

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7295U
UKOP Doc Ref:1455172



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

INEOS E&P (UK) LIMITED
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Registered No.: 04376184

Date: 4th August 2026

Department for Energy Security &
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Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020**

**BREAGH, Breagh Platform, Valaris 122 DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 42/13a-
A13 planned well**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2666/0 (Version 1), dated 3rd July 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



**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**

**BREAGH, Breagh Platform, Valaris 122 DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 42/13a-
A13 planned well**

DR/2666/0 (Version 1)

Whereas INEOS E&P (UK) LIMITED has made an application dated 3rd July 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 applications -WONS/18694/0/IDA/1, WONS/18694/0/GS/1 and WONS/18694/0/C/1 Version 1.

Effective Date: 4th August 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 15 August 2026 until 31 January 2027.

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
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:

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, 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

Summary of the Project

DR/2666/0

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:

1. Drilling of a new well (well 42/13a A13) to enhance gas production at the Breagh field. The well will comprise:
 - o 36" section drilled with viscous sweeps discharged to the seabed;
 - o 17.5" section drilled with Water Based Mud (WBM), with cuttings discharged from the platform;
 - o 12.5" section drilled with Low Toxicity Oil Based Mud (LTOBM);
 - o 8.5" section drilled with LTOBM;
 - o 6" pilot hole section drilled with LTOBM;
 - o 6" sidetrack drilled with LTOBM;
 - o No contingency sidetracks or re-spuds are planned or accounted for.
2. LTOBM contaminated drill cuttings will be shipped to shore and will not be discharged to the marine environment.
3. The well casings will be fully cemented, which will require some discharge of

cementing chemicals.

4. The well will involve the use of a mobile jack-up drilling unit (MoDU), the Valaris 122, with operations lasting approximately 134 days.
5. Following perforation, there will be a well clean-up operation and a well test, both operations requiring flaring.
6. There will be no venting associated with the drilling of well A13.

Description of the Project

The 42/13a A13 well is a high-angle well targeting the hydrocarbon gas-bearing Yoredale Zone 1A reservoir in the south-east of the Breagh field and will continue gas production at the Breagh Alpha platform. The well will be drilled with WBM in the upper sections, with drill cuttings discharged to sea, and the lower sections will be drilled with LTOBM. No cuttings contaminated with LTOBM will be discharged to sea; these will all be captured and transported to shore for safe treatment and disposal.

There will be an operational requirement to use chemicals as part of the operation, some of which will be discharged to sea. Following drilling operations and perforation of the well, a clean-up operation will be undertaken which will require the well to be flowed. The well clean-up programme will commence with up to 48 hours of flaring at rates of up to 36 MMscfd (approximately 774 tonnes/day), before transitioning to clean-up through the production system where possible to minimise flaring, with less than 231 tonnes of condensate expected to be produced during the initial flow period. Following the clean-up, a well test may be performed at a rate of up to 36 MMscfd and will last between 24 and 48 hours; therefore, up to 1,488 tonnes of gas could be flared.

Drilling operations will take place from the Mobile Drilling Platform, the Valaris 122, which will position itself alongside the Breagh platform using three legs terminating at 18 metre diameter spud cans, which provide seabed stability at the base of each leg. The positioning of the drilling platform will require the use of anchors and chain which will be in contact with the seabed.

Operations are expected to last 134 days in total.

The proposed project area is within a well-developed area of the Southern North Sea (SNS), and cumulative impacts from drilling discharges, atmospheric releases, and oil and chemical releases have been assessed.

It is not considered likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters, and 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 proposed drilling project is located in the Breagh field in the Southern North Sea, in UKCS Block 42/13a, approximately 60 kilometres (km) east of the UK coastline at Flamborough Head, and 178 km from the UK/Dutch Median Line, in a water depth of approximately 62 m.

The seabed at Breagh is relatively flat, deepening from the centre to the north-east of the survey site. The sediments around the site comprise fine sand, with areas of exposed underlying chalk to the west and areas of clay to the east. The survey at the platform location found fairly uniform sediment distribution, characterised by fine sand with gravelly patches. A seabed survey of the proposed location of the MODU confirmed the gradual slope towards the north-east and identified a series of spud can depressions from previous campaigns.

Surveys around the Breagh platform location demonstrated that the faunal community was largely uniform, with low numbers of both taxa and individuals spread largely evenly across samples. The platform survey did not identify the presence of biogenic reefs or other sensitive habitats. No Annex I habitats or communities of conservation significance (including methane-derived authigenic carbonates and potential stony reefs) were present within the survey area.

The Breagh area is not situated within any conservation areas, with the nearest area of conservation interest being the Southern North Sea SAC located 2.1 km to the east. This site is designated due to the presence of harbour porpoises. Dogger Bank is located 35 km to the east of the proposed project location and is designated for the presence of sandbanks. The closest Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is Runswick Bay, which is designated for its subsurface features of high-energy intertidal rock, mixed sediments and ocean quahog.

The proposed project area is also located within the boundary of the North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan area, with the plan area policies considered within this application.

Minke whale, bottlenose dolphin, white-beaked dolphin and harbour porpoise have all been recorded in the vicinity of the Breagh area. Densities of these species are categorised as low to moderate, with the exception of minke whale and white-beaked dolphin, which are high in July, and harbour porpoise, which is high in July and August. Grey and harbour seals may be encountered, and density maps show the presence of grey seals in the Breagh field area as 0.43 seals per 5 km². Harbour seals are unlikely to frequent the area.

Seabird oil sensitivity in the vicinity of the Breagh field is very high in June, high in

September and low in July and August. Low to medium sensitivity is recorded in the summer months and increases to medium to high sensitivity towards the end of the year.

The Breagh field lies within ICES rectangle 38F0, and the proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for a number of species. Fishing effort in the area is designated as being of low importance, with shellfish dominating the species composition. Fishing in the area accounted for 0.07% of the total UK value and 0.06% of the total live weight landed in 2020. It is not anticipated that the drilling of the A13 well will have a significant impact on the fishing industry in the area.

The Hornsea Project One wind farm development is 53 km to the south-east of the project location, with the Dogger Bank wind farm development 74 km to the north-east. The closest oil and gas installation is the Garrow Normally Unmanned Installation (NUI), which is 45 km to the south. There are no subsea telecommunication cables in the block and, due to the proximity to the coast, there are likely to be some recreational users during the summer months. There are 95 wrecks within a 40 km radius of the Breagh platform, with the closest wrecks located 3.1 km to the north-east and 6.8 km to the south-west of the platform. Block 42/13 is within a Ministry of Defence (MoD) training area and shipping density in the area is considered moderate.

Given the location of the project, it is not likely that the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) 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 and accidental spills. 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 Valaris 122 MODU will be located within the 500 m zone surrounding the Breagh platform. This excludes unauthorised access by vessels, including fishing vessels. In addition, the MoD has no objections to the presence of the MODU, and a survey of the area in which the MODU will be located identified no wreck debris in the vicinity. No additional impacts to other marine users have been identified as part of the drilling operation. Therefore, no significant effects are likely in terms of physical presence from the proposed project.

Cuttings from the upper sections, namely the 36" and 17.5" sections, will be discharged to sea as these sections will be drilled using fluids and muds with relatively benign effects on the marine environment. These cuttings will settle through the water column and form a depositional layer on the seabed. The quantity of



cuttings discharged from the A13 well will be approximately 323 m³. This will combine with any remaining accumulations from previous wells drilled at the Breagh platform. Modelling was undertaken to quantify the extent of cuttings accumulation at Breagh and accounted for all potential wells planned to be drilled. The modelling identified that, in the immediate vicinity of the platform, accumulations of approximately 10 mm could occur. However, over most of the accumulation area, accumulations are expected to be several millimetres in thickness and are unlikely to extend beyond 500 m from the platform. The dynamic nature of seabed currents and sediment transport in the area is likely to disperse cuttings accumulations to a significant degree. Cuttings from the lower sections of the well will be drilled using LTOBM drill fluids, which could have adverse impacts on the marine environment. These cuttings will therefore be recovered and taken to shore, and there will be no seabed disturbance associated with them.

There will be seabed disturbance from the MODU anchors and anchor chains, resulting in the disturbance of 12,671 m of seabed. This disturbance will manifest as abrasion, compression and smothering of surface sediments. There will be mortality of some individual species; however, recolonisation of seabed fauna and benthic assemblages will begin once the MODU departs, and it is expected that the communities and seabed habitats in the area will show full recovery. There are no Annex I habitats or sensitive benthic species identified within the area, and it is not considered possible for there to be an impact on benthic organisms at a population or regional scale.

The proposed operation will utilise a standby vessel, a supply vessel and a helicopter in addition to the MODU. Atmospheric emissions have been assessed from the diesel used by each vessel (including the drilling rig itself), the time spent on location, and the emissions from well testing and flaring. The total atmospheric emissions from the vessels undertaking the project work and from well testing and clean-up operations, expressed as CO₂ (e), are approximately 24,990 tonnes and account for 0.2% of total UKCS CO₂ emissions (using 2024 as a baseline). The developer is aware of the oil and gas sector's commitment to reducing atmospheric emissions and has committed to working towards the net zero target by 2050. The developer has also set its own target to reduce emissions.

Noise generated from the project activities will not be significant with regard to fish, cetaceans or any other sensitive species. It is concluded that the project is not expected to have any significant effects on the nearby Southern North Sea SAC through impacts on the harbour porpoise population or its supporting habitats and prey.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the proposal to drill the A13 well. The nearest boundary (UK/Netherlands median line) is located approximately 178 km from the proposed well location. It is not considered likely that any planned operational discharges of chemicals will be detectable at this distance from the well location.

The well to be drilled is a gas well with minimal levels of condensate, and an

assessment has been included within the project proposal to assess, as a worst-case scenario, an uncontrolled well blowout from the Breagh field and the subsequent potential for a Major Environmental Incident (MEI). The assessment concluded that there is no potential for an MEI to occur, and the developer has suitable mitigation measures in place to prevent such an occurrence.

The drilling operations are in accordance with the objectives and policies of the North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan area. It is considered that the drilling of the Breagh well is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur.

It has been concluded that there will not be any significant cumulative impacts associated with the project due to the selection of low-bioaccumulation water-based muds, the proposed mitigation measures, and the short duration of 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