Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7380U
UKOP Doc Ref:1463528

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

ADURA OPERATIONS LIMITED
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Registered No.: 16172712

Date: 12th November 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
GANNET F, Stena Don DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 21/30d- GFA05 planned well

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2684/0 (Version 2), dated 16th 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: 2026.11.12 21:23:47 GMT
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

GANNET F, Stena Don DRILLING PRODUCER WELL 21/30d- GFA05 planned well

DR/2684/0 (Version 2)

Whereas ADURA OPERATIONS LIMITED has made an application dated 16th 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, WONS/18680/0/IDA/1 and WONS/19373/0/C/1.

Effective Date: 12th November 2026

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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 13 November 2026 until 28 March 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) 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

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

Summary of the Project

- Drilling of the Gannet F field development well: 21/30d GF05

- The top-hole sections (36" and 26") will be drilled riserless using sea water sweeps and subsequently displaced to Water-based Mud (WBM), with cuttings discharged at the seabed.

- The bottom-hole sections: (17.5", 12.25" and 8.5" (under-reamed to 9.5")) will be drilled with low toxicity oil-based mud (LTOBM), with cuttings treated then discharged to sea from the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU).

- Contingent sidetrack and tophole re-spud.

- Completions will be installed.

- The well will be cleaned up which has the contingent option to flare.

- The xmas tree will be installed and operations handed over to Gannet A.

Description of the Project

This project is the drilling of subsea development well 21/30d GF05 in the Gannet F field using a MODU. The Stena Don MODU will be positioned within the existing Gannet F 500m safety zone using 8 anchors (with contingency piggy back anchors). It is estimated that the project will take up to 120 days between November 2026 and the end of March 2027. The well will be drilled in five sections, with the top-hole sections (36" and 17.5") drilled riserless using sea water sweeps and subsequently displaced to Water-based mud (WBM), with cuttings discharged at the seabed. While the bottom-hole sections: (12.25" and 8.5" (under-reamed to 9.5")) will be drilled with low toxicity oil-based mud (LTOBM), with cuttings treated then discharged to sea from the MODU. The well will be cleaned-up prior to being handed over for production. Flow direct to host is the base case for well testing however the operations have retained contingency option of flaring for clean up. No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects. The risk of a major accidents and environmental effects from major accidents, 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.

There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health. It is not considered likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. No nuisances are foreseen from the project. There are five synthetic oil waste streams resulting from the project which will be treated where necessary and analysed before discharge. Where specification for discharge can't be met, the waste will be returned to shore for treatment and disposal.

Location of the Project

Having regard 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 GF05 well location lies within a seaward licenced area, which has been licenced for the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons. The project is located approximately 170 km east from the east Scotland coastline and approximately 82 km from the UK/Norwegian median line, in an area where water depth is approximately 98 m. The predominant current in the location is dominated by the influx of waters from the Atlantic via the Fair Isle channel. The project location is not within any protected areas, with the closest, the East of Gannet and Montrose Fields Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area, being approximately 2 km distant.

Site-specific surveys identified the seabed as comprising of fine sand or very fine sand. The main sediment types are described as Circalittoral muddy sand and Deep circalittoral mixed sediments'. The most commonly observed benthic fauna included sea urchins, sea pens, starfish, sea cucumbers, bristle worms and hermit crabs amongst others.

The project works and timing will take place at a time when a number of fish species may be found to use the area as spawning, juvenile or nursery locations. Sightings of cetaceans are most common between the months of May and November. Seals are not expected to be seen at the remote location. Seabirds are most common in the area during the summer months of July and August when expected density is 20-30 individuals per square km. The project area is primarily used for demersal fishing, but with a low historical effort. Shipping intensity at the project location is also low. The surrounding area comprises other oil and gas infrastructure within 20 km, but is not within a military activity zone, with no telecommunications cables, marine aggregate sites or renewable energy locations in proximity. The closest wreck was identified approximately 3 km northwest of the location.

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 to the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, with focus on the predominant impacts resulting from physical presence from the rig / vessels, atmospheric emissions from vessel use, and flare activities, planned discharges to sea from chemical use, seabed disturbance from siting the rig and drilling discharges, and accidental events such as an oil spill.

The MODU has the potential to cause interference to other users of the sea, namely fishermen and vessel traffic, however the rig and support vessels will be located in a safety zone for the well. Its presence within the safety zone means only authorised vessels would be allowed within the 500 m radius of the well, therefore excluding other users of the sea. Given the low importance of the fishing area and the low vessel traffic, and that the drilling project is a temporary activity - the impact is deemed insignificant. An emergency response and rescue vessel will be on site continually to monitor for vessel traffic and provide alerts to other users of the sea.

The main receptor impacted by seabed disturbance will be the benthic communities. Physical disturbance can cause mortality or displacement of benthic species in the impacted zone. The area of temporary seabed disturbance resulting from rig positioning is 0.037 km2. The temporary installation of the drill rig anchors is not expected to result in significant changes to sediment properties. Based on worst case, proxy cuttings discharge modelling, deposition of cuttings is expected to have a permanent impact area of 0.39 km2 due to change to seabed sediment composition. Rapid recovery of faunal communities within the disturbed area may be expected through a combination of larval settlement and immigration of animals from the adjacent seabed once the anchors and chains are removed and cuttings deposition ceases. Therefore, based on the above, impacts on benthic communities from the anchor system and cuttings deposition will be primarily temporary, localised and not significant.

Offshore registered chemicals will be used and discharged during the drilling of the well. The use and discharge of the chemicals have been risk assessed and modelled in accordance with other regulatory requirements. The use and discharge modelling shows a low risk to the environment from the chemicals. Use and discharge of chemicals is not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. The discharge of treated LTOBM cuttings will result in some impacts to marine organisms resulting primarily from smothering and grain size change. The impacts of drilling discharges on water quality and benthic fauna is predicted to be minimal as affects will be localised and short-lived. Moreover, given that recovery of the seabed and the associated benthic communities is likely to begin once drilling has been completed, the environmental impact of the discharged cuttings, within the impacted area, can be considered insignificant.

Emissions to air will occur from two main sources, (1) combustion plant used on the MODU and support vessels and (2) the proposed contingent flaring activity. The quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent from the MODU and support vessel use amounts to 0.07% of the 2018 total emissions from offshore oil and gas activity. Flaring from the project for a worst-case 96 hr flow period, results in a carbon dioxide equivalent of 0.137% of UK offshore oil and gas flaring emissions based on 2018

data. The MODU, support vessel and flaring emissions will not have a detrimental effect to local air quality over the long-term, nor are they expected to inhibit the ability to reach wider climate change goals. The environmental effects from emissions to air are not expected to have a significant impact on the environment. The impact of the vessel emissions will be mitigated by optimising vessel efficiency (i.e. minimising the number of vessels used and vessel trips required to achieve the project deliverables) and hence minimising fuel use and avoiding the unnecessary operation of power generation / combustion equipment.

In the event that an unlikely and unplanned accidental spill scenario from a well blow-out was realised, 2,576 m3/day is anticipated. The modelling suggests that beaching of oil would occur and that a major environmental incident would be likely. All drilling activities will be carried out in accordance with the Offshore Safety Directive as per Adura's procedures. An approved Oil Spill Emergency Plan to manage hydrocarbon releases will be in place prior to activities being undertaken. There are no planned expected transboundary impacts because of the project.

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