



North Sea  
Transition  
Authority

# NDR Updates – July 2022

## NSTA Government Funded Seismic Data

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The data products generated on behalf of the OGA using government funding, and published in 2015 and 2016, have been fully loaded to the National Data Repository. Previously only available as “on media” data packages, these geophysical data sets are now loaded like any other survey data – they can be downloaded in part or in whole using the NDR’s self-service download workflow.

NSTA acquired seismic data has been available for several months – this is now joined by the output of several areas of reprocessed 2D data from across the UKCS. One of the most recent additions is velocity data in DISKOSV98 format.

You can find the NSTA’s data in the NDR by filtering the Project ID Table using the Company ID “OA\_\_” or the Owner “NORTH SEA TRANSITION AUTHORITY”

## User Interface and User Experience Updates

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Further to the “UI/UX” review led by NSTA Service Partner Fivium, we’re pleased to advise that over 50 actions have been recorded from your feedback to the questionnaire and interviews – some higher in priority and some higher in complexity.

The changes outlined below represent a small section of our development plan. These are mainly aimed at improving the user experience and, together with Osokey, have either already been introduced or are in development, to be rolled out soon.

Future developments will enhance **Reporting and Compliance**, **Access to Data** or will contribute to the NSTA’s **strategic development** of the NDR and the Digital Energy Platform.

### Information and Awareness:

All users will now see additional information on the NDR login screen, including links to NSTA managed GIS services for commonly requested offshore spatial data sets, listings of recently released wellbores and those due to be released, as well as activity metrics and the usual Notifications and links to Latest Release Notes.

Workflows have been optimised with the removal of unused text entry field in the Inventory and we’ve made updates to some of our support material references and on-screen advice.

## **Presentation and Accessibility:**

The “hex bin” representation of information availability is no longer a default setting in the NDR Map. Users can add and remove this layer in the Project IDs section of the Layers Menu.

We have revised the NDR password expiry to once every 180 days, while retaining multi-factor authentication with users being asked to enter a validation code sent by email every 30 days.

## **Well information Classification Tags (C Tags):**

Prior to last years migration to the new NDR a revision of various CS8 codes was discussed and agreed by licensees. That revision included the retirement of several CS8 codes, now called C Tags. In most cases the retired codes mapped directly to a new code, for example **WELL\_COMP** was replaced by **WELL\_SUMMARY**.

During the data migration we retained the classifications as they had been set by licensees, and that is still the case. We added “translations” to the retired codes, so they are presented in the NDR interface as they replacement. Some retired codes did not have a 1-to-1 replacement, we have removed their translations in the latest release. Users can now search for data that was classified with the following retired CS8 codes:

**ENG\_ABAND;      ENG\_PROD;**  
**ENG\_COMPS;      CONC\_GEN.**

It is not possible to assign these retired CS8 codes to files – they are to be classified using the current C Tags, as set out in the document [Information Reporting - Form and Manner for NDR](#)

## **Unlocking Value in Offline Legacy Seismic Field Data**

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The NSTA has reviewed its archives to identify offline data that could play a role in further developing our understanding of the UKCS. Field data for over 70 offshore 3D seismic surveys has been reported to the NSTA over recent years: typically amounting to several terabytes per survey. Acquired from the early 1980’s until as recently as 2015, many of the surveys relate to areas in the Central and Southern North Sea that were offered in the NSTA’s recently announced Carbon Storage Licensing Round.

For many years it was standard practice to store such data on high density magnetic tape. Tapes would be duplicated and stored under environmentally controlled conditions in two or more separate locations. Even so, magnetic tapes would degrade with time and would need to be remastered periodically to preserve their contents. As well as incurring ongoing maintenance costs, the content was not readily accessible to those wishing to use it.

Having moved the NSTA’s National Data Repository (NDR) to a cloud-based system more data can be made more accessible than ever before. Working with Moveout Data Seismic Services, field data for 29 3D surveys has been recovered from tape and conditioned to a modern format. In the latest project over 130 Terabytes of ‘seismic navigation merge’ data has been conditioned, quality assured and uploaded to the NDR. Adding to 26 3D surveys previously conditioned by Moveout, some 55 “processing ready” data sets are now available from the NDR.

## **Forthcoming developments**

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Coming next in our plan for development:

Deployment of access to NDR metadata via API – so users can develop their own connections to live metadata, describing the well and seismic collections at the file level, as well as “completeness” of all NDR project Inventories.

Further revisions in response to your UI/UX feedback, including adding requested well data attributes (and removing current ones), changes to headings, abbreviations and acronyms, and improvements to general accessibility in workflows.

Working with a group of licensees to enable reporting of seismic data at scale, direct from their cloud storage systems to the NDR cloud.

Developing sustainable procedures for on-demand well data egress at scale.



North Sea Transition Authority

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