



North Sea  
Transition  
Authority

# 2024 UKCS Stewardship Survey

Summary of Changes from the 2023 Survey

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September 2024, Rev 1.0

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# 1. Introduction

The 2024 UKCS Stewardship Survey has been enhanced considering feedback received from Operators during and after the 2023 Survey

This document defines the main changes that have been made to the survey.

## 2. General

1. The Survey is open for the same length of time as last year:
  - a. The main Survey will start on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and will close on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025.
  - b. The Activity section of the survey will also start on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 but will close on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This section closes earlier than the rest of the Survey so that up-to-date data can be used to inform the NSTA's estimates and projections of expenditure and production which it provides 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 1<sup>st</sup> November, please check the data for your company and advise us, via the survey mailbox ([stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk](mailto:stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk)), as soon as possible of any anomalies.
3. Most survey sections will 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 (correction) 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. A full review of section guidance has been completed and enhanced where deemed appropriate, based on the types of queries received during the 2023 survey. As with the 2023 survey, some of the guidance is on the survey screens, whilst extended section notes can be found in separate documents that are linked to from the [survey webpage](#) (This will be fully updated prior to survey launch.) We now have individual survey guides for each section, along with a **SPA 'checklist'** of common checks that can be done before the submission on the section.

### 3. General Survey changes

The following changes are being implemented across the survey:

1. Correction requests have been renamed to clarification requests. This is to reflect the nature of the request, which is more often to request additional clarification from the operator regarding data provided rather than highlight an area where the NSTA think the data input is incorrect.
2. Paste from Excel guidance – this has been reduced in text and will only show once in any section to reduce the onscreen burden.
3. When starting a section of the survey, you have previously been asked to click *OK* to the pop-up question *‘Are you sure you wish to start the progress of this section?’* This has now been removed and once you click on the section, this will mark as in progress.
4. Guidance has been updated on the survey matrix page to reinforce that data provided in the survey should be related to petroleum licences and activity and that information relating to Carbon Storage licences should not be provided here at this time.

### 4. Licensing

The following changes are being implemented in the Licensing section of the survey:

1. Guidance has been updated to further clarify that if a prospect has been cancelled, then the prospect will not be copied forwarded into the next stewardship survey.
2. Guidance has been updated to note that only geophysical data sets captured on the petroleum licence should be included. No seismic surveys captured on a Carbon Storage licence should be entered at this time.

### 5. Exploration & Appraisal

The following changes are being implemented in the E&A section of the survey:

1. No changes have been made.

## 6. Reserves and Resources

The following changes are being implemented in the Reserves & Resources section of the survey:

1. Guidance has been updated to increase clarity.

## 7. Activity

The following changes are being implemented in the Activity section of the survey:

1. Guidance notes have been rearranged to increase accessibility of the information.
2. The attribute *Estimated/Actual CoP date* has been renamed to *Company CoP date of the activity*. This is to align with the release of the OGAplan.
3. A validation has been added to flag and request an explanation if Sales and OPEX data has not been entered past the Company CoP date. (Validation is currently in place for and production data)

## 8. Decommissioning

The following changes are being implemented in the Decommissioning section of the survey:

1. All onscreen decommissioning guidance has been fully reviewed and updated to provide further information and clarity. These changes will also be reflected in the offscreen additional guidance notes.
2. CoP Schedule: To ensure compliance with the new OGAplan, we have changed the way we ask for CoP dates. (full guidance will be onscreen and offscreen additional guidance document.)
  - a. The *Likely CoP date* of an asset is now called *Company CoP date*.
  - b. For any assets that have not reached Company CoP by survey live, you will be asked to provide an *Early CoP date (earliest, credible CoP date based on asset risks (production, integrity, technical))*.
  - c. If an asset has permanently personnel on board (POB), you will then be asked for an *Emissions backstop date (The date by which post-CoP running costs and routine GHG emissions cease permanently. This is very likely to be driven by final platform disembarkation once the topsides are hydrocarbon free and the platform wells are decommissioned (likely to AB2 status) or vessel sail away in the case of FPSOs. The Emissions Backstop date should be based on the Company CoP Date and not the Early CoP Date.)*

3. Cost estimates: we have removed the question '*Has the final disembarkation occurred/been forecasted*' as the new question regarding POB assets in the CoP Schedule section will now control if the '*Actual/forecast date for the final disembarkation*' appears. Additional guidance has been provided.
4. P&A Actuals: we are changing the question '*mechanical status as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of December*'. You will now be asked to provide the *Starting Mechanical Status* and *New Mechanical Status*. (The well decommissioning costs are expected to be the out-turn costs from well decommissioning works performed where a well has attained a new mechanical status in 2024.)
5. Removals actuals: a new question has been added which should only be completed if the asset is an FPSO: *Time from CoP to sail away (days)*.

## 9. Production Efficiency

The following changes are being implemented in the Production Efficiency section of the survey:

1. Guidance has been updated to increase clarity.

## 10. Technology

The following changes are being implemented in the Technology section of the survey:

1. Field technologies data input options have changes from radio buttons to drop downs to reduce the screen space.
2. *Digital & data sub-category* and *Net Zero sub-category* will now be copied forward into future surveys.
3. If you do not have any technologies reported in a field, you will be asked for further clarification.
4. Guidance has been updated to increase clarity.

## 11. Supply Chain

The following changes are being implemented in the Supply Chain section of the survey:

1. Guidance notes have been rearranged to increase accessibility of the information.
2. Previous years *staff numbers* will be pre-populated from the previous survey.
3. The *total number/value of invoices* will be now be automatically calculated.

## 12. Wells

The following changes are being implemented in the Wells section of the survey:

1. **The master well data in WONS continues to be enhanced to improve its quality. However, as stated above, the data are not perfect, and you should ensure data are up to date in WONS throughout the year. This should minimise changes once the survey is open. However, we ask that you also review your data as soon as the Survey launches.**
2. Within the '*issues*' form, the *non-well issues* listings have been updated.

## 13. GHG Emissions

The following changes are being implemented in the Emissions GHG section of the survey:

1. Flare and venting profiles have now been split into *routine* and *non-routine Flare and Vent*.
2. Emissions abatement plans will now be asked in a new way. An abatement plan is a project that an operator intends to undertake on a facility/terminal that will reduce the emissions produced by the facility/terminal e.g. electrification of a platform Each plan >1000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum should now be added separately. Each will have their own subsection where you will be asked for: The Facility the plan is linked to; abatement type; plan status; probability of proceeding; expected FID; expected completion date; yearly profiles of Co<sub>2</sub>, Total Co<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, Other GHG; Abatement cost; yearly profiles of CAPEX, OPEX. Full guidance notes will be on screen and additional offscreen guidance.

## 14. Master Data

The 2023 survey master data lists will again be reviewed during 2024. That said, we cannot guarantee that all the master data is correct as some of the data is reliant upon Operators and Licensees ensuring that the data is correct.

**If, after logging into the Stewardship Survey, you find that some of the master data (fields, hubs, facilities, wells etc) are incorrect or possibly incorrect, please contact the Help & Support using the details in the next section and the NSTA will be able to fix any issues.**

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

## 15. Help & Support

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

- [ukop@nstauthority.co.uk](mailto:ukop@nstauthority.co.uk)
- 0300 067 1682

And the details for help regarding question queries are:

- [stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk](mailto:stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk)

## 16. 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 from this point forward 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.