

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7111U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1441486



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment  
& Decommissioning

BP EXPLORATION OPERATING COMPANY LIMITED  
CHERTSEY ROAD  
SUNBURY ON THAMES  
MIDDLESEX  
TW16 7BP

Registered No.: 00305943

Date: 30th March 2026

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**

**CLAIR-RIDGE [Part of CLAIR], Clair Ridge Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER  
WELL 206/08a- S4U3P2 planned well**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2642/0 (Version 2), dated 20th 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](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**

**CLAIR-RIDGE [Part of CLAIR], Clair Ridge Platform, DRILLING PRODUCER  
WELL 206/08a- S4U3P2 planned well**

**DR/2642/0 (Version 2)**

Whereas BP EXPLORATION OPERATING COMPANY LIMITED has made an application dated 20th 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/18508/0/IDA/1 and WONS/18508/0/C/1.

Effective Date: 30th March 2026

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7111U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1441486



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment  
& Decommissioning



## **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 30 March 2026 until 31 December 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.

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7111U  
UKOP Doc Ref:1441486



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment  
& Decommissioning



## 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 Department has no further comments

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]  
Fax



## **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**

Drilling of the S4U3P2 (B28) production well from the Clair Ridge Platform.

Drilling of the 32" with Water based Mud (WBM) with a 26" conductor casing run.

Drilling of 23" section with WBM.

Drilling of 16" section with Low toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM)

Drilling of 12.25" section LTOBM

Drilling of 8.5" section using WBM or sacrificial WBM should high formation losses require it.

Casing cemented and lower and upper completions run

Contingency mechanical side track of the well.

Well Clean up and hand over to production

### **Description of project**

This project covers the drilling of an injector well S4U3P2 from the Clair Ridge Platform.

The well will be drilled with a combination of WBM and LTOBM. The 32" and 23" sections will be drilled with WBM with the tophole section cuttings (32") discharged at the seabed and the 23" section cuttings discharged from the platform.

The 16" and 12.25" section will be drilled using LTOBM with cuttings generated in the LTOBM sections will be reinjected into the CRI well. If this is unavailable for any reason then LTOBM and cuttings will be skipped and shipped to shore. The 8.5" section will be drilled with WBM with the contingency of sacrificial WBM should losses to the formation be encountered during drilling, cuttings from the 8.5" re-injected into the CRI well. If the CRI well becomes unavailable during the 8.5" section then cuttings will be skipped and shipped. 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, wellbore clean-up operations will be undertaken and the well handed over to production. The total anticipated time for all operations is 153 days.

The S4U3P2 well is not anticipated to have any cumulative impacts. The proposed activities do not contradict the applicable National Marine Plan objectives.

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 Clair Ridge platform is located approximately 55 kilometres (km) west of Shetland and 94 km south east of the United Kingdom-Faroes median line in block 206/8.



The project is in an area characterised by sand, slightly gravelly sand and gravelly muddy sand with a water depth of 143 metres (m). The wave height within the area ranges from 2.71 - 3.00 m and the annual mean wave power is between 42.10 - 48.00 kW/m. Surveys indicated that areas were predominately classified as sublittoral coarse sediment. Additional habitats were identified to a lesser extent, including sublittoral sand and sublittoral mixed sediment. The benthic fauna in the vicinity of the Clair Ridge platform is typical of the wider area. Surveys conducted around the area observed a diverse range of species.

Sediments within the survey area were identified as comprising the broad scale Priority Marine Feature (PMF) habitat 'offshore subtidal sands and gravels', however, this habitat is widely distributed and unlikely to be of conservation significance for the wider survey area. This is the preferred habitat for ocean quahog *Arctica islandica*, however no *A. islandica* were observed across both survey areas and siphons were not visible at the sediment surface in any of the seabed photographs. Due to the areas of relatively high reflectivity observed throughout both survey areas, further assessment for Annex I habitat 'stony reef' was undertaken. However, after assessment these areas did not meet the minimum extents and therefore were not considered to constitute an Annex I stony reef habitat. Other protected features such as, but not limited to, PMF Ocean quahog *Arctica islandica*, OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining Species of 'Seapen and Burrowing Megafauna' and deep sea sponge aggregations were not identified from either the geophysical or photographic data.

The closest protected site to the project is the Faroe-Shetland Sponge Belt Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) located approximately 18 km to the northwest and the Seas off Foula Special Protected Area (SPA) located approximately 39 km to the south.

The project is in the National Marine Plan Area for Scotland. The proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for a number of species.

Numerous cetacean species are present in the area in low numbers with the during the operational period including long-finned pilot whales, Minke whales, Atlantic white-sided dolphins, killer whales and Risso dolphins. Harbour porpoise and white-beaked dolphins are present in moderate density in July. Low numbers of Grey and harbour seals are anticipated to be in the area at any time.

Seabird sensitivity during the operational period ranges from low to high. Fishing effort in the area is low.

There is only one oil and gas installation within 40km of the project. The Shefa 2 telecommunication cable which is owned and operated by Faroese telecom runs within < 1 km of the project site however this will not be impacted by operations.

The area is located within a Ministry of Defence practice area but any restrictions are only applicable to the siting of an installation.

Shipping density in the area is low. There are no protected wrecks located in the vicinity. No aggregate dredging and disposal sites, sites of marine archaeological interest, aquaculture sites or planned offshore renewable energy developments have been identified within 40km of the Clair Ridge Platform.

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, planned discharges, accidental events and transboundary impacts.

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 is a 500 m radius safety zone around the Clair Ridge Platform, excluding unauthorised access of vessels and prohibiting access to fishing vessels. There are therefore not expected to be any impacts to other sea users.

Operations are conducted from the Clair Ridge Platform and will use existing power generation. It is expected the emissions will be rapidly dispersed and are not likely to have a significant impact.

There will be 301.7 m<sup>2</sup> of direct seabed disturbance from the drill cuttings, conductor and cementing operations. Discharge modelling for the WBM drill cuttings shown that 1mm depth coverage of cuttings would be limited to 300m surrounding the well. This could result in the smothering and mortality of benthic fauna which will result in some short term temporary impacts however the benthic communities are expected to regenerate the area impacted by drill cuttings over time and therefore the impacts from seabed disturbance have been assessed as not likely to have significant effect.

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. Offshore chemicals associated with LTOBM and the 8.5" WBM Reservoir section will be reinjected into the CRI well or skipped and shipped if this is unavailable.

Transboundary effects from the project are expected to be negligible. The nearest boundary line (UK/Faroes Median Line) is located approximately 94 km of the operations.



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 large oil 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 oil 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 Scottish marine plan objectives and policies.

There is no cumulative impact anticipated from the project.

## **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