Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-7372U
UKOP Doc Ref:1463799

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

PERENCO UK LIMITED
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LONDON
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Registered No.: 04653066

Date: 17th 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
PIPELINE PL23

I refer to your amended application dated 12th November 2026, reference PL/2681/1 (Version 1).

It has been determined that the proposed changes to the project is not likely to result in a significant effect on the environment, and therefore an environmental impact assessment is not required.

A screening direction is therefore issued for the changes to the project. An amended schedule of conditions, comments, and main reasons for the decision on the amended application, 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: 2026.11.17 11:56:24 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

PIPELINE PL23

PL/2681/1 (Version 1)

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 12th 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 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/6299 and PA/6415

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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 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

33 concrete mattresses, each measuring 5.6 metres x 3 metres x 50 centimetres.

10 Rock Filter Units (RFUs) measuring 4.9m2 each

(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

The mattresses will be placed at 10 locations along the PL23 pipeline. The coordinates are detailed within the application documentation

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

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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

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.

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 Changes to the Project

PL/2681/1: Due to further undermining of pipeline PL23 at location 1, identified by further survey data, the pipeline free span has increased in severity. Consequently 10 Rock Filter Units (RFUs) are required to be installed beneath and adjacent to the pipeline. The RFUs will occupy an area of 49m2, slightly increasing the area of seabed disturbance. The impact of the RFU will not signifcantly alter the impacts from the project.

Summary of the project

The project is to deposit up to 33 concrete mattresses and rock filter units (RFUs) at ten discrete locations along exposed and free-spanning sections of pipeline PL23. The works form part of Perenco UK Limited's 2026 pipeline remediation campaign and are associated with Pipeline Works Authorisation application PA/6299 and PA/6415. The deposits are intended to reinstate pipeline weight, stabilise exposed sections, constrain free spans within acceptable limits and reduce the risk of pipeline movement or failure.

Description of the project

PL23 is the gas export pipeline between the Leman 27A platform in UKCS Block 49/27 and the Bacton Gas Terminal. Regular inspection has identified ten sections requiring remedial intervention because of pipeline exposure, free spans and loss of concrete weight coating. The proposed works comprise the targeted placement of 3 m by 5.6 m by 0.5 m flexible concrete mattresses and rock filter units measuring 4.9m2 in area over the pipeline. The application includes the primary requirement and contingency, giving a worst-case total of 33 mattresses and 10 RFUs and a maximum seabed footprint of 603.4m2 .

The mattresses and RFUs will be deployed from a dynamically positioned ROV support vessel using a vessel crane, remotely operated vehicle and acoustic positioning. The vessel is expected to be present at PL23 for approximately two days. Operations may commence from 1 October 2026, with completion by 30 September 2027 which allows for delays. The PL23 works will be undertaken as part of a wider three-week campaign involving PL22, PL23, PL24, PL78, PL876 and PL1684.

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

The ten proposed deposit locations extend along PL23 through UKCS Blocks 48/30, 49/26, 52/3, 52/4 and 52/5, between approximately 4.4 km northeast of Bacton and approximately 68 km west of the UK/Netherlands median line. Water depths at the deposit locations range from approximately 16 m to 36 m LAT. The seabed comprises sand, slightly gravelly sand, gravelly sand and sandy gravel in a shallow, hydrodynamically active part of the southern North Sea.

The deposits overlap the following designated sites: the Southern North Sea SAC; North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC; Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC; Greater Wash SPA; and Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ. Deposit location 1 is within the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC; locations 2 to 7 are within the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC; locations 1 to 6 are within the Southern North Sea SAC; locations 8 to 10 are within the Greater Wash SPA; and locations 9 and 10 are within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ.

The North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC and Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC are designated for Annex I sandbank and reef habitats. The Southern North Sea SAC is designated for harbour porpoise. The Greater Wash SPA protects a range of breeding and non-breeding seabirds, including red-throated diver, common scoter, little gull and tern species. The Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ protects subtidal chalk, peat and clay exposures and a range of rock and sediment habitats.

The May 2026 MBES data did not indicate potential Sabellaria spinulosa reef at the proposed deposit locations. At the two locations within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ, available ROV imagery indicates coarse sediment and no visible chalk reef. Four wrecks occur within 500 m of the proposed deposit locations, but none is a protected wreck. The project does not overlap licensed aggregate extraction areas or active telecommunications cables.

The surrounding area supports commercial fishing, shipping and extensive offshore energy infrastructure. Shipping activity is high in parts of the project area and very high in Block 52/5. The pipeline crosses the Hewett and Leman gas fields and is close to other pipelines and proposed or operational offshore wind infrastructure. Some deposits are within a Ministry of Defence practice area.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) 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 include those arising from the temporary physical presence of the support vessel, underwater noise, seabed disturbance and habitat change, routine vessel discharges, atmospheric emissions, waste, accidental hydrocarbon release and interaction with other sea users.

The support vessel will be present at PL23 for approximately two days. Temporary disturbance or displacement of marine fauna, seabirds, fishing vessels and shipping may occur within the immediate operational area. However, the short duration, small operational footprint, existing vessel activity and availability of sea room mean effects from vessel presence and underwater noise are expected to be negligible or minor and not significant. Within the Greater Wash SPA, direct transit routes and existing navigation routes will be used where practicable and the vessel crew will be briefed on vessel management practices within the SPA.

Placement of up to 33 concrete mattresses and 10 RFUs will disturb and cover a maximum of 603.4 m of seabed, including contingency. The deposits will replace areas of mobile sediment with localised hard substrate for as long as the mattresses remain in place and may cause limited local scour, sediment resuspension and changes in benthic community composition. The footprint is very small in comparison with the extent of equivalent habitat in the wider southern North Sea and a substantial proportion will comprise the existing pipeline or immediately adjacent disturbed seabed. Effects on seabed sediments and benthic communities are therefore expected to be negligible to minor and not significant.

Within designated sites, the maximum footprints are 82.6 m2 in the North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC, 285.6 m2 in the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC, 285.6 m2 in the Southern North Sea SAC, 334 m2 in the Greater

Wash SPA and 134.4 m2 in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ. No mattress is proposed directly over known Sabellaria spinulosa reef, and a pre-deployment survey will be undertaken to seek visual confirmation of Sabellaria presence. Where practicable deployment locations will be adjusted slightly if Sabellaria is identified in the proposed location. 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

The project area includes fish spawning and nursery grounds, including species that may form prey for harbour porpoise and qualifying seabirds. Any seabed disturbance, sediment plume or prey displacement will be highly localised and short term relative to the wider available habitat. Underwater noise will be generated by the vessel, dynamic positioning thrusters and ROV, but will be non-impulsive and of short duration. Significant effects on fish, marine mammals or seabirds are not anticipated.

The principal accidental event is a loss of marine diesel following vessel collision. The vessel has positioning, AIS and radar systems, its fuel is held in separate tanks, and a Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan will be in place. In the unlikely event of a spill, marine diesel would be expected to weather rapidly. The risk of a significant pollution effect is therefore low. No planned discharge of offshore chemicals is associated with the works.

The vessel is estimated to consume 11.62 tonnes of marine diesel during the PL23 works, generating approximately 37.71 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Given the short duration and exposed offshore conditions, emissions will disperse rapidly and the contribution to wider greenhouse gas emissions is negligible. Vessel time in the field will be reduced as far as practicable. These emissions represent a negligible contribution to UK greenhouse gas emissions

The wider 2026 pipeline remediation campaign, including contingency, will cover up to 961.8 m of seabed. The PL23 assessment considered other oil and gas, decommissioning, offshore wind, aggregate extraction and fishing activities. Given the small, localised project footprint and the nature and scale of the predicted effects, no significant cumulative or in-combination effects are expected. No significant transboundary effects are predicted because the closest deposit location is approximately 68 km 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