Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7462U
UKOP Doc Ref:1463607

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

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

Date: 13th 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
Cygnus Bravo rock pad repair and extension

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference DR/2693/0 (Version 2), dated 10th November 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: 2026.11.13 14:56:20 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

Cygnus Bravo rock pad repair and extension

DR/2693/0 (Version 2)

Whereas ITHACA (NE) E&P LIMITED has made an application dated 10th November 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 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.

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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 15 December 2026 until 31 August 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 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Rock deposits

4,907 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (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 stabilisation or protection materials

As described in the 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, 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.

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:

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

Deposition of stabilisation material to maintain and expand the existing rock pad placed at the site ahead of drilling operations from a jack-up rig (this application is for the stabilisation material placement only, not the drilling activities).

Description of the project

This project is for the placement of up to 4,907 tonnes of rock to repair and extend the existing rock pad a further 1,245 m2 at the location of the Cygnus Bravo platform. This will allow for a drilling rig to locate and drill at Cygnus Bravo in 2027 but this has not been assessed as part the current project. The current project only considers the placement of rock.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. The risk of a major accident 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 operations comprise the deposit of up to 4,907 tonnes of rock at the Cygnus Bravo platform in the Southern North Sea (SNS), in UKCS Block 44/11, approximately 157 km northeast of the English coastline and approximately 43 km west of the UK/Netherlands median line. Water depth in the Cygnus Bravo area range is approximately 21 m, with depths across the existing rock pad of approximately 19.7-21.7 m LAT.

Site-specific surveys confirmed that seabed sediments in the vicinity of Cygnus Bravo are predominantly fine sand, with most Bravo sampling stations classified as sand and three as slightly gravelly sand. Earlier surveys similarly recorded predominantly rippled fine to medium sand with shell fragments and occasional pebbles. The annual mean significant wave height in the vicinity of Cygnus Bravo ranges from 1.51-2.10 m. Wind strengths are generally Beaufort scale 1-6 (1-11 m/s) during summer, with a greater proportion of strong to gale-force winds of Beaufort scale 7-12 (14-32 m/s) during winter.

The benthic communities surrounding Cygnus Bravo are characteristic of the sandy habitats of the Dogger Bank. The 2026 survey identified the *Nephtys cirrosa* and *Bathyporeia* spp. in infralittoral sand biotope in the surrounding sandy sediments, while the existing rock pad supports circalittoral fouling faunal communities associated with artificial hard substrate. Infaunal communities were dominated by annelids and crustaceans.

Cygnus Bravo is located within both the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (SAC), designated for the Annex I habitat Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time, and the Southern North Sea SAC, designated for harbour porpoise. No other MPAs are located within 40 km of Cygnus Bravo.

Harbour porpoise and minke whale occur within the wider area, with harbour porpoise being the most abundant cetacean species and have been mainly observed in the summer months. Grey seal density in the vicinity of Cygnus Bravo is assessed as moderate, while harbour seal density is very low.

Seabird oil sensitivity within UKCS Block 44/11 is extremely high in January, July, November and December, and low throughout the remainder of the year. The project is approximately 157 km from the nearest UK coast and consequently remote from sensitive coastal seabird breeding areas. The most abundant species during the breeding season are kittiwake, fulmar, and guillemot; during the post-breeding dispersal period are guillemot; and during winter are guillemot, fulmar, and razorbill.

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 (anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, European hake, herring, horse

mackerel, ling, mackerel, plaice, sandeels, sprat, sole, spurdog, tope shark, and whiting).

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.

The nearest oil and gas platforms are the Cygnus Alpha installations, which are approximately 7-7.1 km southeast. Cygnus Bravo is connected to Cygnus Alpha by the active PL3086 gas pipeline and PLU3087 umbilical. The nearest windfarm is Dogger Bank South East, approximately 14 km southwest. The nearest telecommunications cable is the active MCCS cable, approximately 7 km southeast. There are no military training areas in the vicinity, no licensed offshore dredging or dumping areas within 40 km, and no wrecks within 2 km of Cygnus Bravo. The nearest carbon storage licence is CS021, approximately 20 km east of Cygnus Bravo.

Shipping activity within Block 44/11 is classified as moderate, with average vessel density in the vicinity of the Cygnus field of approximately 6.02 vessel-hours/km .

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.

Impacts associated with locating a jack-up drilling rig or the drilling of wells do not form part of this application. This application relates only to the preparatory seabed works involving the deposit of rock at Cygnus Bravo to accommodate the footprint and loading requirements of a jack-up drilling rig and prevent further scour around the existing rock pad.

The proposed rock deposit operations will take place within the existing Cygnus Bravo 500-m exclusion zone. The rock installation vessel will be dynamically positioned and will not require anchoring. Given the short duration of the operations and their location within the existing safety zone, impacts on other sea users and disturbance or displacement of seabirds and marine fauna due to physical presence are not significant. There are measures in place to ensure the safety of vessels

entering the 500-m exclusion zone.

The proposed operations are located entirely within the Dogger Bank SAC and Southern North Sea SAC. The permanent loss or alteration of previously undisturbed sandy habitat associated specifically with the extension of the existing rock pad will affect approximately 1,245 m2, equivalent to approximately 0.00001% of the Dogger Bank SAC and 0.000001% of the SNS SAC. Although the habitat at Cygnus Bravo is considered representative of high-confidence Annex I Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time, the area affected is very small. Effects on benthic habitats and species on the wider area from proposed activities are considered not significant.

There will be no discharge of offshore chemicals associated with the proposed operations.

Any noise generated will not be significant, and it is concluded that this project is not expected to have a likely significant effect on the site in relation to harbour porpoise and the supporting habitats and prey.

Although not a planned activity, an accidental diesel release could occur. It is considered that the control and safety measures in place minimise the risk of a diesel release which could have a significant impact and the proposed operations carried out as planned are not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Atmospheric emissions directly attributable to the planned activities are expected to rapidly disperse and are not likely to have a significant impact.

Transboundary impacts have been assessed and are not expected to be significant. The nearest boundary (UK/Netherlands Median Line) is located approximately 43 km of the area of operations.

The cumulative impact arising from the proposed activities 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