

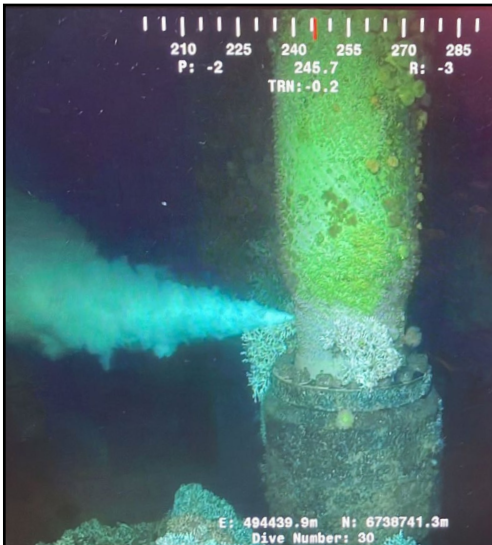
# RIGLESS PLATFORM CONDUCTOR CUTTING

## 24 Well Internal Single & Multi-String Cutting delivered by xcalibre

**claxton**  
cutting through complexity



xcalibre System Test before deployment



ROV Footage showing cut penetration subsea

### The Challenge

An operator in the Norwegian North Sea required the removal of 24 conductors including six tie-back wells which were installed in a subsea template. The 18 platform wells had a 20"x26" profile, with the tie backs being 20"x30" and one single 26". All wells were to be severed 2 meters below the mudline.

The tie-back wells introduced significant technical constraints:

- The cutting manipulator had to pass through a 15in restriction inside the tie-back connector, which was present in all tie-back wells, before expanding into a 19in wellbore.
- A second cut was required above the tie-back connector to allow the wells to be recovered together with the subsea template.
- The client required both cuts to be completed in a single deployment for operational efficiency.
- On the single string well the cutting manipulator still had to pass the 15in restriction, while still being capable of seating securely inside a 26-inch conductor.

Additional project complexities included:

- Deployment from a custom Conductor Guide Frame positioned 48 meters above sea level.
- 175 meters water depth.
- 29 meters conductor stick-up, resulting in a total cut depth of 206 meters from wellhead to cut elevation, making these the deepest platform wells ever cut using xcalibre - Claxton's Abrasive Cutting Solution.
- During annulus venting, a small hydrocarbon-like substance was observed. Before cutting operations could proceed, the entire 206-meter annulus column had to be confirmed hydrocarbon-free to eliminate environmental risk.

Standard tooling was not suitable due to the limited packer expansion range and internal diameter restrictions within the tie-back connectors.

### The Solution

Tooling Innovation - Although Claxton's xcalibre cutting system is field-proven to 450m water depth, the tie-back connector restriction and multi-diameter cutting requirement necessitated a redesign of the cutting manipulator.

Claxton delivered:

- Re-engineered the internal drive unit to integrate an inflatable packer system used in SWAT™ (Suspended Well Abandonment Tool).
- Achieved the required expansion range while maintaining the 15-inch OD restriction.
- Enabled cutting of 20" x 30" and 26" conductors in a single deployment.

The modification proved highly successful and is now being incorporated into the next generation of Claxton internal cutting tools.

# RIGLESS PLATFORM CONDUCTOR CUTTING

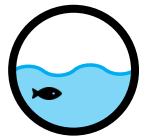
## 24 Well Internal Single & Multi-String Cutting delivered by xcalibre

### The Result

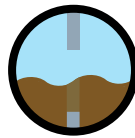
- 24 wells safely cut and recovered
- 24 cuts completed below mudline
- 6 additional cuts completed above the template
- Hydrocarbon risk fully assessed and mitigated
- No environmental discharge
- Zero Non-Productive Time (NPT)
- Deepest platform wells ever cut using abrasive cutting technology (206m total cut depth)

The project demonstrated Claxton's ability to engineer bespoke solutions for complex conductor removal campaigns, combining tooling innovation, environmental risk control, and the operational efficiency of the xcalibre system in a single integrated execution.

### The Project in Numbers



640ft Water Depth



24 Conductors  
Cut & Recovered



Avg. Multi-String  
cut time 4 Hours

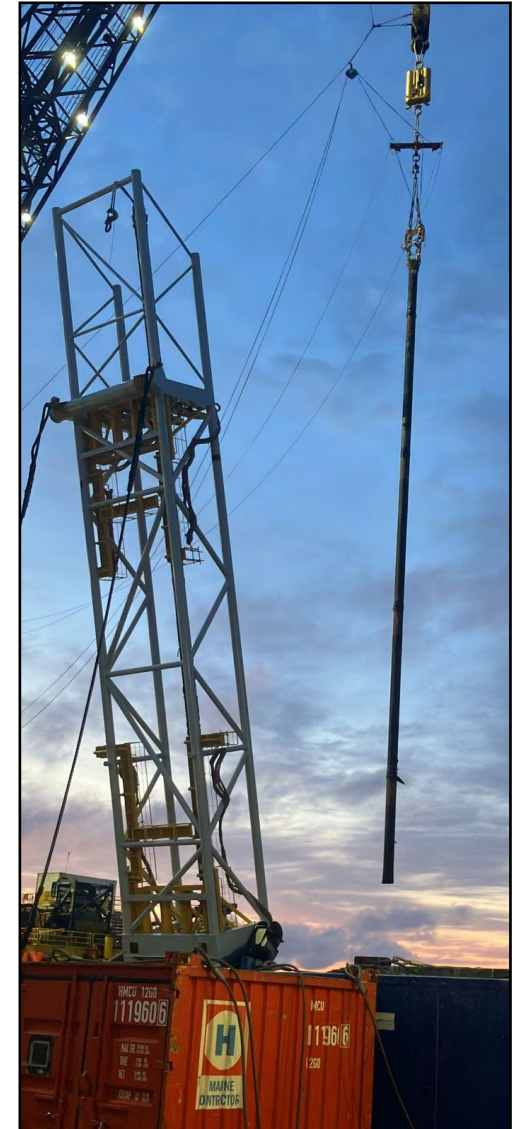
**Environmental Risk Mitigation & Hydrocarbon Verification** - Claxton's internal multi-string cutting tools include an integrated de-watering system, circulating all annulus fluids through the tool and returning them to surface via the umbilical for containment and sampling.

1. To address the observed hydrocarbons and mitigate potential influx risk:
2. The wellbore water level was lowered to create an underbalanced hydrostatic condition.
3. The cutting tool was deployed to cut a 45-degree window in the inner strings, without penetrating the conductor.
4. Using Claxton's downhole pressure sensor (1/1000 bar precision), the wellbore and annuli were monitored for influx.
5. Return fluids were sampled at surface.

This process was repeated at 20-meter intervals from final cut depth to 20 meters below the wellhead. With; No hydrocarbon findings and No influx detected. The tool was redeployed to final depth and the wells were successfully severed.

**Subsea Template Cut Verification** - For the six tie-back wells, active cut verification below seabed level was not possible. Instead, Claxton implemented a conservative cutting methodology, including: Reduced cutting speeds & Additional tool rotations.

An additional benefit of this approach was that high-pressure water and air injected into the seabed helped break up cement surrounding the subsea template, assisting structural collapse and easing recovery.



Cut Conductor recovered to vessel