Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7095U
UKOP Doc Ref:1440386

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

PERENCO UK LIMITED
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LONDON
W1S 1HQ

Registered No.: 04653066

Date: 20th March 2026

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]
Fax

www.gov.uk/desnz
opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020
HOTON, Hoton Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 48/07b- Perenco planned well

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2638/0 (Version 3), dated 11th March 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 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.

Yours faithfully

Validity Unknown

Digitally signed by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Date: 2026.03.20 12:12:02 GMT
Reason: On behalf of the Secretary of State
Location: Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning

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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

HOTON, Hoton Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 48/07b- Perenco planned well

DR/2638/0 (Version 3)

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 11th 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/17658/0/PIDA/1 (Version 1).

Effective Date: 20th March 2026

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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 31 March 2026 until 30 June 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

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:

N/A

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
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AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]

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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 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 Assessment 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
Perenco is developing the Hoton "48/07b - Perenco Planned Well", which is scheduled for drilling in 2027. As part of the first phase of development, the developer will install a conductor that will form the upper section of the future well.

Application DR/2638/0 covers the installation of the conductor only; the subsequent drilling operations will be addressed and assessed in a future variation to this application.

Description of the Project
The developer proposes to install a single 36" conductor at the Hoton platform to support the planned drilling of two new wells. These wells are expected to be drilled through the installed conductor in late 2026 or early 2027. This screening direction considers only the conductor installation; drilling operations will be subject to a separate assessment at a later date.

The conductor will be driven to a depth of approximately 43 metres below the seabed using a Claxton S150 Hydrohammer. The primary installation method relies solely on hammer energy, minimising the need for chemical use or discharge. If the conductor reaches refusal i.e., is unable to penetrate further, a contingency drill out procedure

will be implemented. This involves deploying a drill internally to remove formation material and enable further penetration. Drill out returns will be circulated to surface using treated seawater and high viscosity sweeps to ensure effective hole cleaning. This contingency method will result in only limited chemical and fluid discharge.

Conductor installation will be undertaken from the HAEVA Jack Up Barge (JUB), which will jack up alongside the Hoton platform. The JUB is supported by four legs terminating in spud cans, each penetrating the seabed and accomodating a footprint of approximately 86.59 m .

The project is not considered likely to be affected by natural disasters. The risk of a major accident, such as a well blowout, has been assessed and is considered very low. The developer has appropriate control measures in place to minimise the already low probability of such an event.

Except where considered further below, no significant impacts on population or human health are anticipated.

Location of the Project
Having regard to paragraphs 2(a) to (c) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the environmental sensitof the areas likely to be affected has been consSeabed sediments in the area comprise coarse sediments and sands. The benthic community is dominated by polychaetes (e.g., Nephtys cirrosa, Spiophanes bombyx, Magelona mirabilis), bivalves (Tellina fabula), juvenile brittlestars (Amphiura spp.) and amphipods (Bathyporeia sp.). Significant wave heights range from 1.3 to 1.6 m.

The Hoton field lies within the Southern North Sea SAC, designated for harbour porpoise. Moderate densities of porpoise are recorded during summer, with lower densities at other times of year. White beaked and white sided dolphins are the only other cetaceans regularly recorded, but in low to very low densities. Given the offshore location (78 km from shore), grey and harbour seals may be encountered only in low numbers.

Seabird oil sensitivity in the area ranges from low to extremely high throughout the year, with periods of elevated sensitivity in both winter and summer.

The proposed operations coincide with spawning and/or nursery periods for several commercial fish species

Fishing activity in the area is primarily demersal and shellfish related, with overall fishing effort considered low, however shipping density in the area is high.
Several oil and gas fields are located nearby, including the Hyde and Hoton fields. No subsea telecommunications cables are located in close proximity. Although there are no operational offshore wind farms within Block 48/7, the block lies adjacent to the consented Hornsea Project Four area, and active export cables for Hornsea Two pass to the south of the Hoton platform.

There are no active licensed dredging or disposal sites within Block 48/7. UKCS

Block 48/7 and the Hoton platform fall within the boundary of the CS018 Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) site, leased to Perenco.

The block lies within a known RAF Practice and Exercise Area (PEXA) and danger area; however, there are no specific licence conditions associated with military activity in this block.

Given the project location, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to be affected.

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 assessed. Potential impacts considered include atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, planned discharges and accidental spills. Except where detailed below, no significant effects on population or human health are anticipated.

All proposed activities will occur within the Hoton platform's 500 m safety zone; no significant impacts on other sea users are expected as a result of physical presence.

Placement of the HAEVA JUB (spud cans, anchors and anchor chains) will cause temporary seabed disturbance over an area of 11,921 m , with a permanent disturbance of 25 m from conductor installation, in total this amounts to 0.000032262% of the Southern North Sea SAC. The temporary disturbance will be confined to the immediate JUB footprint, after which recovery will begin once the vessel departs. The benthic and demersal communities present are typical of the SNS and are expected to recover well from temporary shallow physical disturbance that does not alter sediment type, thereby allowing rapid recovery of benthic habitats and prey species for harbour porpoise.

Underwater noise from conductor driving may cause permanent threshold shifts in marine mammals out to 660 m, with potential behavioural disturbance out to 5 km, with the greatest effects on very high frequency species. Injury may be possible in fish out to 810 m, which may result in short term effects on prey species. These impacts will be highly localised and temporary, and are not expected to affect population level distribution or status.

The developer will adhere to the JNCC Piling Guidelines, including the use of Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) and Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM). Conductor driving will also be coordinated with the 2026 Underwater Noise Coordination Forum to avoid impacts within the SNS SAC summer area. On this basis, underwater noise associated with the project is not expected to have a likely significant effect on harbour porpoise or other marine mammals.

As the conductor installation does not enter reservoir formations, there is no risk of well blowout or large scale hydrocarbon release. The worst case credible accidental event would involve a vessel fuel spill, which is assessed as highly unlikely and not a

major environmental risk.

Discharges of offshore chemicals associated with the drilling and jack up operations have been assessed as low toxicity and not likely to give rise to significant environmental effects.

Atmospheric emissions from the planned activities will disperse rapidly and are not expected to result in significant impacts.

There are no anticipated transboundary effects; the nearest boundary (UK/Netherlands Median Line) is approximately 111 km east of the operation.

Cumulative effects associated with the conductor installation at the Hoton "48/07b - Perenco Planned Well" have been assessed and are not considered significant.

Decision

Taking the above considerations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the change to 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