

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7367U
UKOP Doc Ref:1460157



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 PL876**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2680/0 (Version 1), dated 1st 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 PL876

PL/2680/0 (Version 1)

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 1st 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/6302

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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 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

Rock Filter Units (RFU)

23 bags of clean, inert rock containing minimal fines, each RFU has a seabed footprint of 4.9m². The number of bags deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus bags must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

The RFUs will be placed at

53 Degrees 12 Minutes 09.70 Seconds North

01 Degrees 27 Minutes 56.33 Seconds East

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.

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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 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 23 Rock Filter Units (RFUs) at two locations on pipeline PL876 in UKCS Block 48/23. Sixteen RFUs are proposed as the primary requirement, with seven contingency RFUs. The deposits are required to remediate pipeline exposures and free spans by reinstating support and constraining the free spans within acceptable limits, thereby reducing the risk of pipeline movement or failure. The associated pipeline authorisation application is PA/6302.

Description of the project

PL876 is the export pipeline for gas produced by the LAPS development and extends between the Lancelot A platform in UKCS Block 48/17 and the Bacton Gas Terminal. An April 2026 multibeam echo-sounder inspection identified two sections of PL876 requiring remediation. The locations are between KP 23.975 and KP 24.150 and between KP 24.155 and KP 24.300. The two locations are within 100 m of each other.

Up to 23 RFUs will be placed at the two locations. At location 1, 12 RFUs are proposed with five contingency units; at location 2, four RFUs are proposed with two contingency units. The RFUs 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 PL876 locations for approximately one day. The 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 locations are in UKCS Block 48/23, approximately 31 km northeast of the North Norfolk coastline and 108 km west of the UK/Netherlands median line. Water depth at the locations is approximately 22 to 24 m. The seabed comprises sand, slightly gravelly sand, gravelly sand and sandy gravel within a naturally dynamic southern North Sea environment characterised by strong currents and mobile sediments.

The proposed deposit locations are not within a marine protected area. The nearest protected sites are the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC, approximately 15.8 km east; the Southern North Sea SAC, approximately 18.6 km east; the Greater Wash SPA and Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ, approximately 21.5 km south; and the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC, approximately 22.4 km southeast. The deposit locations are not within any known Annex I reef or SAC sandbank habitat. April 2026 MBES data did not indicate potential *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef at either deposit location.

The area supports fish spawning and nursery grounds and may be used by seabirds, marine mammals and seals. Shipping activity in Block 48/23 is high. Commercial fisheries in ICES Rectangle 35F1 are dominated by shellfish landings. The deposit locations are within the Dudgeon Extension wind site agreement area, which is in planning, and approximately 2.7 km east of the operational Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm. The locations are not close to a pipeline crossing, an active telecommunications cable, a carbon storage site, a licensed aggregate site, a military practice range or a charted wreck.

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 PL876 locations for approximately one day. Its temporary presence may cause short-term disturbance to marine fauna and temporary interaction with shipping or fishing activity. The RFUs will remain on the seabed but have a low snagging risk, while the exposed free spans present 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 23 RFUs would have a maximum combined footprint of 112.7 m². Their placement will cause permanent, localised loss of sediment habitat and introduce hard substrate. It may also cause direct mortality of benthic fauna within the footprint and a small, temporary sediment plume. 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 and benthic communities are expected to be minor and not significant. Effects on fish spawning and nursery grounds are expected to be negligible and not significant.

No potential *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef has been identified at the proposed locations. A pre-deployment survey will be undertaken to check visually for *Sabellaria* presence and, where practicable the deposit position will be adjusted if reef is found to avoid damage as much as possible. RFU placement will be controlled using an ROV and acoustic positioning, and the size and number of deposits will be 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 seabirds are expected to be negligible and not significant.

The support vessel will transit through the Greater Wash SPA during mobilisation and demobilisation, although no deposits will be made within the SPA. 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. 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.

Routine vessel discharges will be managed in accordance with MARPOL and applicable UK requirements and are expected to disperse rapidly. No discharge of chemicals are 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 PL876 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. The 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 RFUs, including contingency, is 912.8 m . The PL876 works will contribute 112.7 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