

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7053U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1435837



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment  
& Decommissioning

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Registered No.: 16172712 Date:

16th February 2026

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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  
JACKDAW  
PIPELINE PLU6232**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2627/0 (Version 3), dated 13th February 2026 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](http://gov.uk) website.

If you have any queries in relation to this screening direction or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] or email the Environmental Management Team at [opred@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:opred@energysecurity.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

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**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**

**JACKDAW  
PIPELINE PLU6232**

**PL/2627/0 (Version 3)**

Whereas ADURA OPERATIONS LIMITED has made an application dated 13th February 2026, 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/5994.

Effective Date: 16th February 2026

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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 1 March 2026 until 31 December 2026.

#### 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

Grout bags deposits

24 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

79 concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 2 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).

Loose grout deposits

24 deposits of loose grout, each to be made as a quantity of 2 tonnes. (The number of loose grout deposits should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus loose grout must be returned to land).

#### 4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection

**materials** At the locations detailed in the PLA MAT.

#### 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 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.

## **10 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.

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## **11 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).

## **12 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:

PL/2627/0

Approval of screening direction application PL/2627/0 does not affect the Department's consideration of any further information provided for D/4260/2021. The commercial decision to undertake further project work in the absence of a new decision on D/4260/2021 is at the developer's own risk.

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

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## **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 relevant 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 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**

This screening direction is for the installation of the subsea infrastructure associated with the proposed development detailed under PA/5439 and PA/5994. Note: PA/5439 was subject to previous agreement under PLA/962. This comprises the services umbilical PLU6232 and associated stabilisation and protection materials as follows:

Mattresses (79 no.)

25 kg grout bags (960 no.; 24 tonnes)

2 tonnes loose grout (24 no.)

### **Description of project**

The Jackdaw Field is an ultra high pressure high temperature (uHPHT) reservoir located in the Central North Sea (CNS) in Block 30/2 (Figure 1 1), c. 275 km from the Scottish coastline (Aberdeen) and c. 5 km from the UK/Norway median line. The Jackdaw Development has been subject to an Environmental Statement (ES) (Reference No. D/4260/2021) which OPRED agreed to grant consent to in May 2022. The proposed Jackdaw Development will comprise a Well Head Platform (WHP), with four new platform production wells, tied back to the Shearwater platform for processing and onward export via the existing Fulmar Gas line and the Forties Pipeline System.

The Jackdaw Development subsea installation and commissioning activities have been split over three campaigns so far (Phase 1 (2023), Phase 2 (2024) and Phase 3 (2025)), all of which were supported under Master Application Template (MAT) number PLA/962. Completed works include a production pipeline (PL6234), a service umbilical at Shearwater (PLU6233), new SSIVs at Jackdaw and Shearwater, and associated stabilisation and protection materials.

This screening direction is for the installation of the remaining subsea infrastructure associated with the proposed development. This comprises a services umbilical (PLU6232) at Jackdaw and associated stabilisation and protection materials. Work is expected to take place from 1st March to 31st December 2026.

The umbilical will be installed using a Construction Support Vessel and/or Dive Support Vessel (DSV) and will be protected/supported using a combination of concrete mattresses, 25 kg grout bags and loose grout. The protection materials will be installed along the route of umbilical PLU6232 and are required to provide protection against damage and to prevent movement of the umbilical (amongst many other functions). The mattresses and grout bags will be laid on top of the umbilical while the loose grout may be used to provide a stable support under the umbilical to distribute loads more evenly.

The project is not at risk from natural disasters given its location in UK offshore waters, or unplanned major accident scenarios leading to an environmental incident. No cumulative interactions are foreseen with any other existing or approved projects. The nearest oil and gas installation is 10 km from the project location. The seabed sediments around Jackdaw consist of sandy sediments (offshore circalittoral sand). There is no risk to human health from the works to deposit protective and support materials on the seabed.

### **Location of 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 Jackdaw field is located in the Central North Sea (CNS) in Block 30/2, approximately 275 km from the Scottish coastline (Aberdeen) and approximately 5 km from the UK/Norway median line, in an area where the water depth is between 75



and 78 m.

The predominant current in the region originates from the vertically well-mixed coastal water and Atlantic water inflow of the Fair Isle/Dooley current, which flows around the north of the Orkney Islands and into the North Sea. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest being 31 km away. The habitat in the vicinity of the Jackdaw WHP was classified as circalittoral muddy sand, a Priority Marine Feature (PMF) in Scottish waters, coming under the broad category of "Offshore deep-sea muds". The macrofauna recorded across the Jackdaw field are typical of sandy CNS sediments. Community composition is dominated by annelids, molluscs, arthropods and echinoderms and is considered representative of background communities.

A number of potentially sensitive habitats were also noted during surveys including OSPAR Habitats 'Sea pens and burrowing megafauna', as well as juvenile Ocean quahog.

The project works and timing will take place at a time when a number of fish species may be found to be spawning or using the area as juveniles or nursery locations. Fish PMFs potentially present in the area include anglerfish ( *Lophius piscatorius* ), blue whiting ( *Micromesistius poutassou* ), cod ( *Gadus morhua* ), herring ( *Clupea harengus* ), ling ( *Molva molva* ), mackerel ( *Scomber scombrus* ), Norway pout ( *Trisopterus esmarkii* ), sandeels (several members of the family *Ammodytes* ), Spurdog ( *Squalus acanthias* ) and whiting ( *Merlangius merlangus* ).

Sightings of cetaceans are most common between the months of July and September. Seals are not expected to be present at the remote location. Seabirds are most common in the area during the summer months when expected density is 5-10 individuals per square km.

The project area is primarily used for demersal and shellfish fishing, but with a very low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is also very low to moderate. The surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 10 km, but is not within a military activity zone, with no telecommunications cables, marine aggregate sites in proximity. The location is in the vicinity of three Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) areas, however the closest operating windfarm is approximately 200 km away. There are no wrecks within block 30/2.

### **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 infrastructure and associated deposits and seabed disturbance resulting from the deposit of those materials.

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

significant impact of the project on population and human health.

The Jackdaw WHP has a 500 m safety zone and the infrastructure works will be carried out within the safety zone. The presence from the installation of permanent support and protection materials (within the exclusion zone) does have the potential to interact with users of the sea - primarily fishermen. The installations of the various types of deposits are deemed necessary to prevent snagging with the pipeline infrastructure and will not pose a hazard to fishing gear. The project is in a very low-level fishing area and so the impact on other users of the sea is not expected to be significant.

Seabed impacts will arise from the installation of umbilical and protective deposits, where potential smothering may occur. The predicted maximum area of temporary impact is estimated at 1.652 km<sup>2</sup> and area of permanent impact is predicted at 1.02 km<sup>2</sup>.

Burrowed mud habitats show a medium sensitivity to abrasion/penetration which may be caused by the project activities. Sea pens have been shown to re-anchor themselves after disturbance and can be resilient. Ocean Quahog are sensitive to increased siltation and can bury into the sediment when disturbed as long as their inhalant siphon is not damaged. The proposed activities may result in a loss of a small number of juvenile individuals however it is not thought that the project activities will impact on the population viability. Following completion of installation activities, it is expected that the benthos will begin to recover quickly. The impact to the seabed environment at the location has therefore been assessed as not significant.

The interaction with fish spawning and nursery locations is assessed as not significant as spawning and nursery areas are transient and widespread. The impact to fish species is therefore not significant. The quantity of deposits to the seabed is inclusive of a contingency allowance, which may not be used, thus reducing the insignificant impact further.

The primary noise source during the works is low level vessel noise (mainly from the propellers, propulsion and other machinery) and will not result in a significant impact. The proposed operation will utilise a DSV and/or CSV and atmospheric emissions have been assessed from the diesel used for the vessel, and the time spent on location. The total atmospheric emissions from the vessels undertaking the project work accounts for 0.014% of the total UKCS CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2024. The emissions may result in a deterioration of the local air quality, but due to the relatively short duration of the work, and that the exposed conditions in the area will rapidly disperse the emissions, it is not anticipated that there will be a significant impact.

The planned chemical discharges are not expected to present a risk to the marine environment. The main risk of accidental release of hydrocarbons is from a loss of diesel inventory from a vessel. The assessment showed that there is no potential for a significant effect from the loss of diesel from a vessel.

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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 operations do not contradict any of the Scottish marine plan objectives or policies.

## **Decision**

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, and so an EIA is not required.

## **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