



North Sea
Transition
Authority

The **Asset Transition Process** – Stewarding late-life assets towards decommissioning or alternatives

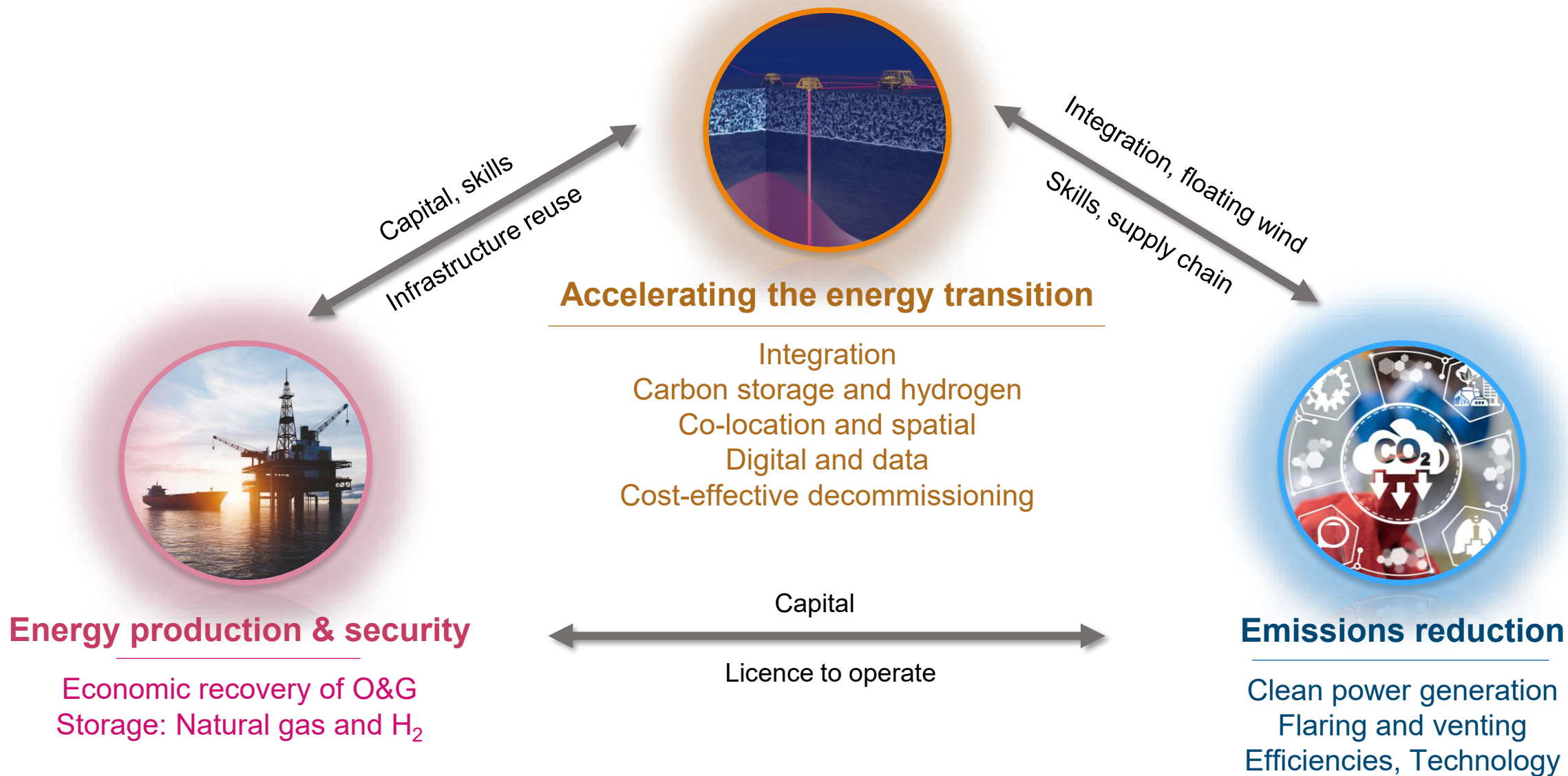
TopsidesUK 2025 Conference

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12th Nov 2025

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The NSTA aims to ensure that decommissioning is carried out cost effectively, in accordance with regulatory requirements, consistent with [our strategy](#), and as detailed in [Stewardship Expectation 10](#).

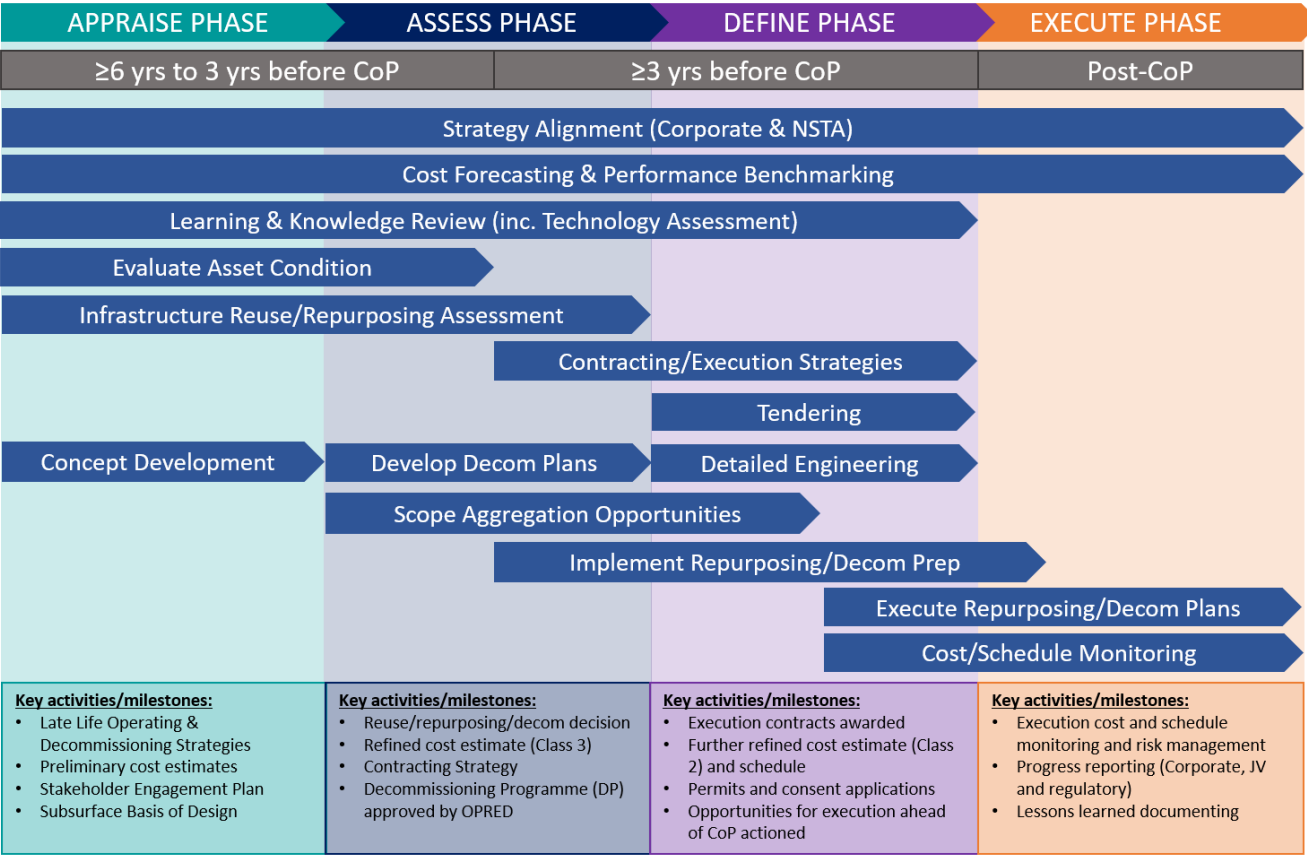
Strategy and stewardship



Tools for industry activity and data visibility



Effective planning and key deliverables



What is it?



- A consistent, transparent process for stewardship and decision-making pre-CoP
- Ensures a regulatory-compliant, fit-for-purpose approach across the UKCS
- Collates the key information from NSTA and operator data and analysis
- Initial assessment undertaken, with potential for more detailed evaluation

Why does it matter?



- Responds to updated NSTA policies and strategic objectives
- Reaches collective internal view on reasonableness of CoP dates
- Incorporates lessons learned from assets that have been on this journey
- Clarifies how assets move from production to post-hydrocarbon phases

What are the objectives?



- Ensure all obligations for the consented development have been fulfilled
- Explore opportunities to extend the life of the facilities, under current or revised operating/ownership model
- Assess any feasible alternatives to decommissioning for the associated subsurface or infrastructure
- Achieve alignment on CoP and post-hydrocarbon phase between NSTA and appropriate stakeholders



What does it consider & assess?

Data & Analysis

- Projected CoP date (Operator estimate & NSTA modelling)
- Production profile and remaining resources
- Emissions profile (Performance & Plans)
- Asset condition (Integrity & Maintenance status)
- Regulatory compliance
- Decom cost estimate, complexity and track record
- Joint Venture (JV) partners / Co-licensee alignment

Strategic Objectives & Alignment

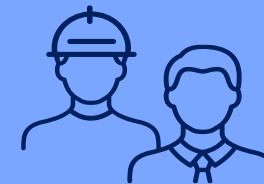
- Central Obligation of the [OGA Strategy](#)
- [OGA Plan for Emissions Reduction](#)
- [Stewardship Expectations](#) - SE10 (Decom) & SE11 (Net Zero)
- Wider area impact – SE1 (JV Hub Strategy)
- Known CS license areas
- Potential CS/H2 storage sites
- Other energy transition projects

Internal Engagement & Input



- Decommissioning
- Operations
- New Ventures
- Strategy & Policy
- Data & Digital

External Engagement & Feedback



- Operators
- JV Partners
- Supply Chain
- Government
- Other Regulators
- Industry Bodies

Reuse & Repurposing

- Explore alternatives to decommissioning when asset enters Decom Glidepath (~6yrs before planned CoP)
- Updated '*Infrastructure Reuse & Repurposing Screening Tool*' available from [this page](#) on NSTA website

2022-2023

- Focused on pipelines
- High-level assessments
- Excel-based submissions per asset/field

2025 onwards

- Broader infrastructure view
- Streamlined submission per hub or asset
- Clearer guidance on collaboration and alignment
- Simplified assessment of potential or known barriers

Repurposing & Re-use Screening Matrix

Field: Alfalfa Field infrastructure (Example)

RE-USE PURPOSE	Concept / Opportunity	Possibly Repurposed Infrastructure					Technical / Engineering barriers & constraints					Barrier Desc.	Level	Barrier Desc.	Level	Barrier Desc.	Level
		Terminals	Platforms	Subsea Structures	Pipelines	Wells	Barrier Desc.	Level	Barrier Desc.	Level	Barrier Desc.						
RE-USE PURPOSE	CCUS	Subsea well CCUS			Export pipeline		Requires de-hydrogenation to CO2S	Mid	Connecting trunk lines not available	Mid							
	Offshore Hydrogen																
	Offshore Renewables																
	Other																
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How will we use this information?

- Inform Decommissioning Programme (DP) reviews
- Shape our NSTA engagement strategy for specific operators and assets:
 - Identify key opportunities that align with Hub Strategy or key CCS projects
 - Awareness of credible concepts that don't currently align with basin-wide priorities
 - Identify opportunities outwith NSTA's current regulatory remit or strategic focus areas, where NSTA can engage with and/or inform other groups or bodies to help facilitate their discussions

What can industry do?

- Understand the regulatory requirements and UKCS strategic drivers for late-life assets
- Gather and share data with the NSTA that can help inform ATP reviews and decision-making
- Identify and action facility improvements or optimisations for life extension (where appropriate) or to enhance suitability and readiness of existing infrastructure for reuse or repurposing opportunities



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Thank you
