

## 31<sup>st</sup> Supplementary Licensing Round – Conservation Sites

Last updated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The map in this document shows conservation sites with marine and coastal features which are potentially sensitive to offshore oil and gas exploration/appraisal activities in the Greater Buchan Area blocks offered in the 31<sup>st</sup> Supplementary Licensing Round. The map includes designated conservation sites and those at earlier stages in the designation process, including potential sites. The sites include Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (SACs and SPAs, collectively termed Natura 2000 sites)<sup>1</sup>, Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)<sup>2</sup>, and Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (NC MPAs)<sup>3</sup>.

The information packs prepared for recent Offshore oil & gas licensing rounds have included a block and site matrix listing those blocks inside or within 10, 15 or 40km of a conservation site, and the features for which those sites were designated. The purpose of the matrix is to provide orientation to applicants of the type, nature and location of conservation sites in relevant UK waters. Two sites (listed below with their features) fall within the distances noted above of the Greater Buchan Area covered by the 31<sup>st</sup> Supplementary Round and are labelled on the map overleaf:

Site Name	Features	Distance to Greater Buchan Area
Scanner Pockmark SAC	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	34km
Turbot Bank NC MPA	Sandeels	29km

The summary information provided in this document is expanded upon in the most recent site listings on the [JNCC website](#) and that of [Scottish Natural Heritage](#).

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<sup>1</sup> established under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), the *Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994* (as amended), *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* and *The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*.

<sup>2</sup> established under the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*.

<sup>3</sup> established under the *Marine (Scotland) Act 2010*.

# 31<sup>st</sup> Supplementary Licensing Round - Greater Buchan Area and Relevant Conservation Sites

