.

Seabird distribution and abundance in the area is predominantly low within the location of the project but is high in April and May.

Common dolphin, White-beaked dolphin and Harbour porpoise may be in the area at the time of undertaking the project. are present in the area with a moderate density in July with other cetaceans present at low densities. Seals are not expected in any significant number around the area of the project due to the distance from shore.

There are extensive oil and gas facilities within 30km of the Kittiwake/Mallard location. There are no existing offshore wind developments in the vicinity of the project but there is a future wind development area approximately 12km west of the Kittiwake installation.

Shipping density in the area is classed as low.

There are no military restrictions or designated military areas within the immediate vicinity of the Kittiwake installation and Mallard field.

The power cable crosses by a number of infield pipelines and one third party pipeline - the Fulmar to Nelson pipeline, which was protected by trench and burial during its



construction.

Fishing activity within the area is variable and represents up to 0.13% weight of fish and shellfish landed in the UK.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c) (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) or (viii) of Schedule 5 have not been given regard with respect to the project.

Type and characteristics of the potential impact

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the likely significant effects of the project on the environment have been considered. Potential impacts on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, with particular focus on the predominant impacts resulting from physical presence of the installed power cable and deposits and seabed disturbance resulting from the activities.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact arising from the project on population and human health.

The physical presence of the dive support vessel (DSV) and trenching vessel along the length of the power cable have the potential to impact upon other users of the sea. However, the shipping and fishing densities are low and this will be supplemented by notices to mariners. No significant impact is expected.

The physical presence of the power cable will initially be mitigated by a guard vessel until the cable is trenched and buried. Deposited mattresses will be mitigated by ensuring that overtrawable mattresses are used and by ensuring that the majority of pipeline crossings are undertaken inside an existing 500m exclusion zone. No significant impact is expected for other users of the sea.

The placement and burial of the power cable and deposit of concrete mattresses and grout bags of rock on the seabed will lead to localised mortality of benthos, with the extent of this limited to an area of 0.1656km². There are no protected areas in the vicinity of the project and generally there is a low abundance of benthos, and no significant impact is expected. With regard to Ocean Quahog noted during the survey no impacts will occur at a population level and no significant impact is expected. The two areas of potential MDAC will be avoided by the power cable route and no significant impact is expected.

While vessel noise has the potential to impact marine mammals the predicted levels. But due to the limited project duration and the existing general oil and gas vessel traffic in the area there is unlikely to be any significant behavioural disturbance to marine mammals.

A potential diesel release from the DSV or trenching vessel is not considered to be capable of having significant impact due to the limited quantity of diesel onboard and the nature of the oil which would evaporate relatively quickly upon release.



There will be no interaction with any wrecks in the vicinity of the pipeline.

While there are several other projects in the vicinity there are no known cumulative impacts with other projects in the area.

Taking all the above determinations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment.