

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7324U
UKOP Doc Ref:1458487



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

INEOS E&P (UK) LIMITED
HAWKSLEASE
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Date: 7th September 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
PIPELINE PL2768**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2675/0 (Version 3), dated 3rd September 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**

PIPELINE PL2768

PL/2675/0 (Version 3)

Whereas INEOS E&P (UK) LIMITED has made an application dated 3rd September 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/6227

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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 31 October 2026 until 31 December 2026.

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

Rock deposits

10000 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines deposited over 11 pipeline span locations. (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

Rock placement shall be undertaken at 11 locations along pipeline PL2768. The locations are identified in the application and are situated within the area bounded by the following coordinates (ED50):

54 Degrees 37 Minutes 04.40 Seconds North

00 Degrees 08 Minutes 25.40 Seconds East

and

54 Degrees 39 Minutes 12.90 Seconds North

00 Degrees 58 Minutes 48.20 Seconds East

The 11 rock-placement locations must be confined to the positions specified in the approved 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:

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:

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.

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

The project is to undertake rock deposition operations along the 20-inch Breagh gas export pipeline (PL2768) between the Breagh Alpha platform and the Teesside Gas Processing Plant. The deposits will provide support beneath free-spanning sections of pipeline and maintain the integrity, safety and operability of the export system.

Description of the project

A 2025 multibeam survey identified a number of pipeline free spans requiring remediation. Subsequent engineering assessment confirmed that eight free spans required intervention; however, due to the geometry of the spans and required support profiles, remediation is proposed across approximately 11 discrete sections of pipeline. The deposits will stabilise the seabed beneath the pipeline and reduce the risk of fatigue damage and vortex-induced vibration.

The works will be undertaken using a dynamically positioned rock installation vessel deploying graded crushed rock via a flexible fallpipe system controlled by a remotely operated vehicle. The vessel will maintain position using dynamic positioning throughout the campaign and no anchors will be deployed. The campaign is expected to last approximately 12 days. No operational chemicals will be discharged

as part of the rock placement activities.

The estimated quantity of rock required to remediate the identified free spans is approximately 1,178 m, equivalent to approximately 2,120 tonnes of rock. The associated deposit consent application seeks consent for up to 10,000 tonnes to allow for operational contingency.

The deposits will be located at 11 discrete locations along approximately 497 m of pipeline.

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 works are located along pipelines PL2768 and PL2769 between the Breagh Alpha normally unattended installation and the Teesside Gas Processing Plant. The pipeline traverses UKCS Blocks 42/11, 41/15, 41/14, 41/13, 41/12 and 41/11 in varying water depths as it approaches the shore from the Breagh platform which is in 62 metres of water LAT. The Breagh Alpha installation is located approximately 65 km from the north-east coast of England and approximately 178 km from the UK-Netherlands median line.

The seabed sediments comprise predominantly sands, gravelly sands and sandy gravels, with occasional rocky outcrops and boulders. These habitats support benthic communities typical of the southern North Sea and are characterised by species assemblages which are relatively resilient to the effects of physical disturbance.

The annual mean significant wave height in the area is approximately 1.36 to 1.53 metres and tidal stream velocities range from approximately 0.5 to 1.3 m/s during spring tides. The area is therefore characterised by an energetic hydrodynamic regime capable of transporting and redistributing sediments naturally.

The project is located in proximity to a number of protected sites. The nearest designated site is the Southern North Sea SAC, designated for harbour porpoise, located approximately 2 km east of the Breagh Alpha installation. The pipeline makes landfall in the Teesmouth and Cleveland coast SPA and the Dogger Bank SAC lies approximately 35 km east of Breagh. The pipeline deposits will not be placed within any designated SAC, SPA or MCZ.

The area supports a range of commercially and ecologically important fish species including cod, herring, mackerel, plaice, sandeel, whiting, sprat and Nephrops. The wider area provides both spawning and nursery habitat for a number of these species.

Several seabird species may occur within the project area, including kittiwake, guillemot, herring gull, razorbill and fulmar, although the area is not recognised as



having a very high seabird density.

Harbour porpoise is the most commonly occurring marine mammal species in the wider area, although white-beaked dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, minke whale and grey and harbour seals may also occur.

There is existing commercial use of the area including commercial fisheries, shipping, offshore oil and gas infrastructure, subsea pipelines and offshore wind transmission infrastructure. Shipping activity is considered moderate and oil and gas activity in the immediate vicinity is relatively low compared with other parts of the southern North Sea.

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 environmental effects associated with the project include seabed disturbance, habitat loss, underwater noise, atmospheric emissions, vessel presence and accidental events.

The placement of rock beneath and around the identified free spans will result in a permanent alteration of the seabed within the footprint of the deposits, changing the local habitat from predominantly sandy sediment to a rock-dominated seabed. However, this change will be limited to the footprint of the rock berms, which will be largely overlap with the existing exposed pipelines and the immediately adjacent seabed already influenced by the presence of that infrastructure. Based on the proposed berm dimensions and remediation lengths, approximately 4,100 m of seabed will be permanently covered by deposited rock across the 11 remediation sections. This change in substratum type represent a negligible change in the relation to the local and regional seabed environment.

In addition to the direct footprint of the deposits, there will be a small and temporary area of secondary disturbance associated with sediment resuspension, plume dispersion and subsequent settlement during placement activities. These effects are expected to be highly localised and short-lived. The seabed in the vicinity of the pipeline is already subject to disturbance due to the strong local hydrodynamic regime and localised changes in flow caused by the exposed pipeline. The surrounding sandy sediments are characteristic of a naturally dynamic environment and are therefore expected to exhibit a high degree of resilience to physical disturbance and sediment deposition. Associated benthic communities will be adapted to periodic sediment movement and are anticipated to recover rapidly following completion of the works.

These benthic communities are commonplace and characteristic of the wider southern North Sea. No protected benthic habitats or biogenic reef structures were

identified within the project area. Accordingly, impacts on benthic communities are not considered significant.

The proposed deposits are not located within any SAC, SPA or MCZ. Although the Southern North Sea SAC occurs nearby, the localised nature of the seabed disturbance means that prey availability, habitat quality and ecological function supporting harbour porpoise will not be significantly altered. Consequently, no significant effects on the integrity or conservation objectives of nearby protected sites are anticipated.

The principal source of underwater noise will be the rock installation vessel and associated dynamic positioning operations. The noise source is non-impulsive, temporary and localised. Assessment submitted within the application concluded that noise impacts on fish and marine mammals would be negligible to minor and not significant.

Atmospheric emissions will arise from operation of the rock installation vessel and guard vessel. Total estimated emissions are approximately 1,947 tonnes CO₂e over the 12-day campaign. Given the short duration and offshore location of the works, emissions will disperse rapidly and are not expected to result in significant impacts to air quality.

The primary accidental event considered was the loss of vessel fuel following collision or other vessel-related incident. The probability of such an event occurring is low and standard maritime operating procedures, pollution prevention measures and vessel certification requirements will be employed. Consequently, the likelihood of a spill causing significant environmental effects is minimal.

The activities are temporary in nature and vessel presence will be limited to the duration of the approximately 12-day campaign. Any effects on shipping and fisheries will therefore be short-term and localised. The deposits will also provide long-term protection to the export pipeline and reduce future integrity risks.

No transboundary impacts are anticipated as the operations are located approximately 147 km from the nearest international median line and impacts are highly localised.

The project is located within the East and Offshore East Marine Plan area and is considered compatible with the objectives and policies of that Plan

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