

**NINIAN SOUTHERN PLATFORM  
DECOMMISSIONING WORKSHOP, 4 July 2024**

**JARGON BUSTER**

This Jargon Buster is designed to aid participants at the Ninian Southern Platform decommissioning workshop on 4 July 2024 by providing an insight into technical or regulatory references.

We'll try to keep the jargon to a minimum on the day but do please check below if you need to, or put a remark into the Chat Box during the workshop so the facilitators can raise a query on your behalf.

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| Batter                | The sloping angle of the platform jacket designed to increase stability in offshore conditions  |
| Benthos               | The flora and fauna found on the seabed   |
| CA                    | <p>Comparative Assessment, the process which enables operators to objectively and transparently assess a number of different decommissioning options.</p> <p>Where an operator identifies a decommissioning option that will see infrastructure remain in the marine environment a comparative assessment of a reasonable number of options must be provided to demonstrate how the preferred decommissioning solution has been identified.</p> <p>A comparative assessment is a mandatory requirement for any potential OSPAR derogation candidate or for all pipeline decommissioning.</p> <p>Source: <a href="#">OPRED Decommissioning Guidance Notes</a>, Annex A</p> |
| CA Report             | Comparative Assessment Report, usually submitted in support of a Decommissioning Programme to demonstrate the rationale for the options selection which informs the decommissioning proposals   |
| CGBS                  | Concrete Gravity Based Structure, for example, the large concrete structure used to support Ninian Central Platform   |
| Columba E             | Columba E Subsea Field, which is supported by Ninian Southern Platform via wells drilled from the platform  |
| Conductors            | Large diameter steel pipes which contain the pipework for oil and gas extraction, extending between the seabed and platform   |
| Conductor Guide Frame | Conductor Guide Frame, providing support for the conductors at various levels throughout the jacket and deck or decks   |
| CoP                   | Cessation of Production, the end of oil and/or gas production   |
| DP                    | Decommissioning Programme, the formal document in which plans for decommissioning are described, often supported by a Comparative Assessment (CA) Report and Environmental Appraisal (EA) Report depending on complexity  |
| Demersal              | The area of sea or ocean comprising the water column which is near to (and is affected by) the seabed and the benthos. The demersal zone is at or near the seabed   |

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| Derogation                            | In the decommissioning context, leaving disused offshore installations wholly or partly in place is normally prohibited under the OSPAR Convention, recorded in OSPAR <a href="#">Decision 98/3</a> . Provisions exist for derogation from this requirement, however, where platforms with supporting steel jacket structures were installed before 1998 and weigh over 10,000 tonnes; these are classed as 'derogation candidates'. Stringent rules apply to determining how and whether derogation is warranted.   |
| Drill Cuttings                        | The collective name for the pieces of rock and other materials from the drilling of oil and gas or water injection wells, brought to the surface by drilling muds used as lubricants. In the case of the Ninian Southern Platform, the height of the drill cuttings pile is approximately 17.5 m (against a single jacket leg), with a total volume of 39,200m <sup>3</sup> , including mussel coverage, over a surface area of 40,190m <sup>2</sup> .   |
| Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | The process used to identify and assess the environmental and societal impacts associated with the proposed activities   |
| Environmental Appraisal Report        | The report which sets out the findings of the environmental impact assessment, typically submitted in support of the options recommended in Decommissioning Programmes   |
| ENVID                                 | Environmental Impact Identification, a structured examination of environmental aspects for early identification of environmental concerns that may affect the environment; in decommissioning, this usually includes societal impacts too  |
| EPS                                   | European Protected Species   |
| Footings                              | OSPAR Decision 98/3 defines the 'footings' as those parts of a steel installation which are below the highest point of the piles which connect the installation to the sea bed or, in the case of an installation constructed without piling, form the foundation of the installation and contain amounts of cement grouting similar to those found in piled installations. The definition also includes those parts of a steel installation which are so closely connected to the 'footings' as to present major engineering problems in severing them<br><br><i>Source: <a href="#">OPRED Decommissioning Guidance Notes</a>, Section 7.11</i> |
| HLV                                   | Heavy Lift Vessel, designed to move very large loads such as platform jackets and topsides   |
| HSE                                   | Health and Safety Executive, responsible for regulating the risks to health and safety arising from work activities in the offshore industry on the UK Continental Shelf. The HSE inspects oil and gas operators to ensure they can demonstrate the ability and means to control major accident risks effectively, and ensure offshore installations are operated in compliance with these arrangements. In partnership with OPRED, they are the Competent Authority responsible for regulating major accident hazards.  |
| Injection Wells                       | An injection well is used to inject high pressure water into oil and gas reservoirs to maintain pressure and move oil to production wells  |
| Jacket                                | A seabed-mounted steel structure that supports oil and gas production facilities (the topsides)  |
| JNCC                                  | Joint Nature Conservation Committee, advisors to the UK government on nature conservation  |

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| J-tubes                         | Vertical structural tubes providing a protective conduit for flexible pipes and umbilicals running between the topsides and seabed infrastructure  |
| LAT                             | Lowest Astronomical Tide   |
| Lyell                           | Lyell Subsea Field, tied back (linked) to Ninian Southern Platform   |
| MBES or Multi-beam Echo Sounder | A type of sonar used to map the seabed using acoustic waves  |
| Modules                         | Separate functional units making up the topsides, such as drilling, gas compression, accommodation, etc.   |
| MPAs                            | Marine Protected Areas   |
| MSF                             | Module Support Frame, designed to support the modular units of the platform topsides   |
| NCMPA                           | Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area, a type of marine protected area that can be designated in Scottish territorial and offshore waters. They protect a range of nationally important habitats and species such as sand eels, which form an important component of the marine food web, sedimentary seabed habitats vital for a range of marine processes and other species, and deep-sea sponge aggregations identified as an OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining habitat.  |
| NCP                             | Ninian Central Platform  |
| Ninian Hub                      | The Ninian oil field was brought on-stream in 1978 and is one of the oldest oil fields in the North Sea. It was operated using three fixed platforms: Ninian Northern (now decommissioned), Ninian Southern, and Ninian Central, with tied-back infrastructure serving the Columba, Lyell and Strathspey fields. Ninian also routes production from third party fields to the Sullom Voe Terminal on Shetland. 'Hub' refers to all the Ninian Field infrastructure, including the facilities to allow third party oil export |
| NNP                             | Ninian Northern Platform (now decommissioned)  |
| NORM                            | Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material, formed from fluids produced from the Ninian reservoir, typically as mineral deposits 'scale'   |
| Notices to Mariners             | Admiralty Notice to Mariners which contain all the corrections, alterations and amendments for the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) worldwide series of Admiralty Charts and Publications, designed to alert mariners of potential risks  |
| NSP                             | Ninian Southern Platform   |
| NSTA                            | <a href="#">North Sea Transition Authority</a> , which regulates and influences the oil and gas, offshore hydrogen, and carbon storage industries. The NSTA works with industry to minimise the cost and greenhouse gas impact of decommissioning, and to support repurposing of infrastructure, particularly to advance energy transition opportunities. It also plays a significant role in furthering opportunities for the supply chain  |
| OEUK                            | Offshore Energies UK, offshore energy industry body which publishes guidance on matters including comparative assessment and stakeholder engagement in decommissioning programme preparation   |

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| OPRED                       | <a href="#">Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning</a> , part of the UK's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Competent Authority responsible for regulating environmental and decommissioning activity for offshore oil and gas operations, including carbon capture and storage operations, on the UK continental shelf   |
| OSPAR                       | The <a href="#">OSPAR Convention</a> entered into force on 25 March 1998. It replaces the Oslo and Paris Conventions and is the mechanism by which 15 national governments (Contracting Parties) and the European Union cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic   |
| OSPAR Decision 98/3         | <a href="#">OSPAR Decision 98/3</a> recognises that there may be difficulty in removing the 'footings' of large steel jackets weighing more than 10,000 tonnes. If an installation falls within the derogation categories then a detailed assessment of the alternative disposal options must be carried out (comparative assessment).   |
| OSPAR Recommendation 2006/5 | <a href="#">OSPAR Recommendation 2006/5</a> requires Contracting Parties to assess the rate of oil loss and the persistence of the area of seabed contaminated using existing evidence where sufficient and including relevant research. The results should be compared against the thresholds of 10 tonnes per year rate of oil loss and 500km <sup>2</sup> per year persistence, below which the pile can remain <i>in situ</i> to degrade naturally, while above this threshold a further stage of assessment will be required    |
| Pelagic                     | Any water in a sea that is neither close to the bottom (benthic zone) nor near the shore can be said to be in the pelagic zone   |
| Phytoplankton               | Planktonic organisms that obtain energy through photosynthesis.  |
| Piles                       | Steel piles which are driven into the seabed and grouted (cemented) to fasten the steel jacket platforms in place. Ninian Southern's piles extend between 37 m and 43.5 m into the seabed, guided through 'sleeves' which are attached to the platform footings  |
| PMF                         | Priority Marine Features   |
| Production Wells            | Wells used to retrieve oil or gas from an underground reservoir  |
| Risers                      | Vertical pipes conveying fluids between topsides and seabed infrastructure   |
| SAC                         | Special Area of Conservation, a type of Marine Protected Area  |
| SEPA                        | Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scotland's principal environmental regulator. (Environment Agency performs similar role for England.)<br><br>In the decommissioning context, SEPA is particularly concerned with the fate of materials brought to shore, notably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disposal of hazardous / non-hazardous wastes;</li> <li>- Management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and sealed radioactive sources;</li> <li>- Movement of waste out of UK waters</li> </ul> |
| SLV                         | Single Lift Vessel (for example, the Pioneering Spirit), designed to remove (e.g.) topsides or jackets in one lifting operation  |

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| SPA                    | Special Protection Area, a type of Marine Protected Area designated to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Wilds Birds Directive, or certain regularly occurring migratory species, which aims to protect all naturally occurring wild bird species present in the EU and their most important habitats |
| SSIV                   | Subsea isolation valve, a seabed valve assembly designed to isolate and shut off the flow of oil and gas in the event of an emergency or unplanned shutdown of production; it helps to prevent damage to equipment and to ensure the safety of personnel   |
| SSS or Side Scan Sonar | A type of sonar used to map the seabed using acoustic waves  |
| Subsea DP              | Subsea Decommissioning Programme; the decommissioning proposals for the Ninian Field's subsea infrastructure, including pipelines, will be described in a standalone DP  |
| THC                    | Total Hydrocarbon Content, used to describe the quantity of measured hydrocarbon present in a stream, e.g. water   |
| Topsides               | Typically any portion of an oil and gas platform which is above the water line   |
| Tubulars               | A generic term relating to any type of oilfield pipe, such as drill pipe, casing, production tubing and pipeline   |