

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6284U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1381790



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

ONE-DYAS UK LIMITED  
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LONDON  
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Registered No.: 03531783

Date: 7th February 2025

Department for Energy Security &  
Net Zero

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[opred@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:opred@energysecurity.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam

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

**Crosgan, Prospector 1 DRILLING APPRAISAL WELL 42/14a- 42/14a-C planned  
well**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2485/0 (Version 4), dated 6th February 2025 has been issued under regulation 6 of the above Regulations. The screening direction notice, and any relevant conditions and comments 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 [opred@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:opred@energysecurity.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**

**Crosgan, Prospector 1 DRILLING APPRAISAL WELL 42/14a- 42/14a-C planned  
well**

**DR/2485/0 (Version 4)**

Whereas ONE-DYAS UK LIMITED has made an application dated 6th February 2025, 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 application, WONS/16755/0/IDA/1 and WONS/16774/0/EWT/1.

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## **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 14 February 2025 until 31 December 2025.

#### **2 Commencement and completion of the project**

The holder of the screening direction must notify the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (hereinafter called the 'Department') of commencement and completion of the project within two days:

- a) of commencement of the project and
- b) of completion of the project.

Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team  
Mailbox: [opred@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:opred@energysecurity.gov.uk)

#### **3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials**

Rock deposits

1,800 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

#### **4 Location of stabilisation or protection materials**

Within 500 metres radius of the legs of the jack-up mobile drilling unit located at 54 38 51.4 N 00 46 21.34 E

#### **5 Extended well tests**

- a) Production levels

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the production of hydrocarbons during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction.



## b) Associated flaring and venting

The holder of the screening direction shall, ensure that any associated flaring of hydrocarbons during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction and/or that any associated venting of gas during the well test does not exceed the level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction.

## 6 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.

## 7 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.

## 8 Monitoring

The results of any pre or post-placement surveys carried out to confirm the necessity for the deposits covered by the screening direction and/or to confirm the accurate positioning of the stabilisation or protection materials, should be forwarded to the Department following completion of the surveys

## 9 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.

## 10 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, extended well test emissions or flaring and venting emissions relating to a well test, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms. In the case of atmospheric emissions relating to drilling projects undertaken from a fixed installation, they should be included in the annual EEMS reporting forms for the fixed installation.

### **11 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.

### **12 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).

### **13 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:

[opred@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:opred@energysecurity.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 assessments undertaken by OPRED to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project.

This document 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 have 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, in particular, 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**

Stabilisation of the rig legs with 1,800 tonnes of rock (contingency operation);

Drilling of 30" conductor and 24", 16", 12 ", 8 " and 6" sections with Water based Mud



(WBM);

Wellbore clean up and Extended Well Test (EWT);

Plug and abandonment.

### **Description of project**

This project covers the drilling of the 42/14a-C appraisal well using the Prospector 1 jack-up drilling rig. 1,800 tonnes of rock may be required as a contingency stabilisation

material for the jack up rig spud cans. As a worst case, it has been assumed in the assessment that 1 tonne of rock will impact 1 m<sup>2</sup> of seabed, equating to 1,800 m<sup>2</sup> (0.0018 km<sup>2</sup>).

The 30" conductor will be drilled and grouted into the seabed to a depth of 70 m.

The well will be drilled using WBM. The fluids and cuttings from the 30"

section will be discharged at the seabed. Fluids and cuttings from the remaining well

sections will be discharged at the sea surface from the rig. Once the well sections

have been drilled, casings will be run, and cement will be used to provide integrity of

the well. On completion of the drilling operations, an extended well test will be conducted. The well will then be plugged and abandoned to Offshore Energies UK guidance. Operations are expected to take 85 days.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters.

The risk of a major accident such as a well blowout 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.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any

significant impact of the project on population and human health.

### **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 project is located at the Crosgan discovery, in the Southern North Sea, which is in block 42/14, 81 kilometres (km) from the coast, and 132 km from the UK / Netherlands median line, in water depth of 69 metres (m). The residual current speed in the area is 0.05 m/s. The wave height within the Crosgan area ranges from 1.51 - 1.80 m and the annual mean wave power is between 12.1 - 18.0 kW/m.

The project is in an area characterised as deep circalittoral sand. Specific site surveys identified fine sand across the surveyed area with low quantities of shell

fragments. No significant seabed features were identified. Total Hydrocarbons Concentrations (THC) ranged from 2.82 g/g-1 to 9.42 g/g-1, with a mean concentration of 4.3 2 g/g-1. Hydrocarbons concentrations within the survey area were comparable to mean values for Southern North Sea samples. Preliminary results from the 2022 site specific environmental survey identified very low faunal diversity and abundance in camera imagery and included Annelida

(Polychaeta), Arthropoda, Chordata, Echinodermata and Mollusca (Bivalvia).

Preliminary analysis of survey footage suggests that there was no evidence of species or habitats of conservation significance under the Offshore Petroleum

Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 (as amended) within the

surveyed area. A total of nine juvenile Ocean quahog *Arctica islandica* were recorded, with individuals at six stations. Ocean quahog are a species of conservation importance. This is a long-lived species with a slow growth rate and is on the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats. The well is located within the Southern North Sea SAC (summer area) designated for

the presence of Annex II harbour porpoise. The Dogger Bank SAC is also located 28 km to the east of the Crosgan well, which is designated for Annex I 'Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time'. There are no other protected sites with 40km of the proposed well.

The project falls within the England Northeast Offshore National Marine Plan (NMP).



Numerous cetacean species are present in the area in high to low densities during the operational period. The presence of grey seals in the Crosgan discovery area is likely to be between 1-5 individuals per 25 km<sup>2</sup> and harbour seals as between 0-1 individuals per 25 km<sup>2</sup>. Seabird sensitivity during the operational period ranges from extremely high to low. Pelagic fishing accounted for the highest landings and value in 2021, followed by shellfish. Overall, fishing effort in the area is low relative to UK landings with ICES rectangle 38F0 representing 0.16% of total UK fishing effort. The project is in an area of moderate shipping density. The proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for several species. Of the species identified as using the area as a spawning ground or nursery area, those that are particularly sensitive to anthropogenic disturbance from oil and gas related activities include cod, sandeel and herring.

The closest oil and gas installation is located 23 km southwest of the drilling site.

Activities in Block 42/14 are of concern to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) because Block 42/14 lies within training ranges. One Dyas UK have notified the MoD of the proposed drilling operations and received confirmation that

Three telecommunication cables are identified with 7 km of the drilling location. There is currently one windfarm under pre-planning within 40 km of the Crosgan well. This is approximately 30 km south east and belongs to the Dogger Bank windfarm. The Dogger Bank windfarm is under construction with Dogger Bank A and B being 52 and 57 km North East respectively. The other windfarm located in proximity is the consented Hornsea Project 4 located 58 km SE of the well location (Block 42/14). There are no aquaculture sites or Shellfish Water Protected Areas

within the immediate vicinity of the Crosgan area.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations will 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 on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, noise, planned discharges and accidental spills. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

There will be a temporary 500 m safety exclusion zone around the Prospector 1 jack-up rig during the drilling activities, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels. A standby vessel will be on site for the duration of the operation. No anchors will be used for the rig. All appropriate notifications to mariners will be made prior to the well drilling activities commencing. Given that the appraisal well is in an area considered to be of low importance to the UK fishing industry, in an area which does not experience high shipping density, and the drilling campaign is of a relatively short duration, any impacts on other sea users is not considered to be significant.

Seabed impacts will primarily arise from rock deposits required for the safe operation of the jack-up rig and the discharge of drill cuttings. Up to 1,800 tonnes of rock may be required as stabilisation material for the rig spud cans. Flora and fauna are likely to be lost within the immediate footprint of the rock deposit, but the area impacted represents a small (0.003 km<sup>2</sup>) impact area in a large area of similar habitat. The discharge of the drill cuttings is not expected to result in a significant adverse impact to the marine environment. The area is recognised as a herring, cod and sandeel



spawning area, however, site specific surveys indicate that the substrate is not suited to herring spawning. Recent scientific studies also indicate this area is a 'rare' spawning area for cod and an area with a low probability of sandeel presence. As such and taking account the impact area, no significant impacts on these species at a population level are not expected.

Atmospheric emissions will arise from the use of the Prospector 1 jack-up rig and other

associated vessels.

During the final well test gas will be flared to the atmosphere. The submission estimates that the well test period will take up to 236 hours with up to 108 hours of flaring during this period.

Atmospheric emissions, when compared with total UK figures,

are considered to present a relatively small contribution. Furthermore, the temporary nature of the emissions along with the remote geographic location and winds within the offshore environment, means that the atmospheric emissions would be rapidly dispersed and are not likely to be detectable within a short distance from the source.

Therefore, while atmospheric emissions will make a cumulative contribution to global climate change, they are not considered to present a significant local environmental impact.

The application refers to analogous studies and the Strategic Environmental Assessment to demonstrate that the discharge of drill cuttings is not expected to result in a significant adverse impact to the marine environment.

Discharge of offshore chemicals associated with the drilling of the well, cementing and completion operations have been assessed as not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Small volumes of hydrocarbons will be discharged to sea as a result of drilling the reservoir section, but significant impacts from this on the



marine environment are not considered likely.

The nearest boundary line is the UK/ Netherlands boundary, which is 132 km to the East. As such, no transboundary impacts are expected.

Apart from the location of the project being located within the Southern North Sea SAC, and 26km to the West of the Dogger Bank SAC, there are no other SPAs, SACs or SCIs in the immediate vicinity of the Crosgan well. The application demonstrates that the impact area associated with rock stabilisation material is likely to impact a very small proportion of the SNS SAC (0.00000487%). The rock placement proposed (which is only a contingency) represents 0.25% of the known deposits placed in the Southern North Sea between 2011 and 2016 and 0.39% of the Circalittoral sand habitat already impacted by deposits. Rock deposits therefore are not considered to represent a significant cumulative impact, given that the circalittoral sand habitat is widespread in the Southern North Sea.

Site specific modelling of drill cuttings was not undertaken for this operation, however, the application references the Strategic Environmental Assessment and several studies of similar operations, where impacts from WBM discharges were demonstrated to be restricted to within a radius of 50 - 100 m of the well site. Other drilling operations have been recorded in quadrant 42, however, the impact area associated with these are likely to be similar to this operation and therefore not significant in cumulative terms.

The Dogger Bank SAC is not likely to be impacted given the small impact area associated with the project and distance from the Dogger Bank SAC boundary.

Fish, marine mammals and benthic species (which may be PMFs, Annex II species and EPSs) are not considered to be significantly impacted.



Although not a planned activity, a worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a potential well blow-out was modelled and assessed. The probability of a condensate

spill from the proposed operations is low. Therefore, it is considered that the control measures in place to prevent loss of well control minimise the risk of an condensate spill that

could have a significant impact and the proposed operations carried out as planned are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The drilling operations do not contradict any of the English Northeast Offshore National Marine Plan objectives and policies.

## **2 ) Mitigation of significant effects**

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