



North Sea
Transition
Authority

UKSS SECTION GUIDE

EXPLORATION & APPRAISAL

This section will appear only once at organisational level.

If you think there are any errors with allocation, please contact

stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk

Date of publication 03/11/2025

The document can be found on the NSTAs website.

© NSTA Copyright 2025
URN

You may re-use this information free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the NSTA's User Agreement. To view this, visit: <https://www.nstauthority.co.uk/site-tools/access-to-information/> or email correspondence@nstauthority.co.uk

This document is available in large print, audio and braille on request.
Please email: correspondence@nstauthority.co.uk with the version you require.

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

Email: correspondence@nstauthority.co.uk

Published by the North Sea Transition Authority

Contents

- 1. UKSS 2025 CHANGES.....4
- 2. EXPENDITURE.....5
- 3. CHECKLIST... ..6
- 4. CONTACT DETAILS.....7

1. UKSS 2025 CHANGES

No changes were made in the Exploration and Appraisal section of the UKSS (UK Stewardship Survey).

2. EXPENDITURE

Information is required about the overall costs of Exploration & Appraisal (E&A) activity for the Licences that you operate.

Actual values are required for the survey year and projections are required for the following 3 years based on your plans to deliver firm and optional work programmes for the licences that you operate. Only hydrocarbon activity should be entered into the Licensing section at this time. Please do not provide details of activity on Carbon Storage licenses at this time.

Please detail the pre-tax cost in 100% gross figures for the licence for

- (i) exploration wells,
- (ii) appraisal wells,
- (iii) seismic acquisition and
- (iv) seismic purchase and reprocessing, for which your company is the operator.

Exploration wells	£		million
Appraisal wells	£		million
Seismic acquisition	£		million
Seismic acquisition type	Select One ▼		
Seismic purchase and reprocessing	£		million

NOTE:

- (1) The units are in 'Millions'
e.g. If the Exploration wells are £5,200,000, then enter 5.2 into the box.

- (2) Options for 'Seismic acquisition type?':

- No seismic acquisition
- 2D Conventional
- 2D Broadband
- 3D Conventional
- 3D Broadband
- OBC
- OBN
- Multi-Azimuth
- Other

3. CHECKLIST

Below are the some of the detailed QC steps that each section will go through. If you think your data will not pass these checks, please add as much information in the general comments section as possible to help us understand why.

- Is the timing of activity being described in the survey consistent with the Initial Term Licence deadlines (e.g., is a firm well delivered before the end of Phase C? Or is seismic acquisition completed before the end of Phase B?)
- Are survey year spend levels consistent with major work items carried out?
- Are future year spend forecast levels consistent with likely timing for exploration and appraisal well delivery?
- Is a proposed or possible well correctly classified as exploration, appraisal, or development?
- Is any Out of Round licensing activity ongoing in neighbouring areas?
- Have Firm Work Programme commitments been delivered yet?
- Do NSTA need to request additional proof of this?
- Check relinquishment status for licences where UKSS states that relinquishment has taken place in survey year?
- Would the planned licence activity timing require extension of a licence phase?
- Is the activity subject to an agreed Alternative Work Programme, and has that been correctly represented in the UKSS?

4. CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any issues when using the UKSS Stewardship Survey then please email stewardshipsurvey@nstauthority.co.uk and the stewardship team will respond as quick as possible.

If you find any errors with the data or question options presented on this survey form, then please report the error to the UK Energy Portal Service Desk by calling 0300 067 1682 or email ukop@nstauthority.co.uk.



North Sea Transition Authority

Copyright © North Sea Transition Authority 2025

The North Sea Transition Authority is the business name for the Oil and Gas Authority, a limited company registered in England and Wales with registered number 09666504 and VAT registered number 249433979. Our registered office is at 50 Broadway, London, SW1H 0DB.

www.nstauthority.co.uk