



North Sea
Transition
Authority

2025 UKCS Stewardship Survey

Summary of Changes from the 2024 Survey

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Enquiries to:
North Sea Transition Authority
50 Broadway
London
England
SW1H 0DB

Email: correspondence@nstauthority.co.uk

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1. Introduction

This document defines the main changes that have been made to the 2025 UKCS Stewardship Survey, taking into consideration feedback received from Operators during and after the 2024 Survey.

2. General

1. The Survey is open for the same length of time as last year:
 - a. The main Survey will start on Monday 3 November 2025 and will close on Friday 27 February 2026.
 - b. The Activity section of the survey will also start on Monday 3 November 2025 but will close on Friday 16 January 2026. This section closes earlier than the rest of the Survey so that the most up-to-date data can be used to provide estimates and projections of expenditure and production by the NSTA to the Office for Budget Responsibility ahead of the Spring Statement.
2. Each year we try to improve the quality of the master datasets used in the survey, but some issues still occur, including missing wells, missing fields and facilities and incorrect status. A lot of work has gone into improving these, where we are able to. When the survey goes live on 3 November, please check the data for your company and advise us, via the survey mailbox (stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk), as soon as possible of any anomalies.
3. Survey sections benefit from enhanced quality checks and updated guidance. Not only does this improve data quality, but we hope it will also reduce the number of clarification requests raised by the NSTA. **Please note that it is the responsibility of the Operator/Licence holder SPA (Single Points of Accountability) to ensure that the data submitted is accurate.**
4. Supporting guidance documents have been redesigned and updated to increase clarity. As with the previous surveys, some of the guidance is embedded within the Survey, whilst extended supporting notes can be found in separate documents located on the [survey webpage](#) (and linked to from within the Survey). There is an individual survey guide for each section, along with a **SPA 'checklist'** of common checks that can be done before the submission of the section.

3. Master Data

The master data lists (Fields, Hubs, Facilities, Pipelines, Terminals, Wells, etc) have been reviewed throughout the year, but we cannot guarantee that all master data is correct as some of the data is reliant upon Operators and Licensees ensuring that the data is updated.

If, after logging into the Survey, you find that some of the master data lists are incorrect or possibly incorrect, please contact Help & Support (reference section 6, page 8) and the NSTA will be able to fix any issues.

This is especially true if there has been any Asset transfers.

4. General Survey changes

The following change has been implemented across the Survey:

1. Operators may now receive multiple clarification requests per section, and all clarification requests must be completed before the section can be resubmitted. There is a checkbox to confirm which requests are complete.

5. Survey Section changes

The following changes have been implemented in the specified section of the Survey:

5.1. Activity

1. It is now expected that technical post-CoP profiles will be provided for fields and incremental projects for production, sales and operating costs and for pipelines and terminals throughout, capacity and operating costs. These profiles should extend at least 5 years beyond the Company CoP date. Guidance has been updated throughout the Activity section to clarify this.

5.2. Decommissioning

Note: Additional guidance has been included to provide further clarity.

1. 'Starting mechanical status' and 'New mechanical status' have been relocated within the same page (it is now directly below the WONS wellbore registration number).
2. Updated selection lists for 'New mechanical status', and the rig/unit types within the Well P&A data requests.
3. Amended well type categories, and the licence number will automatically appear for an E&A well.
4. Adjusted the well status code description to align with OEUK guidelines.
5. Question added to state whether a well has been abandoned to high pressure and/or high temperature specification.
6. In the 'Estimates, forecasts and actuals' section,
 - a. additional questions in the 'Quantities and weights' tab for operators to provide greater detail about planned activities,

- b. a mandatory checkbox for operators to confirm that they have reviewed data that has been copied forward and that it is correct.
- 7. For subsea infrastructure only, there are now validation checks in place to ensure that if data is entered for a specific year in the Quantity/Weight tab then there must also be data entered for the same specific year in the Cost estimate tab (and vice versa).
- 8. In the 'Decommissioning questions' section, additional information will be requested should there be a 'Scope change'.

5.3. Exploration & Appraisal

No changes have been made to the E&A section of the Survey.

5.4. GHG Emissions

- 1. Updated guidance notes to reflect requesting mid-case technical profiles of the facility's oil and/or gas production that extends at least 5 years beyond the Company CoP date (which is not expected to influence these technical profiles).
- 2. To improve emissions data, 'Survey year (estimated actuals)' emissions data is now requested for asset-level emissions and abatement projects.
- 3. Threshold for reporting abatement projects has been reduced to 1000 tCO₂e per annum.
- 4. Abatement projects listed down the side bar now contain the name of the project as well as the project number.

5.5. Licensing

- 1. Guidance has been updated to clarify the definition of a purchased 2D seismic survey, an acquired (i.e. shot) 2D seismic survey, a purchased 3D seismic survey, and an acquired (i.e. shot) 3D seismic survey.

5.6. Production Efficiency

No changes have been made to the Production Efficiency section of the Survey.

5.7. Reserves & Resources

No changes have been made to the Reserves & Resources section of the Survey.

5.8. Supply Chain

No changes have been made to the Supply Chain section of the Survey.

5.9. Technology

1. If you do not have any technologies to report in a field, then you will be presented with a list to select from as well as the box to provide additional detail. A comment is only mandatory if 'Other' is selected.

5.10. Wells

1. The 'Well status as of 31st December' will be automatically prepopulated using the data from WONS, but the status can be edited.
Please review your data as soon as the Survey launches - The data may not be perfect as it is reliant on the data in WONS being updated throughout the year. This should minimise changes once the survey is open.
2. For Existing development wells, there is an additional question to determine whether a well has flow/injection potential.
3. Within the 'issues and activities' form, for the 'Issue type' list:
 - a. the option to select 'Other' is no longer available,
 - b. the option 'Injector no longer required' has been added,
 - c. for the 'downhole deposits' issue type, the subtype has been extended to include 'asphaltene'.
4. Within the 'issues and activities' form, for an Activity:
 - a. For the four objectives, Optimisation, Safeguarding, Restoration and Surveillance, the option to select 'Other' (and its associated 'Please describe comment box') has been removed,
and there is an additional question to identify if the intervention was a technical success.
 - b. For the three objectives, Optimisation, Safeguarding, and Restoration, cost amounts are to be assigned as either an 'Intervention cost' or a 'Surveillance cost', which are automatically totalled.
 - c. For the objective 'Optimisation',
the Activity 'type' list options has been expanded,
and there is a supplementary question to ascertain the method used when the Activity 'type' is 'Water shut offs' or 'Gas shut offs'.
 - d. For the objective 'Safeguarding',
the number of washes performed will need to be stated when the Activity 'type' is 'Regular water washes and other regular solvent treatments'.
 - e. For the objective 'Restoration',
the Activity type list has been extended to include 'Gas bull heading'.
 - f. For the objective 'Surveillance',
the 'Types of surveillance collect' list has been extended to include 'Visual inspection'.
Note: All costs must be assigned as a 'Surveillance cost'.

6. Help & Support

Help and support will be available through the usual UK Operations helpdesk, the contact details for technical/IT issues are:

- ukop@nstauthority.co.uk
- 0300 067 1682

For help regarding question queries, the contact details are:

- stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk

7. Summary

All the survey changes implemented this year have been based on industry feedback or changing NSTA requirements. All data will be used to contribute directly to the NSTA strategy.

Note

It is the NSTA's intention to maintain a broadly standard survey for its annual UKCS Stewardship Survey so that data collected from surveys can be collated, compared, and contrasted with past annual datasets. There will, however, continue to be some small changes over time, but the basic survey should remain the same. Any future changes that are made will be communicated at the appropriate time.



North Sea Transition Authority

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