

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6787U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1414406



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment  
& Decommissioning

ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED  
CHARLES HOUSE  
2ND FLOOR  
5-11 REGENT STREET  
LONDON  
SW1Y 4LR

Registered No.: 02748866

Date: 22nd September 2025

Department for Energy Security &  
Net Zero

AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]

Fax [REDACTED]

[www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)  
[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  
PIPELINE PL1762**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2579/0 (Version 2), dated 8th September 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**

**PIPELINE PL1762**

**PL/2579/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas ENQUEST HEATHER LIMITED has made an application dated 8th September 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, PA/5777.

Effective Date: 22nd September 2025

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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 22 September 2025 until 31 December 2025.

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

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

Rock deposits

185 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, either as loose rock or as 2 or 4 tonne rock filter bags (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 pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials**

At the locations identified as Span 1, 2 and 3 within the PL 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 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

## **8 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.

## **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

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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 rock deposits authorised shall not exceed 85 tonnes at Span 1, 50 tonnes at Span 2 and 50 tonnes at Span 3.

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

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 assessment undertaken 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 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**

Pipeline remediation of PL1762 in 3 locations using upto 185 tonnes of loose rock or 2 or 4 tonne rock filter bags. (PA/5777)

### **Description of the Project**

PL1762 gas export pipeline runs from Magnus installation to Sullom Voe Terminal on the Shetland mainland approximately 180km to the northeast. A visual inspection has identified 3 freespans on the pipeline in the inshore area approximately 1km from the shore which require to be remediated. Upto 185 tonnes of loose rock/rock bags will be installed across 3 freespan locations to rectify the spans. The works are expected to take 2 days and will take place between 22 Sept and 31 Dec 2025.

No significant cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects. 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 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:

PL1762 gas export pipeline runs from Magnus installation to Sullom Voe Terminal on the Shetland mainland approximately 180km to the northeast. The project locations are approximately 1km from shore in a water depths between 53 and 89m.

The project is in the National Marine Plan Area for Scotland.

Seabed in the nearshore areas of PL1762 is predominately flat with the majority of sediments being sandy with small rocks and shell shingle deposits of deep circalittoral mixed sediments and deep moderate circalittoral rock faunal communities. A survey of the area showed that the dominant groups around the project area are brittle stars, sea anemones, urchins, starfish and crab species, a number of dense kelp seaweed clusters were also observed. The Priority Marine Feature (PMF) species ocean quahog and native oysters may be present in the area, however recorded occurrence of ocean quahog have been in the Sullom Voe Bay area to the west and are therefore unlikely to be encountered during the proposed operations. Native oysters are widely distributed locally and may be encountered in the project area. PMF Habitats kelp beds, kelp and seaweed communities on sublittoral sediment, horse mussel beds have been recorded in the area. Annex I habitats stony reefs may be present within the vicinity of the proposed operations,

Minke whale, long finned pilot whale, killer whale, risso's dolphin, common dolphin, white-beaked and harbour porpoise have all been recorded in the vicinity of the proposed operations. Densities of the species are categorised as low to moderate, Grey and harbour seals may be encountered and the project area has a stable moderate population of otters.

The closest offshore protected site is the Pobie Bank Reef SAC approximately 40km away. As the works will take place within approximately 1km of the coast there are 18 onshore/coastal protected sites, the closest being the Yell Sound SAC.

The proposed operations will coincide with nursery and/or spawning activity for a number of fish species. Fishing effort in the ICES rectangle 50E8 is of moderate importance, with pelagic fishing dominating the species type. Seabird oil sensitivity in the vicinity of the project area is predominately low, with very high sensitivity in March - May, and extremely high sensitivity in September, October and February.

There are a number of pipelines in the project location, the project location is within the Yell Sound Sectoral Marine Plan Tidal Draft Plan area with the proposed Yell sound area location being approximately 2km away. The operations are located



approximately 38km southeast from the SMP INTOG Windfarm lease area. There are a number of wrecks in the vicinity, the closest being the Girl Mandy wreck 2.5 km to the south east. The Out Skerries Historical Marine Protected Areas (HMPAs) is located approximately 27 km southeast. The closest aquaculture site is approximately 7km to the southeast. There are a number of submarine cables in the area, the closest being 33km away. The operations are located within an area used for aggregate extraction. There are no military restrictions within the vicinity of the proposed operations.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) 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, and underwater noise. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact from the change to the project on population and human health.

The works will take place outwith any 500m safety zone. Fishing within ICES rectangle 50E8 is moderate however fishing activity is likely to be lower in the project location due to the inshore location. The proposed operations will be localised and short term and measures will be undertaken to reduce collision risk and interaction with fisheries interests. Therefore, there are no significant effects likely in terms of physical presence from the proposed project.

Seabed disturbance from the project will impact 540m<sup>2</sup> of the seabed, while direct impacts are likely to result in mortality or smothering of benthic species impacted, seabed disturbance is limited in scale and will be minimised by operational practices to ensure a high level of accuracy in deposit placement. Native oysters may be present in the vicinity, which are sensitive to changes in substrate, such changes will result in a localised loss of habitat but will not affect native oyster at a population level. The operations will take place outwith any protected sites, the closest being the Yell Sound SAC 1km away, designated for otter and harbour seal, it is not expected that the deposit operations will impact on the conservation objectives of the SAC.

Emissions to air will occur from the vessel engines used during the pipeline remediation operations. The proposed operations will result in emission of carbon dioxide equivalent of 0.001% of 2018 total emissions from the UK offshore oil and gas activity. The emission from the vessel will not have a detrimental effect to local air quality over the long term, nor are they expected to impact the ability to reach wider climate change goals. The environmental effects from emissions to air are not considered significant.

Cetaceans may be present in the vicinity of the works but there is unlikely to be an adverse effect due to the temporary and localised nature of the works. While there are designated seal haulout locations within proximity of the works these are sufficiently far away as to not cause any harassment issues, otters are unlikely to be impacted due to the depth of the deposits and distances from shore. The works will take place outwith the breeding season for most seabirds however sea duck and divers may still be present, a significant effect is unlikely due to the scale of the operations and the implementation of mitigations such as reduced vessel speeds in transit, avoidance of key habitats and the vessel being static while undertaking the operations.

In the event that an unlikely and unplanned accidental vessel diesel release scenario occurred response measures would be implemented as the Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP). Diesel is a non-persistent hydrocarbon and the relatively small potential release volume indicates no significant impact.

There are no expected transboundary impacts as a result of the planned works, and no cumulative impacts have been identified given the other known existing and approved projects in the wider area.

The pipeline remediation operations do not contradict any of the Scottish Marine Plan objectives and policies.

## **2) 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.

## **3) 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