

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7373U
UKOP Doc Ref:1460151



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

PERENCO UK LIMITED
8 HANOVER SQUARE
LONDON
W1S 1HQ

Registered No.: 04653066

Date: 25th September 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
PIPELINE PL24**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2682/0 (Version 1), dated 2nd 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

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by Department for Energy
Security and Net Zero
Date: 2026.09.25 16:37:11 BST
Reason: On behalf of the Secretary of State
Location: Offshore Petroleum Regulator for
Environment and Decommissioning



**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 PL24

PL/2682/0 (Version 1)

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 2nd 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/6300

Effective Date: 25th September 2026

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7373U
UKOP Doc Ref:1460151



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 1 October 2026 until 30 September 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

Concrete mattress deposits

3 concrete mattresses, each measuring 5 metres x 3 metres x 50 centimetres. (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

At the following location

52 Degrees 58 Minutes 48.32 Seconds N

02 Degrees 11 Minutes 06.75 Seconds E

WGS84

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.

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7373U
UKOP Doc Ref:1460151



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:

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 and the potential impacts, and sets out the main reasons for the decision made. In considering whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required, the following have been taken into account:

- a) the information provided by the developer;
- b) the matters listed in Schedule 5 to 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 of the project on the environment; 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 deposit up to three concrete mattresses at one location on pipeline PL24 in UKCS Block 53/1. Two mattresses are proposed as the primary requirement, with one contingency mattress. The deposits are required to remediate a pipeline free span and reinstate stability by adding weight and constraining the free span within acceptable limits. The associated deposit consent application is PA/6300.

Description of the project

PL24 is a former gas export pipeline extending between the Leman 27B platform and the Bacton Gas Terminal. Regular inspection has identified one section between KP 10.575 and KP 10.830 as presenting a span risk and a high priority for remediation. The proposed works will reduce the height and length of the free span and reduce the risk of pipeline movement or failure.

Up to three non-fronded concrete mattresses, each measuring 5.6 m by 3 m by 0.5 m, will be placed directly over the pipeline. The mattresses will be deployed from the

Kingsborg dynamically positioned ROV support vessel using a crane, ROV and acoustic positioning. The vessel is expected to remain at the PL24 location for up to one day. The pipeline works form part of Perenco UK Limited's wider 2026 pipeline remediation campaign covering PL22, PL23, PL24, PL78, PL876 and PL1684, which is expected to take place over approximately three weeks.

The works may commence from 1 October 2026. A latest completion date of 30 September 2027 has been requested to allow for any delayed commencement.

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 the geographical area likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows:

The deposit location is in UKCS Block 53/1, approximately 51 km from the North Norfolk coastline and 64 km west of the UK/Netherlands median line. Water depth is approximately 39 m Lowest Astronomical Tide. The seabed comprises sand within a naturally dynamic southern North Sea environment characterised by strong currents and mobile sediments.

The deposit location lies within the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation, designated for harbour porpoise. It is approximately 1.8 km south of the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef Special Area of Conservation and approximately 3 km northeast of the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton Special Area of Conservation. The proposed deposit is not within either of the latter sites, and no Annex I sandbank or identified *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef habitat is reported close to the deposit location.

The area supports fish spawning and nursery grounds and may be used by seabirds, marine mammals and seals. Shipping activity in Block 53/1 is very high, while commercial fishing activity is relatively low compared with other North Sea areas. The deposit location is within carbon storage licence area CS009 and within 500 m of CS019. The nearest operational wind farm is Norfolk Vanguard West, approximately 10 km southeast of the location. No charted or protected wrecks, active telecommunications cables, licensed aggregate extraction areas or offshore dumping areas occur within 500 m of the proposed deposit.

Given the offshore location and the site-specific information provided, 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 effects associated with the project include physical presence, seabed disturbance, underwater noise, routine vessel discharges, atmospheric emissions, waste,



accidental hydrocarbon release and cumulative effects.

The vessel will be present at the PL24 location for up to one day. Its temporary presence may cause short-term disturbance to marine fauna and temporary interaction with shipping or fishing activity. The permanent mattresses will occupy a small area directly over the existing pipeline. The exposed free span presents a greater interaction and safety risk than the proposed remediation. Effects on shipping and commercial fisheries are therefore expected to be minor and not significant.

The three mattresses would have a maximum combined footprint of 50.4 m², all within the Southern North Sea SAC. Their placement will result in localised loss of sandy sediment habitat and introduction of hard substrate. It may also cause direct mortality of benthic fauna within the footprint and a small, temporary sediment plume. The footprint represents less than 0.00000014% of the SAC. Given the small area affected, the availability of similar habitat in the wider region and the dynamic nature of the seabed, effects on seabed sediments, benthic communities, fish spawning grounds and the supporting habitat and prey of harbour porpoise are expected to range from negligible to minor and will not be significant. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the project is not likely to significantly affect or hinder the conservation objectives of any European site or MCZ either alone or in combination with other plans or projects

No potential *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef has been identified in the vicinity of the proposed deposit. A pre-deployment survey will be undertaken to check for *Sabellaria* presence and, where practicable the deposit position will be adjusted slightly to avoid any reef structure. Mattress placement will be controlled using an ROV and acoustic positioning, and the size and number of deposits have been limited to that required to meet the technical and safety objectives.

Vessel noise will be non-impulsive and limited to the short operational period. Against the existing background of shipping, fishing and oil and gas activity, effects on fish, marine mammals and the Southern North Sea SAC are expected to be negligible and not significant.

The support vessel may mobilise from an east-coast port and could transit through the Greater Wash Special Protection Area. The operator has proposed to use existing navigation routes where possible, maintain direct transit routes and brief vessel crew on vessel management practices within the SPA. With these measures, vessel disturbance effects on red-throated diver and common scoter are expected to be negligible and not significant.

Routine vessel discharges will be managed in accordance with MARPOL and applicable UK requirements and are expected to disperse rapidly. No discharge of hazardous waste is proposed. The principal accidental event is a release of diesel following a vessel incident. The likelihood is very low and the vessel will operate under a Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan and established maintenance and navigation procedures. The resulting environmental risk is assessed as low and not significant.

The Kingsborg is expected to consume 5.81 tonnes of marine diesel during the one-day PL24 operation, producing an estimated 18.86 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Given the short duration and rapid atmospheric dispersion, effects on local air quality and climate are expected to be negligible and not significant. Vessel time in the field will be reduced as far as practicable. These emissions represent a negligible contribution to UK greenhouse gas emissions

For the wider 2026 pipeline remediation campaign, the maximum combined footprint of concrete mattresses and rock filter units, including contingency, is 912.8 m . The PL24 works will contribute 50.4 m to that total. Taking account of other existing and planned activities, the small scale and localised nature of the project mean that no significant cumulative or in-combination effects are predicted. No significant transboundary effects are expected, given the localised nature of the impacts and the distance from the UK/Netherlands median line.

In considering the factors identified at paragraph 3 of Schedule 5, the Secretary of State has had regard to the extent and magnitude of the impacts, the probability of occurrence, the duration and reversibility of effects and the limited geographic area over which impacts may occur. None of the identified effects are considered likely to be significant

No conflict with the East Offshore Marine Plan has been identified.

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