Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7119U
UKOP Doc Ref:1443887

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

SERICA ENERGY (UK) LIMITED
4TH FLOOR
72 WELBECK STREET
LONDON
ENGLAND
W1G 0AY

Registered No.: 04073712

Date: 22nd April 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
Bruce WAD electrical umbilical replacement PLU6719

I refer to your amended application dated 22nd April 2026, reference PL/2644/1 (Version 2).

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.

Yours faithfully

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Date: 2026.04.22 16:37:48 BST
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

Bruce WAD electrical umbilical replacement PLU6719

PL/2644/1 (Version 2)

Whereas SERICA ENERGY (UK) LIMITED has made an application dated 22nd April 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/5586.

Effective Date: 22nd April 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 April 2026 until 31 March 2027.

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

3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Grout bags deposits

85 tonnes of grout contained within 25 kilogramme capacity hessian 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

281 concrete mattresses in total. 279 measuring 6 metres x 3 metres x 0.3 metres and 2 measuring 4 metres x 2 metres x 0.15 metres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

Within an area bounded by the coordinates as detailed in the application.

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.

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:

The Department highlights that this approval does not include rock placement for the purposes of mitigating risk to other users of the sea, with an interim measure of a guard vessel in place. The rock placement has not yet been assessed or approved. Please ensure that rock placement is captured in a future variation.

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

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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:-

<u>Summary of changes to the project</u>

- PLA/1118 PL/2644/1 (Version 2) - update to include additonal concrete mattresses and grout bags at the WAD manifold. No changes to impacts.

<u>Summary of the project</u>

Installation of a replacement electrical umbilical cable.

- 6.4 km long and 77.7 mm in diameter

- The umbilical will be installed between the Bruce platform Topside Umbilical Termination Unit (TUTU) and the Bruce Western Area Development (WAD) subsea manifold

- A dive support vessel will install the replacement umbilical cable, followed by a dedicated trenching vessel to jet-trench the umbilical

- Temporary seabed deposits may be required to support installation and tie-in activities, including turning bollards, diver tooling baskets, a subsea control jumper pallet and subsea transponders used for positioning and navigation.

- Concrete mattresses and grout bags will be used for protection where jet-trenched depth cannot be met

Description of project

The project entails the installation of a replacement 3-core electrical umbilical cable due to the existing umbilical insulation resistance declining due to degradation. The umbilical will be laid with a dive support vessel, between the Bruce platform TUTU and the Bruce WAD subsea manifold. Following cable-laying the umbilical will be jet-trenched using a dedicated trenching vessel. In locations where the required depth of cover cannot be met, localised seabed protection will be used including concrete mattresses and grout bags for the 6.4 km umbilical.

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 17 km from the project location. 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 Bruce field location lies within a seaward licenced area, which has been licenced for the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons. The project is located 157 km east from the Shetland coastline in Scotland and 16 km to the UK/Norwegian median line. Water depths along the approximately 6.4 km umbilical cable route are generally consistent, ranging from approximately 118 m to 125 m Lowest Astronomical Tide. The tidal currents in the NNS area are generally weak and are readily influenced by other factors such as winds and density driven circulation. This results in a relatively atypical pattern to the tidal currents. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest being 80 km away.

Site-specific surveys identified the seabed as comprising of sand with areas of muddy sand to the north and southwest of the development. The sediment type is described as circalittoral mud. The seabed along the umbilical route is dominated by widespread offshore circalittoral mud (SS.SMu.OMu) with some limited mixed sediment patches in the wider area. Benthic communities are typical of NNS muddy

sands, dominated by polychaete worms with moderate diversity. Annex I habitats and Priority Marine Features such as; stony reef habitat, seapen and burrowing megafauna habitat, and ocean quahog beds were not found to occur within the installation footprint, only isolated individuals in the wider area.

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. Sightings of cetaceans are most common during the months of June and July. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. The predicted at-sea seabird density predicts a density of less than 3 seabird per kilometres squared (km2) during the breeding Season (March - September), and less than 2 seabirds per km2 in winter (November - March). The project area is primarily used for demersal fishing, but with a very low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is also very low. The surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 40 km, but is not within a military activity zone, with no telecommunications cables, marine aggregate sites or renewable energy locations or charted or protected wrecks in proximity.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi) or (vii) of Schedule 5 have not been given particular regard with respect to 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 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 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 physical presence of the vessels involved with the work programme will not have an exclusion area attributed to them and would be able to move away from location in an emergency. The presence from the installation of permanent support and protection materials (partly within exclusion zones) does have the potential to interact with users of the sea- primarily fishermen. The project is in a low-level fishing area and so the impact on other users of the sea is not expected to be significant.

The total area of seabed permanently impacted by the introduction of support and protective materials will be 0.004442km2. The main impacts expected are from smothering of organisms and change of habitat. However, the introduction of such support and protective materials will enhance biodiversity by variation and abundance of species that are found on hard substrate, which validates results from site-surveys of the area and abundance of species on rock and cobbled sites. Some natural sediment movement is expected in this area of sea, and so there will be an

expectation of recovery of the site with more natural seabed material. Recovery of faunal communities is expected, but the time in which this will take place is less certain. The ecological impact from the project is not expected to be identifiable given the wider area of similar natural seabed environment available. 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 given the limited footprint of disturbance. Juvenile fish will be able to avoid interaction with any deposits installed on the seabed. 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 impact further.

Emissions to air will occur from the engines on the vessels used in the operations. The proposed operations will result in emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent of 0.023% of the 2024 total CO2e emissions from UK offshore oil and gas activity. The emission from the vessels will not have a detrimental effect to local air quality over the long term, nor are they expect to impact the ability to reach wider climate change goals. The environmental effects from emissions to air are not considered significant. The impact of the vessel emissions will be mitigated by optimising vessel efficiency (i.e. minimising the number of vessels used and vessel trips required to achieve the project deliverables) and hence minimising fuel use and avoiding the unnecessary operation of power generation / combustion equipment.

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.

In the event that an unlikely and unplanned accidental vessel diesel release scenario occurred response measure 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.

The works will not contradict the policies and objectives of the Scottish National Marine Plan.

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:

Not applicable