North Sea Transition Authority

2026 UKCS Stewardship Survey

Summary of Changes from the 2025 Survey

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1. Introduction

This document defines the main changes that have been made to the 2026 UK Stewardship Survey (UKSS), taking into consideration feedback received from Operators during and after the 2025 UKSS.

2. General

1. The Survey is open for the same length of time as last year:
    a. The main Survey will start on Monday 2 November 2026 and will close on Friday 26 February 2027.
    b. The Activity section of the survey will also start on Monday 2 November 2026 but will close on Friday 15 January 2027. 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 Forecast.

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. When the survey goes live on 2 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. 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 UKCS Stewardship 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 7) 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. Updated the auto launch email.

5. Survey Section changes

The following changes have been implemented in the specified section of the 2026 UKSS:

5.1. Activity

1. Updated the survey guidance on technical profiles, where appropriate, to reflect the following expectations:

   Fields:
   Technical profiles for production, sales, operating costs and income should generally be provided for at least 5 years beyond the year of expected cessation of production, unless the field in question has already ceased production or is expected to cease production in the next year; in the latter case, technical profiles should continue for at least another year.

   If a field has ceased (or is expected to cease) production but continues (or is expected to continue) to provide services to other fields then operating cost and income profiles should be provided at least until those fields are expected to cease production.

   Terminals/Pipelines:
   Technical profiles for throughput, operating costs and income should generally be provided for at least 5 years beyond the year of expected cessation of operation, unless the terminal/pipeline in question has already ceased operation or is expected to cease operation in the next year; in the latter case, technical profiles should continue for at least another year.

5.2. Decommissioning

1. The questions on the Assets CoP schedule page have been reordered so that the button to set/change to the Company CoP and cost profile dates is at the start of the section, and above the grey cells detailing the dates (which are only editable via the Set/change Company CoP/cost profiles button).
2. Redesigned the Well decommissioning section within the Well P and A actuals tab of the Estimates, forecasts and actuals section.
   The ‘New mechanical status’ and ‘Well type’ dictate which subset of questions will be requested. There is now questions associated with a Phase 0 – Plug and lubricated, a Reservoir barrier, an Intermediate barrier, an Environmental plug, High pressure/High temperature, CCS repurposing potential, P&A execution strategy, and Conductor/Wellhead,

along with costs for well decommissioning up to AB2 mechanical status and from AB2 to AB2D/AB3 mechanical status.

3. For subsea infrastructure only, the validation check assessing the pipeline cost versus quantities values has been modified. The check now compares, for the same year period, Quantity/Length: Subsea infrastructure trunk – total length against Cost: Trunk lines.
4. Updated in-survey guidance notes in the following locations:
   - Assets > Estimates, forecasts and actuals > 2026 Well P&A Actuals
   - Assets > Cost Estimate > Well Decommissioning
   - Assets > Estimates, forecasts and actuals > Cost estimates > Subsea infrastructure
   - Assets > Estimates, forecasts and actuals > Well P&A Actuals > Well decommissioning

5.3. Exploration & Appraisal

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

5.4. GHG Emissions

1. The export function now generates a spreadsheet containing the data submitted about Emissions abatement projects, as well as the data associated with Facilities and with New developments.
2. Within the Emissions abatement projects section, the Abatement cost value is now mandatory and must be an integer value.

5.5. Licensing

No changes have been made to the Licensing section of the 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. The Technology section will only appear at Organisation level. Reporting at Field level is no longer required. It has been replaced with a requirement to complete the 'Technology Listing Template' spreadsheet (an NSTA template).

5.10. Wells

No changes have been made to the Wells section of the Survey.

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

As in previous years, the survey changes implemented 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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