

# Detailed guide: Oil and gas: decommissioning of offshore installations and pipelines

*Updated:* Approval of Close out Report

## Overview

The decommissioning of offshore oil and gas installations and pipelines on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf (UKCS) is controlled through the [Petroleum Act 1998](#).

The responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of the Petroleum Act 1998 are complied with rests with the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) which sits within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Owners of oil and gas installations and pipelines are required to decommission their offshore infrastructure at the end of a field's economic life and the 1998 Act requires owners to set out the measures to decommission disused installations and/or pipelines in a decommissioning programme.

A decommissioning programme must identify all the items of equipment, infrastructure and materials that have been installed or drilled and describe the decommissioning solution for each.

OPRED aims to be transparent in its consideration of decommissioning programmes. As a result members of the public, other organisations, non-governmental organisations and other government departments or agencies are invited to comment on the proposals set out in a programme.

Details of the current programmes under consideration are noted in the table below.

OPRED provides guidance on the regulatory requirements for decommissioning, [Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Guidance Notes May 2018](#) (PDF, 1.09MB, 124 pages)

. Final guidance on the Environmental Considerations for Decommissioning (section 12) will follow shortly, meantime draft guidance can be found here: [Section 12](#) (MS Word Document, 142KB)

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# Table of draft decommissioning programmes under consideration

Field Name	Field Operator	Status	Main points of the programme	Details
Viking VDP2 (Viking Bravo Hub, Viking Satellites KD, LD, AR and Vixen VM)	ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited	Draft programmes under consideration	Removal to shore of the Viking Bravo Hub and Viking Satellites KD, LD and AR topsides and jackets and Victor JM subsea manifold for recycling/disposal. Wells to be plugged and abandoned. Pipelines to be decommissioned in situ. All mattresses on pipelines to remain in situ.	<a href="#">VDP2 Decommissioning Programmes</a> (PDF, 3.29MB, 80 pages)  <a href="#">VDP2 Comparative Assessment</a> (PDF, 3.09MB, 167 pages)  <a href="#">VDP2 Environmental Statement</a> (PDF, 13.5MB, 420 pages)
Viking VDP3 (Victor JD and JM)	ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited	Draft programmes under consideration	Removal to shore of the Victor JD topsides and jackets and Victor JM subsea manifold for recycling/disposal. Wells to be plugged and abandoned. Pipelines to be decommissioned in situ. All mattresses on pipelines to remain in situ.	<a href="#">VDP3 Decommissioning Programmes</a> (PDF, 1.78MB, 49 pages)  <a href="#">VDP3 Comparative Assessment</a> (PDF, 3.09MB, 167 pages)  <a href="#">VDP3 Environmental Statement</a> (PDF, 13.5MB, 420 pages)

[Dunlin Alpha Decommissioning Programme](#)  
(PDF, 6.5MB, 77 pages)

Dunlin Alpha Field      Fairfield Betula Limited      Draft programme under consideration      Decommissioning in situ of Dunlin Alpha concrete gravity based structure and storage cells. Full removal of Dunlin Alpha topsides for reuse or recycling.      [Dunlin Alpha Decommissioning Comparative Assessment Report](#)  
(PDF, 3.66MB, 133 pages)

[Dunlin Alpha Decommissioning Environmental Appraisal](#)  
(PDF, 5.04MB, 155 pages)

Beatrice Field      Repsol Sinopec Resources UK Limited      Draft programmes under consideration      Topsides, jackets and the drilling template will be removed and recycled or disposed onshore. Wells will be plugged and abandoned. Trenched and buried pipelines will remain in situ. Any exposed sections will undergo trenching and burial, rock covering or be cut out and removed to shore. A small section of drill cuttings will be left in situ. Concrete mattresses and grout bags will be recovered to shore for reuse, recycling or disposal.      [Beatrice Decommissioning Programme](#)  
(PDF, 5.13MB, 81 pages)  
[Beatrice Comparative Assessment Report](#)  
(PDF, 3.3MB, 98 pages)  
[Beatrice Environmental Assessment Report](#)  
(PDF, 15.9MB, 255 pages)

[Tyne South Installations Decommissioning Programme](#)

[Tyne South Installations Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

(PDF, 8.75MB, 223 pages)

[Guinevere Installation Decommissioning Programme](#)

(PDF, 1.68MB, 41 pages)

[Guinevere Installation Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

(PDF, 5.95MB, 149 pages)

Tyne South Perenco UK  
Installations Limited

Draft programmes under consideration

Removal to shore of the Tyne South topsides, jacket and subsea installation for re-use or recycling. (PDF, 1.86MB, 40 pages)

Guinevere Perenco UK  
Installation Limited

Draft programmes under consideration

Removal to shore of the Guinevere topsides and jacket for re-use or recycling.

Curlew and Curlew C Fields	Shell (U.K.) Limited	Draft programmes under consideration	<p>Removal to shore of the Curlew FPSO, mid-water arch and mooring system for recycling/disposal. Removal to shore of subsea manifold, Curlew C WHPS and subsea pipeline structures for recycling/disposal. Subsea wells to be plugged and abandoned. All trenched and buried pipelines will be decommissioned in-situ with pipeline and umbilical ends cut or lowered and covered. All jumpers, spools and concrete mattresses will be recovered to shore for recycling/disposal. Topsides and jacket will be removed and recycled or disposed onshore. The pipelines will be partially removed, the exposed sections adjacent to the platforms will be removed and recycled or disposed onshore. The exposed ends will be lowered to achieve adequate depth of coverage. The existing buried sections of umbilical will be left in situ. All concrete mattresses and grout bags will be recovered to shore for reuse, recycling or disposal.</p>	<p><a href="#">Curlew and Curlew C Decommissioning Programmes</a> (PDF, 2.49MB, 61 pages)</p> <p><a href="#">Curlew and Curlew C Comparative Assessment</a> (PDF, 3.08MB, 85 pages)</p> <p><a href="#">Curlew and Curlew C Environmental Statement</a> (PDF, 7.77MB, 196 pages)</p> <p><a href="#">Windermere Decommissioning Programme</a> (PDF, 2.39MB, 38 pages)</p> <p><a href="#">Windermere Comparative Assessment</a> (PDF, 1.49MB, 34 pages)</p> <p><a href="#">Windermere Environmental Statement</a> (PDF, 10.2MB, 235 pages)</p>
Windermere Field	INEOS UK SNS Limited	Draft programmes under consideration		

[Bains  
Decommissioning  
Programmes](#)  
(PDF, 1.94MB,  
30 pages)

Bains Field	Spirit Energy Production UK Ltd	Draft programmes under consideration	All Subsea Installations will be removed. Both pipelines will be left in situ except for short exposed sections.	<a href="#">Bains Comparative Assessment</a> (PDF, 1.68MB, 40 pages)
				<a href="#">Bains Environmental Appraisal</a> (PDF, 3.61MB, 61 pages)
Jacky Field	Ithaca Energy (UK) Limited	Draft programmes under consideration	Platform & Midline Tee Structure will be removed and transported to shore for re-use or recycling. Subsea wells will be plugged and abandoned using a drilling rig. Pipelines are trenched and buried and will remain in situ.	<a href="#">Jacky Decommissioning Programmes</a> (PDF, 1.86MB, 50 pages)
				<a href="#">Jacky Comparative Assessment</a> (PDF, 1.32MB, 31 pages)
				<a href="#">Jacky Environmental Impact Assessment</a> (PDF, 8.83MB, 135 pages)

[East Brae And Braemar Decommissioning Programmes](#)  
(PDF, 10.3MB, 74 pages)

[East Brae and Braemar Environmental Statement – Main Report](#)  
(PDF, 14.5MB, 78 pages)

[East Brae and Braemar Environmental Statement – Technical Appendices](#)  
(PDF, 12.8MB, 96 pages)

[East Brae Sub-structures Comparative Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 5.96MB, 39 pages)

[Brae Area Subsea Assets Comparative Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 6.84MB, 43 pages)

East Brae and Marathon Oil  
Braemar UK LLC

Draft programmes under consideration

Removal of East Brae topsides and removal of jackets to the top of the footings. Removal of Braemar subsea installations. Pipelines to be decommissioned by partial removal and leave in situ.

Brae Alpha,  
Brae Bravo,  
Central Brae, Marathon Oil  
West Brae and UK LLC  
Sedgwick

Draft  
programmes  
under  
consideration

Removal of Brae  
Alpha and Brae  
Bravo jackets to  
the top of the  
footings.  
Removal of Central  
Brae, West Brae and  
Sedgwick subsea  
installations.  
Pipelines to be  
decommissioned in a  
variety of ways  
including removal,  
trenching and leave  
in situ.

[Brae Alpha,  
Brae Bravo,  
Central Brae,  
West Brae and  
Sedgwick  
Decommissioning  
Programmes](#)  
(PDF, 15.3MB,  
120 pages)

[Brae A etc,  
Environmental  
Statement –  
Main Report](#)  
(PDF, 14.6MB,  
80 pages)

[Brae A etc.  
Environmental  
Statement –  
Technical  
Appendices](#)  
(PDF, 13.3MB,  
96 pages)

[Brae A Sub-  
structure  
Comparative  
Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 5.27MB,  
34 pages)

[Brae B Sub-  
structure  
Comparative  
Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 5.44MB,  
34 pages)

[Brae Area  
Subsea Assets  
Comparative  
Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 6.84MB,  
43 pages)



Ninian North  
Platform CNR

Draft  
programme  
under  
consideration

Topsides will be removed and recovered to shore. Partial removal of the Jacket to between 77.5 and 88.5m below LAT. Decommissioning in situ of jacket footings.

[Ninian North Platform Decommissioning Programme](#)  
(PDF, 1.8MB, 61 pages)

[Ninian North Platform Environmental Statement](#)  
(PDF, 7.82MB, 229 pages)

[Ninian North Platform Comparative Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 2.75MB, 92 pages)

[Brent  
Decommissioning  
Programme](#)  
(PDF, 12MB, 322  
pages)

[Brent ES](#)  
(PDF, 12.5MB,  
475 pages)

[Brent EIA](#)  
(PDF, 5.05MB,  
429 pages)

[Brent ES  
Appendix](#)  
(PDF, 2.52MB,  
45 pages)

A suite of  
detailed  
Technical  
Documents which  
support the  
Decommissioning  
Programmes  
documents are  
available on  
the [Shell  
Website](#)

Brent

Shell U.K.  
Limited

Draft  
programmes  
under  
consideration

Removal of upper  
part of Brent Alpha  
steel jacket to  
84.5m below sea  
level.

Decommissioning in  
situ of Brent Alpha  
jacket footings.

Decommissioning in  
situ of Brent  
Bravo, Charlie and  
Delta concrete  
gravity based  
structures.  
Pipelines several  
decommissioning  
options.

[Atlantic & Cromarty Decommissioning Programmes](#)  
(PDF, 1.76MB, 50 pages)

[Atlantic & Cromarty Stakeholder Report](#)  
(PDF, 1.11MB, 32 pages)

[Atlantic & Cromarty Environmental Impact Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 4.5MB, 109 pages)

[Atlantic & Cromarty Comparative Assessment](#)  
(PDF, 2.06MB, 110 pages)

Atlantic and Cromarty

BG Global Energy Limited and Hess Limited

Draft programmes under consideration

Manifold and Well head Protection structures (WHPS) to be removed for recycling/disposal. Partial removal of pipelines and remaining section of buried/trenched pipelines to remain in situ.

## Table of approved decommissioning programmes

Field Name	Operator at approval	Operator following licence / company change	Main installations decommissioned	Approved option	Year of approval
<a href="#">Brae Bravo Topsides, Flare Bridge, Flare Tower and Flare Jacket and Substructure</a> (PDF, 4.9MB, 52 pages)	Marathon Oil UK LLC	–	Brae Bravo Topsides, Flare Bridge, Flare Tower and Flare Jacket/Substructure	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	August 2018

<a href="#">Brent Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Topsides</a> (PDF, 3.34MB, 81 pages)	Shell U.K. Limited	-	Brent Alpha, Brent Bravo and Brent Charlie Topsides	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	August 2018
<a href="#">Stirling A33 WHPS Decommissioning Programme</a> (PDF, 1.13MB, 27 pages)	Premier Oil E&P UK Limited	-	Subsea installation	Removal to shore for recycling	May 2018
			Subsea installations	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	April 2018
<a href="#">Ann and Alison</a> (PDF, 2.98MB, 60 pages)	Spirit Energy North Sea Limited	-	Pipelines	Buried and stable pipelines left in situ. Surface laid pipelines removed to shore for re-use or recycling	April 2018
			Subsea installations	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	April 2018
<a href="#">Saturn (Annabel)</a> (PDF, 2.49MB, 47 pages)	Spirit Energy North Sea Limited	-	Pipelines	Buried and stable pipelines left in situ. Surface laid pipelines removed to shore for re-use or recycling	April 2018
			2 fixed platforms	Removal of topsides and jackets to shore for recycling or disposal	April 2018
<a href="#">Audrey</a> (PDF, 2.87MB, 58 pages)	Spirit Energy North Sea Limited	-	Pipelines	Buried and stable pipelines decommissioned in situ. Surface laid pipelines removed to shore for re-use or recycling	April 2018
<a href="#">Rev Decommissioning Programme</a> (PDF, 12MB, 42 pages)	Repsol Norge AS	-	Pipelines	Fully buried and stable pipeline to be left in situ. All other pipelines to be removed. All mattresses on pipelines to be removed	April 2018
<a href="#">Markham ST-1</a> (PDF, 2.39MB, 49 pages)	Centrica Production Nederland B.V.	-	Fixed Platform	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	February 2018
			Pipelines	Two pipelines to be decommissioned in situ	February 2018

			Subsea Installation	Removed and recovered to shore for recycling/disposal	December 2017
<a href="#">Osprey</a> (PDF, 3.92MB, 68 pages)	Fairfield Fagus Limited	-	Pipelines	Full removal with the exception of the Bundles, Umbilical Risers within the Dunlin Alpha Concrete Gravity Based Structure or those trenched and rock dumped	December 2017
			Subsea Installation	Removed and recovered to shore for recycling/disposal	December 2017
<a href="#">Merlin</a> (PDF, 2.97MB, 56 pages)	Fairfield Fagus Limited	-	Pipelines	Full removal with the exception of trenched and rock dumped Pipelines and Umbilicals and Umbilical Riser within the Dunlin Alpha Concrete Gravity Based Structure	December 2017
			Subsea Installation	Removed and recovered to shore for recycling/disposal	December 2017
<a href="#">Dunlin Fuel Gas Import (DFGI) and Dunlin Power Import (DPI)</a> (PDF, 3.48MB, 54 pages)	Fairfield Fagus Limited	-	Pipelines	Full removal with the exception of trenched and buried Pipelines and Rigid Riser and Riser Cable within the Dunlin Alpha Concrete Gravity Based Structure	December 2017
<a href="#">Viking Satellites CD, DD, ED, GD, HD Pipelines</a> (PDF, 6.77MB, 32 pages)	ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited	-	Pipelines	All pipelines and associated mattresses to remain in situ	November 2017
<a href="#">LOGGS Satellites Vulcan UR, Viscount V0, Vampire OD - LDPI</a> (PDF, 17.5MB, 61 pages)	ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited	-	3 x fixed platforms - Vulcan UR, Viscount V0 and Vampire OD	Removal to shore of topsides and jackets for recycling/disposal	November 2017
			Pipelines	All pipelines and associated mattresses to remain in situ	November 2017
<a href="#">Leman BH Decommissioning Programme</a> (PDF, 4.66MB, 46 pages)	Shell U.K. Limited	-	1 x platform	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	April 2017

			FPSO	Removal for re-use at different location	March 2017
<a href="#">Ettrick and Blackbird</a> (PDF, 2.1MB, 62 pages)	Nexen Petroleum UK Limited	-	Subsea Equipment	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	March 2017
			Pipelines	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling; buried pipelines to be left in-situ	March 2017
<a href="#">Ann A4 Decommissioning Programme</a> (PDF, 1.37MB, 29 pages)	Centrica North Sea Limited	-	A4 Wellhead Protection Structure	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	February 2017
			FPSO	Removal for recycling	September 2016
<a href="#">Janice James &amp; Affleck</a> (PDF, 3.8MB, 115 pages)	Maersk Oil UK Limited	-	Subsea Equipment	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	September 2016
			Pipelines	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling; buried pipelines to be left in-situ	September 2016
			FPSO	Removal for re-use at different location	September 2016
<a href="#">Athena Decommissioning Programmes</a> (PDF, 3.88MB, 70 pages)	Ithaca Energy (UK) Limited	-	Subsea Equipment	Removal to shore for either re-use or recycling	September 2016
			Pipelines	All 32 pipeline to be removed and returned to shore for re-use or recycling	September 2016
<a href="#">Viking Platforms</a> (PDF, 3.53MB, 40 pages)	ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited	-	5 x fixed platforms Viking CD, DD, ED, GD, HD	Removal to shore of topsides and jackets for recycling/disposal	September 2016
			FPSO	Removal for re-use at different location	March 2016
			Subsea	Removal of 2 x bundle towheads and mid-line structure to shore for disposal; removal of 2 x drill centres to shore for disposal	March 2016
<a href="#">Leadon</a> (PDF, 1.71MB, 53 pages)	Maersk Oil North Sea UK Limited	-	Pipelines	2 x Pipeline bundles to be left in-situ, partial removal of gas import pipeline	March 2016

<a href="#">Harding STL</a> (PDF, 2.61MB, 73 pages)	TAQA Bratani Limited	-	Harding Submerged Turret Loading (STL) System	Harding Submerged Turret Loading (STL) System to be replaced by new Offshore Loading System. STL to be removed to shore for recycling/disposal and shuttle tanker mooring and loading buoy interfaces returned to owner	2015
<a href="#">Harding STL Close-Out Report</a> (PDF, 1.62MB, 26 pages)					
<a href="#">Thames Area – Horne &amp; Wren</a> (PDF, 1.57MB, 48 pages)	Tullow Oil SK Limited	-	1x fixed platform	Removal of topsides and jackets to shore for recycling/disposal	November 2015
			Pipelines	To remain buried in situ	November 2015
<a href="#">Thames Area – Orwell</a> (PDF, 828KB, 42 pages)	Tullow Oil SK Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	November 2015
			Pipelines	To remain buried in situ	November 2015
<a href="#">Thames Area – Wissey</a> (PDF, 1.26MB, 43 pages)	Tullow Oil SK Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	November 2015
			Pipelines	To remain buried in situ	November 2015
			3x fixed platforms	Removal of topsides and jackets to shore for recycling/disposal	October 2015
<a href="#">Thames Area – Thames Complex</a> (PDF, 15.9MB, 76 pages)	Perenco UK Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	October 2015
			Pipelines	To remain buried in situ	October 2015
<a href="#">Thames Area – Gawain</a> (PDF, 3.8MB, 47 pages)	Perenco UK Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	October 2015
			Pipelines	To remain buried in situ	October 2015
<a href="#">Thames Area – Arthur</a> (PDF, 4.41MB, 46 pages)	Perenco UK Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	October 2015
			Pipelines	To remain buried in situ	October 2015
<a href="#">Brent – Brent Delta Topside</a> (PDF, 3.55MB, 72 pages)	Shell U.K. Limited	-	Brent Delta Topside	Removal of topside to shore for recycling and disposal	July 2015

<a href="#">Rose Decommissioning Programmes</a> (PDF, 2.87MB, 42 pages)	Centrica Resources Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	May 2015 Close Out Report Approved October 2018
<a href="#">Rose Close Out Report</a> (PDF, 3.31MB, 36 pages)			Pipelines	Removal of sections of un-trenched pipelines; trenched pipelines decommissioned in situ	May 2015 Close Out Report Approved October 2018
<a href="#">Stamford</a> (PDF, 2.71MB, 39 pages)	Centrica North Sea Gas Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	April 2015
			Pipelines	Removal of sections of un-trenched pipelines; trenched pipelines decommissioned in situ	April 2015
			Large Steel Platform	Topsides and jacket to top of footings to be removed to shore for recycling/disposal. Footings to remain in situ	August 2014
<a href="#">Murchison</a> (PDF, 2.37MB, 70 pages)	CNR	-	Pipelines	Export pipeline decommissioned in situ with remedial rock placement. Infield Flowlines to be removed for recycling/disposal.	August 2014
<a href="#">Rubie &amp; Renee</a> (PDF, 2.47MB, 50 pages)	Endeavour Energy UK Limited	-	Subsea Installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	April 2014
			Pipelines	Selective Recovery	April 2014
<a href="#">Miller</a> (PDF, 6.57MB, 198 pages)	BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited		Large Steel Platform	Footings to remain in place, steel topsides and jacket to top of footings to be removed to shore	December 2013
<a href="#">Schiehallion &amp; Loyal Phase One</a> (PDF, 1.84MB, 60 pages)	Britoil Limited	-	Schiehallion FPSO	Removal for potential re-use	2013
			Pipelines	Recovery where possible. Production flowlines to be left in situ.	2013
<a href="#">IVRR – decommissioning programme</a> (PDF, 1.57MB, 102 pages)	Hess limited	-	FPSO	Removal for re-use at different location	2013
<a href="#">IVRR Close Out Report</a> (PDF, 4.74MB, 35 pages)			Subsea installations	Removal to shore for recycling/disposal	2013
			Pipelines	Selective recovery	2013



<a href="#">Camelot</a> (PDF, 488KB, 39 pages)	Energy Resource Technology (UK) Limited	–	Small Steel Platform	Removal to shore for recycling / disposal	2012
<a href="#">Camelot Close out report</a> (PDF, 2.27MB, 41 pages)			Pipelines	Pipelines decommissioned in situ	2012
<a href="#">Fife, Flora, Fergus, Angus: decommissioning programme</a> (PDF, 8.36MB, 135 pages)	Hess Limited	–	FPSO	Removed for re-use at different location	2012
<a href="#">FFFA Close Out Report</a> (PDF, 1.49MB, 33 pages)			Subsea installations	Removal to shore for recycling / disposal	2012
			Pipelines	Full removal of un-trenched pipelines; trenched pipelines decommissioned in situ	2012
<a href="#">Don</a>	Britoil Public Limited Company	–	Subsea installation	Removal to shore for recycling / disposal	2011
			Pipelines	Decommissioned in situ with selective recovery	2011
<a href="#">Welland</a>	Perenco UK Limited	Perenco UK Limited	Small Steel Platform	Removal for re-use outside of UK waters	2010
			Pipelines	Decommissioned in situ with selective recovery	2010
			Subsea installation	Removal to shore for recycling	2010; close-out report received January 2011
<a href="#">Tristan NW Close out report</a>	Silverstone Energy Limited	Bridge Energy UK Limited	Pipelines	Production pipeline with piggy-backed umbilical – leave in situ; jumpers, spool pieces and associated pipeline equipment – remove to shore for re-use or recycling	2010; close-out report received January 2011

				Tow away for future use at another location	2010; close-out report received February 2012
<a href="#">Shelley Close out report</a>	Premier Oil	-	Manifold and Wellhead	Remove to shore for re-use, recycling or disposal	2010; close-out report received February 2012
			Pipelines	Production pipeline – leave in situ; umbilical – remove in sections	2010; close-out report received February 2012
<a href="#">Kittiwake SAL Export System Close out report</a>	Venture North Sea Oil Limited	-	Kittiwake SAL Assembly	SAL Assembly – removal to shore for re-use. Revision to approved decommissioning programme: Completion of the removal of the SAL Assembly extended to 31 July 2012	2009; close-out report received July 2012
			Pipelines	Pipeline – flexible flowline removed to shore for re-use	2009; close-out report received July 2012
<a href="#">MCP-01 Close out report</a>	Total E& P UK Limited	-	Manifold & Compression Platform	Permit granted for the disposal in-situ of the concrete substructure; topsides to be removed to shore for re-use, recycling or disposal	2008; close-out report received March 2013
<a href="#">Kittiwake Loading Buoy</a>	Venture North Sea Oil Limited	-	Exposed Location Single Buoy Mooring System (ELSBM)	Removals to shore for recycling or disposal	2008

<a href="#">Linnhe</a> (PDF, 2.25MB, 66 pages)	Mobil North Sea LLC	-	Wellhead Protection Structure	Removal to shore. Revision to approved decommissioning programme: completion of the removal of the Wellhead Protection Structure extended to 30 June 2010	2008; year of revised approval: 2010
</p> <a href="#">Linnhe Close Out Report</a> (PDF, 1000KB, 22 pages)			Pipelines	Decommissioned in situ; pipeline sections outside trenches removed to shore. Revision to approved decommissioning programme: completion of the abandonment of the pipelines extended to 30 June 2010	2008; year of revised approval: 2010
<a href="#">Indefatigable (Shell)</a> (PDF, 11.6MB, 224 pages)	Shell U.K. Limited	-	6 x fixed steel platforms	Removal to shore	2007
</p> <a href="#">Close Out Report</a> (PDF, 2.47MB, 64 pages)			Pipelines	2 x hose bundles removal to shore; 5 x infield + export decommissioned in situ	2007
<a href="#">NW Hutton: decommissioning programme</a> (PDF, 14.9MB, 320 pages)	Amoco (U.K.) Exploration Company – now a subsidiary of BP plc	-	Large Steel Platform	Footings to remain in place, steel topsides and jacket to top of footings to be removed to shore	2006
<a href="#">Close Out Report</a> (PDF, 2.52MB, 32 pages)			Pipelines	Decommissioned in situ	2006
Ardmore	British American Offshore Limited	-	Mobile Jack-Up Rig	Re-use	2005
Ardmore	Ugland Nordic Shipping AS	-	Single Anchor Loading Systems Pipelines	Re-use/removal to shore Re-use	2005 2005
Ardmore	Acorn Oil & Gas Limited	-	Subsea equipment including guide frame	Removal to shore	2005
<a href="#">Brent</a>	Shell	-	Brent Flare	Removals to shore for recycling and disposal	2004
Beatrice	Talisman Energy (UK) Limited	-	Fixed Steel Platforms	Re-use	2004

Forbes and Gordon Infield Pipelines	BHP Billiton	-	Infield Pipelines	Decommission in situ – retrench any area of pipeline with less than 0.4m depth of cover	2003; close-out report received May 2005
<a href="#">Frigg TP1, QP &amp; CDP1 Close out report</a>	Total E&P Norge AS	-	Treatment Platform 1 (TP1), Quarters Platform (QP) and Concrete Drilling Platform 1 (CDP1)	Concrete substructures to remain in place; concrete topsides to be removed to shore; steel installations to be removed to shore; infield pipelines to be removed to shore	2003
Durward and Dauntless	Amerada Hess	-	Pipelines	Decommissioned in situ	2002
			Tension Leg Platform	Re-use	2002; close-out report received July 2004
Hutton	Kerr-McGee	-	Pipelines	1 x removal to shore; 1 x decommissioned in situ (with future monitoring programme)	2002; close-out report received July 2004
				Re-use or removal to shore for recycling. Revision to approved decommissioning option: removal to shore for dismantling and recycling	2001. Year of revised approval: 2002
Camelot CB	ExxonMobil	-	Fixed Steel Platform		
Blenheim and Bladon	Talisman	-	FPSO	Re-use	2000
			Pipelines	Removal to shore	2000
Durward and Dauntless	Amerada Hess	-	FPSO	Re-use	2000
			Subsea Facilities	Removal to shore	2000
			Large Steel Gravity Platform	Removal to shore for re-use or recycling	2000
<a href="#">Maureen and Moira</a>	Phillips	-	Concrete Loading Column	Removal to shore for re-use or recycling	2000
			Pipelines	2 x removal to shore; 1 x decommissioned in situ	2000
				Re-use as part of quay extension. Revision to approved decommissioning option: Brent Spar Anchor Blocks – removal to shore for reuse, recycling or disposal	1998
Brent Spar	Shell	-	Oil Storage and Loading Facility		Year of revised approval: 2004

Donan	BP	–	FPSO	Re-use	1998
Fulmar SALM	Shell	–	Single Anchor Leg Mooring Buoy	Removal to shore	1998
			16" Pipeline	Decommissioned in situ	1998
Emerald	MSR	–	FPSO	Re-use	1996
			Pipeline	Decommissioned in situ	1996
Frigg FP	Elf Norge	TotalFinaElf Norge	Flare Column	Removal to shore	1996
Leman BK	Shell	–	Fixed Steel Platform	Removal to shore	1996
Staffa	Lasmo	–	Pipelines	Removal to shore	1996
Viking AC, AD, AP & FD	Conoco	–	4 x Fixed Steel Platform	Removal to shore	1996
Esmond CP & CW	BHP	–	2 x Fixed Steel Platform	Removal to shore	1995
Gordon BW	BHP	–	Fixed Steel Platform	Removal to shore	1995
Angus	Amerada Hess	–	Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) Vessel	Re-use	1993
Forbes AW	Hamilton	BHP	Fixed Steel Platform	Removal to shore	1993
Argyll, Duncan and Innes	Hamilton	BHP	Floating Production, Facility (FPF)	Removal to shore	1992
			Catenary Anchor Leg Mooring (CALM) Buoy	Removal to shore	1992
			Pipelines	Removal to shore	1992
Blair	Sun Oil	AGIP	Pipelines	1 x Re-use; 1 x Decommissioned in situ	1992
Crawford	Hamilton Oil	BHP	Floating Production, Facility (FPF)	Removal to shore	1991
			Catenary Anchor Leg Mooring (CALM) Buoy	Removal to shore	1991
			Subsea Facilities	Removal to shore	1991
Piper Alpha	Occidental	Talisman	Fixed Steel Platform	Toppling	1988

## Notification of disused pipelines

(the DPN form has been amended – July 2017)

During the course of a field's life, pipelines/sections of pipelines may be taken out of use, e.g. due to corrosion, problems with reservoir pressure, damage to the pipeline, etc. When this happens, under the Petroleum Act 1998 the Secretary of State has the option of immediately calling for a full decommissioning programme. This is not always considered an appropriate option however, and so it has been agreed consideration will be given to handling suitable pipelines, under an informal decommissioning regime, thereby deferring a formal programme until the end of the field's life.

If a formal decommissioning programme is not immediately deemed suitable,

details of the out of use pipeline(s) will be circulated to other government departments for comment. Following this, OPRED will decide one of the following:

- we are content with the proposals for monitoring and maintaining the out-of-use pipeline
- we request additional information or further remedial action
- we request a formal decommissioning programme

The Interim Pipeline Regime is intended to ensure out of use lines do not pose a risk to other users of the sea or the environment and that they are covered by an appropriate surveying and maintenance regime from the point when they are taken out of use until approval of the formal decommissioning programme, which is usually at the end of field life. It should be noted that any interim solution should not prejudice the final decommissioning options for that line, including complete removal. The department expects Operators to submit details of out of use pipelines/sections of a pipeline as soon as they are taken out of use.

Operators are reminded that any works that are proposed on any pipelines under the Pipeline Works Authorisation regime, as per their Terms and Conditions of the PWA, must have a Legal Consent in place before works can commence which includes but is not exclusive to any proposed decommissioning works. Consents are issued by the Oil & Gas Authority and Operators are requested to contact [Claire Grant](#) on any queries that they may have relating to Legal Consents. Further Guidance can also be found on the Oil & Gas Authority website:

<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/licensing-consents/consents/pipeline-works-authorisations/>

Once the necessary legal consent has been issued by OGA, Consents & Authorisations Section, Operators are to email a completed [Disused pipeline notification form](#) (MS Word Document, 81.7KB)

to [The Offshore Decommissioning Unit](#), OPRED, BEIS.

If you are an Operator, aware of any out of use pipelines that have not been referred to the department, please submit a completed DPN form at your earliest convenience.

Following confirmation a pipeline has been accepted under the Interim Pipeline Regime, the Offshore Decommissioning Unit will continue to monitor the condition of the pipeline by asking the Operator to confirm the status of the pipeline remains unchanged following future surveys.

## **Further information**

A list of all installations on the UKCS and their current status is available from the OSPAR Website

At the first ministerial meeting of the Commission for the Protection of the

Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) in 1998, a binding decision was agreed that set rules for the disposal of offshore installations at sea. Under the decision the dumping and leaving wholly or partly in place of offshore installations is prohibited. Decision 98/3 recognises it may be difficult to remove the 'footings' of large steel jackets weighing more than 10,000 and concrete installations. As a result there are derogations for these categories of installations if the internationally agreed assessment and consultation process shows leaving them in place is justifiable.

OPRED has utilised streamlined decommissioning programme templates for derogation and non-derogation cases, Operators will therefore have a choice whether to submit a decommissioning programme in the existing format (see Annex C of the Guidance Notes 'Format and Content') or adopt the streamlined decommissioning programme template. Operators should discuss individual cases with OPRED.

A  
[Streamlined Decommissioning Programme Template \(Non-Derogation Cases\)](#)  
(PDF, 1.36MB, 33 pages)

is available – (December 2015).

A  
[Streamlined Decommissioning Programme Template \(Derogation Cases\)](#)  
(PDF, 1.5MB, 36 pages)

is also available (December 2015).

A word version of these templates can also be requested from OPRED. Please email [The Offshore Decommissioning Unit](#) for further details.

## **Cost recovery**

OPRED will charge a fee in respect of offshore (oil and gas) installations and pipelines decommissioning programmes under the Petroleum Act 1998. Guidance, including the indicative fee structure, is available in [Guidance on charging a fee for offshore \(oil and gas\) installations and pipelines under the Petroleum Act 1998](#)  
(PDF, 308KB, 9 pages)