

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-5656U
UKOP Doc Ref:1279400



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

SHELL U.K. LIMITED
SHELL CENTRE
LONDON
SE1 7NA

Registered No.: 00140141

Date: 9th June 2023

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax

www.gov.uk/beis
bst@beis.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
GANNET GF01/GF04**

I refer to your amended application dated 9th June 2023, reference PL/2371/1 (Version 1).

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**

GANNET GF01/GF04

PL/2371/1 (Version 1)

Whereas SHELL U.K. LIMITED has made an application dated 9th June 2023, 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 agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the applications, PA/4340 and PA/4627.

Effective Date: 9th June 2023



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 30 May 2023 until 30 April 2024.

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

Sand bags deposits

4,000 kilogrammes of clean, sand material containing minimal fines contained within 160 x 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).

Grout bags deposits

35 tonnes of grout contained within 1,400 x 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

15 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).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

As described in 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:

N/A

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

bst@beis.gov.uk

or

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
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 assessment undertaken by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project, summarises the information considered, the potential impacts and sets out the main reasons for the decision made. In considering whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required or not, the following has been taken into account:

- a) the information provided by the developer.
- b) the matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations).
- c) the results of any preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment of the project; and
- d) any conditions that the Secretary of State may attach to the agreement to the grant of consent.

Characteristics of the Project

Having regard to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project include the following:

Summary of the Project

- Installation of the lines to connect the new GF04 well to the Gannet F manifold.
- Disconnect the lines laid between the GF01 well and the Gannet F manifold.
- Placement of: 35 tonnes of grout in 1,400 biodegradable 25 kg bags, 4 tonnes of sand in 160 biodegradable 25kg bags and 15 concrete mattresses of dimensions 6m x 3m x 0.15m

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects. The risk of a major accidents and environmental effects from major accidents, has been assessed. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and the probability of such an event occurring is very low. There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on



population and human health. It is not considered likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. No nuisances are foreseen from the project.

Location of the Project

Having regard 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 GF04 well location lies within a seaward licenced area, which has been licenced for the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons. The project is located approximately 170 km east from the east Scotland coastline and approximately 82 km from the UK/Norwegian median line, in an area where water depth is approximately 98 m. The predominant current in the location is dominated by the influx of waters from the Atlantic via the Fair Isle channel. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest, the East of Gannet and Montrose Fields Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area, being approximately 2 km distant. Site-specific surveys identified the seabed as comprising of fine sand or very fine sand. The main sediment types are described as Circalittoral muddy sand and Deep circalittoral mixed sediments'. The most commonly observed benthic fauna included sea urchins, sea pens, starfish, sea cucumbers, bristle worms and hermit crabs amongst others.

The project works and timing will take place at a time when a number of fish species may be found to use the area as spawning, juvenile or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans are most common between the months of May and November. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. Seabirds are most common in the area during the summer months of July and August when expected density is 20-30 individuals per square km. The project area is primarily used for demersal fishing, but with a low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is also low. The

surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 20 km, but is not within a military activity zone, with no telecommunications cables, marine aggregate sites or renewable energy locations in proximity. The closest wreck was identified approximately 3 km northwest of the location.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to be affected by 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 effects to the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, with focus on the predominant impacts resulting from physical presence from the vessel, atmospheric emissions from vessel use, planned discharges to sea from chemical use, seabed disturbance from pipeline and protective/stabilisation material installation, and accidental events such as an oil spill.



The vessel has the potential to cause interference to other users of the sea, namely fishermen and vessel traffic, however the vessel will be located in a safety zone for the well. Its presence within the safety zone means only authorised vessels would be allowed within the 500 m radius of the well, therefore excluding other users of the sea. Given the low importance of the fishing area and the low vessel traffic, and that the project is a temporary activity - the impact is deemed insignificant.

The main receptor impacted by seabed disturbance will be the benthic communities. Physical disturbance can cause mortality or displacement of benthic species in the impacted zone. The area of temporary seabed disturbance resulting from sedimentation resulting from deposit of materials is 0.0014 km². Based on worst case, the placement of pipelines and protection/stabilisation materials is expected to have a permanent impact area of 0.00031 km² due to change to seabed sediment composition. Rapid recovery of faunal communities within the disturbed area may be expected through a combination of larval settlement and immigration of animals from the adjacent seabed once the anchors and chains are removed and cuttings deposition ceases. Therefore, based on the above, impacts on benthic communities will be primarily temporary, localised and not significant.

Offshore registered chemicals will be used and discharged during the project. The use and discharge of the chemicals have been risk assessed and modelled in accordance with other regulatory requirements. The use and discharge modelling shows a low risk to the environment from the chemicals and is not expected to have a significant impact on the environment.

Emissions to air will occur from combustion plant used on the vessel. The quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent from the vessel use amounts to 0.006% of the 2018 total emissions from offshore oil and gas activity. The vessel emissions will not have a detrimental effect to local air quality over the long-term, nor are they expected to inhibit the ability to reach wider climate change goals. The environmental effects from emissions to air are not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. The impact of the vessel emissions will be mitigated by optimising vessel efficiency (i.e. minimising the number of vessels used and vessel trips required to achieve the project deliverables) and hence minimising fuel use and avoiding the unnecessary operation of power generation / combustion equipment. In the event that an unlikely and unplanned accidental diesel spill scenario from the vessel the limited quantity and non-persistent hydrocarbon will have a low residence time in the marine environment. Any such spill would be dealt with by the vessel's SOPEP.

Decision

Taking the above considerations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and that an environmental impact assessment is not required.

2) Mitigation of significant effects

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The following are features of the project or measures envisaged that the developer has proposed to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment:

N/A