

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6898U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1439575



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment  
& Decommissioning

ADURA OPERATIONS LIMITED  
C/O BRODIES LLP  
90 BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE  
LONDON  
UNITED KINGDOM  
EC1A 7BN

Department for Energy Security &  
Net Zero

AB1 Building  
Crimon Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1BJ

Registered No.: 16172712

Date: 13th March 2026

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  
JACKDAW, WELL 30/02a-A3Z (JD03s)**

I refer to your amended application dated 13th March 2026, reference DR/2603/1 (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 [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**

**JACKDAW, WELL 30/02a-A3Z (JD03s)**

**DR/2603/1 (Version 1)**

Whereas ADURA OPERATIONS LIMITED has made an application dated 13th March 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, WONS/15458/0/IDA/1 (Version 3) and WONS/15458/0/C/1 (Version 3).

Effective Date: 13th March 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 December 2025 until 31 October 2026.

#### **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 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.

#### **4 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.

## **5 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.

## **6 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.

## **7 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).

## **8 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:

#### **DR/2603/1**

Approval of screening direction application DR/2603/1 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

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

Perforation of the Jackdaw JD03s well utilising the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Valaris 122 (V122).

It is estimated that the project will take place between 1 December 2025 and 31 March 2026.

**Notes** : This screening direction relates to the perforation of the well only. All preceding drilling activities were captured under DRA/998 - DR/2386. **No extraction i.e., production, of oil or gas is permitted by this screening direction.**

### DR/2603/1

This variation is to accommodate the transition of the V122 into 'hotel' mode until 31 October 2026. Updates to atmospheric emissions have been made. No other

changes.

## **Description of the Project**

This project is the perforation of the Jackdaw JD03s well for production via the Shearwater installation. Coiled tubing will be utilised to deploy the perforating guns. A temporary bleed-off package on the V122 will be used to manage returned fluids (oily water and oil) with gas being flared and oil held in tanks for return to shore for processing. Oily water will be processed in a clean-up package and discharged overboard if within the limits as detailed in the oil discharge permit otherwise the fluids will be backloaded to shore for processing. The maximum cumulative expected mass of gas that will be flared is 298 tonnes over an up to 96-hour period.

No significant 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 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.

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 project is in an offshore oil and gas licenced area, approximately 275 km east from the Aberdeen coastline in Scotland and 5 km west of the UK/Norway median line, in an area where water depth is approximately 76 m and the seabed type is characterised as predominately comprising fine sand. Water circulation in the project location is driven by the influx of North Atlantic waters through the Fair Isle Channel moving southwards along the Scottish coast. Within the region, there is an annual mean significant wave height between 2.1m.

The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest UK area, the Fulmar Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), designated for ocean quahog being approximately 33 km distant.

The epifauna observed in the 2018 Shearwater survey area were dominated by annelids, molluscs, arthropods and echinoderms. Sea pens were identified during the survey, with elements of the OSPAR habitat 'sea pens and burrowing megafauna communities identified intermittently. it could therefore be considered representative of a 'sea pens and burrowing megafauna community.



The project works and timing will take place at a time when several 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 June and September. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. Seabirds are most common in the area during the months of March to October when expected density is 5 - 10 individuals per square km. The project area is used for fishing, but with a very low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is very low. The surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 35 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 14 km southwest 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 on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, with focus on the impacts resulting from the physical presence of the V122, atmospheric emissions from flaring activities, planned discharges to sea and accidental events such as an oil spill.

The V122 and support vessels will be located in the Jackdaw WHP safety zone. Its presence within the safety zone means only authorised vessels would be allowed within the 500 m radius of the MODU, therefore excluding other users of the sea. Given the very low importance of the fishing area and the very low vessel traffic, and that the project is a temporary activity - the impact is deemed insignificant. An emergency response and rescue vessel will be on site continually to monitor for vessel traffic and provide alerts to other users of the sea.

There is no anticipated seabed impact from the proposed activities.

Offshore registered chemicals will be used and discharged during the proposed activities. 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 V122 and support vessels and the flaring activities. The emissions associated with V122, and vessel use have previously been assessed under DRA/998 - DR/2386. This variation accounts for an increase in V122 and vessel emissions due to the switch to 'hotel' mode. The worst case emissions represent 0.27% of total UKCS upstream emissions for 2024. The quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent from the flaring activities amounts to 0.053% of the 2022 total emissions from offshore oil and gas flare and vent activity. The atmospheric emissions are unlikely to have a significant impact.

In the unlikely event of an oil release scenario from a well blow-out was realised the total volume of oil that would be released from the well has been estimated at 892,471m<sup>3</sup>. The modelling suggests that beaching of oil is predicted to occur and that a major environmental incident is considered likely. All drilling activities will be carried out in accordance with the Offshore Safety Directive as per Shell's Well Examination Scheme and Guidance Document. An approved Oil Spill Emergency Plan to manage hydrocarbon releases will be in place prior to activities being undertaken.

The proposed activities are in accordance with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's objectives and policies. It is considered that the perforation of the JD03s well is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, and no cumulative or transboundary impacts are expected to occur.

## **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**

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