Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-809U
UKOP Doc Ref:1461915

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

ITHACA (NE) E&P LIMITED
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Registered No.: 01483021

Date: 16th October 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
Cygnus production increase

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2688/0 (Version 3), dated 9th October 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: 2026.10.16 11:49:10 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

Cygnus production increase

PR/2688/0 (Version 3)

Whereas ITHACA (NE) E&P LIMITED has made an application dated 9th October 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 PCON/8613/1 (Version 2).

Effective Date: 16th October 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

This screening direction shall be valid from 1 December 2026.

2 Change to production level(s)

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the change in the level(s) of production do not exceed the amended level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction, and in the application for consent relating to the approval for the getting of petroleum issued under the relevant production licence Model Clause.

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, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

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:

The Department has no comments.

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]

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SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

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:

Summary of the project

Increase in hydrocarbon production from the Cygnus field arising from upcoming drilling of one appraisal well and two to three development wells from the Cygnus Bravo Platform at the Cygnus field. The project herein only considers the increase in production of hydrocarbons and not the drilling of the wells.

Description of the project

This project consists of an increase in oil and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic metres per day of gas and less than 500 tonnes per day of condensate at the Cygnus field due to the upcoming drilling of one appraisal well and two to three development wells from the Cygnus Bravo Platform. The project herein only considers the increase in production of hydrocarbons and not the drilling of the wells. The drilling of the wells will be assessed in separate applications.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. 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.

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 increase in production will take place from the Cygnus field at the Cygnus Bravo platform, in the Southern North Sea (SNS), in UKCS Blocks 44/11, approximately 157 kilometres (km) from the UK coastline, and 42 km from the UK/Netherlands Median Line, in a depth of approximately 21 metres (m).

Site specific surveys confirmed that surficial seabed sediments are of fine to medium sand with shell fragments and occasional pebbles. The wave height in the area ranges of 1.51-2.10 m. Wind strengths are generally between Beaufort scale 1-6 (1-11 m/s) in the summer months with a greater proportion of strong to gale force winds of force 7-12 (14-32 m/s) in winter.

The benthic community in the vicinity of Cygnus Bravo is typical of mobile sandy seabed habitats and is characterised by relatively low faunal density and diversity, with polychaete worms, crustaceans, molluscs and echinoderms forming the dominant taxa. Surveys recorded assemblages with polychaetes and molluscs particularly abundant and species composition indicative of a stable, homogeneous faunal community representative of the wider area.

The Cygnus field is located within the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is designated due to the presence of the Annex I habitat 'Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time', and the SNS SAC, which is designated for harbour porpoise.

Low to moderate densities of harbour porpoise and white-beaked dolphin have been identified throughout the year. Low densities of minke whale and long-finned pilot whale have been identified in the area between May and August. The Cygnus Bravo platform is 157 km offshore and grey and harbour seals may be encountered in low numbers.

Seabird sensitivity in the project area is extremely high from November to January and in July. It is low for the remainder of the year.

The project area lies within fishing designated ICES rectangle 38F2 and the proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and nursery activity for a number of species.

The project aligns with the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans and with its policies and objectives.

The project area is primarily used for shellfish and demersal fishing. Fishing effort in the area is considered low.

There are several oil and gas facilities nearby, the closest being Cygnus Alpha, 7 km away. The nearest marine cable is 6 km from the Cygnus Bravo platform (TAMPNET). The nearest wind lease area to the proposed operations is the Dogger Bank Wind Farm Project located approximately 15 km to the northwest. There are no protected wrecks or known areas of military activity within the vicinity of the proposed operations; the nearest wreck is approximately 2 km away. Shipping density in the area is high.

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 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 increase in production will take place within the Cygnus Alpha Wellhead Platform 500-m safety zone and therefore impacts to other sea users due to physical presence are not expected.

Discharge of offshore chemicals associated with the proposed increase in production will be assessed under OCR via an associated chemical permit application.

No impacts to the seabed are anticipated from the proposed increase in production.

Although not a planned activity, a worst-case major accident scenario resulting from a well blowout was modelled and assessed. The probability of a well blowout from the proposed operations is very low. Therefore, it is considered that the control and safety measures in place minimise the risk of a hydrocarbon spill which could have a significant impact.

Atmospheric emissions directly attributable to the planned activities are expected to rapidly disperse and are not likely to have a significant impact. The developer considered the need for an assessment of scope 3 emissions in line with OPRED's scope 3 emissions guidance and concluded that no scope 3 emissions assessment was required because there is no increase to the total amount of hydrocarbons expected to be produced over the field life as a result of this increase in production. The total quantity of extracted hydrocarbons over the life of the field will not exceed 1,066 bscf of gas and 258.39 kt of condensate, as assessed in the Environmental Statement for the Cygnus field.

Transboundary impacts have been assessed and are not expected to be significant. The nearest boundary (UK/Netherlands Median Line) is located approximately 36 km of the area of operations.

The cumulative impact arising from the proposed increase in production have been shown to not be significant.

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.

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