

Sector plan for health and safety: **Onshore oil and gas wells**

This is a small but strategically important sector, covering onshore sites producing oil and gas from wells drilled into the ground, and is subject to a high level of public and political interest.

There are currently around 120 UK sites, producing around 1% of the UK's oil consumption.

The largest operating onshore field in Europe is located in England.

The sector also covers the exploitation of unconventional oil and gas reserves, such as from shale.

Current position

While the exploitation of unconventional oil and gas reserves is in its infancy, the wider onshore sector has demonstrated a high level of control of major accident hazards. This sector will continue to address occupational health issues in a proportionate manner.

The expansion of the unconventional oil and gas will see a number of new companies enter this sub-sector and strong leadership by the industry will be needed to maintain public and political confidence.

Outcomes and priorities

Playing our part to maintain public and political confidence in this sector is our ambition. This requires

strong risk management, collaboration and leadership in order to achieve the following outcomes:

- Prevent major incidents associated with the loss of containment of flammable and toxic gases
- Apply strong leadership so new entrants work safely
- Ensure a robust and effective regulatory regime



What HSE will do to #HelpGBworkwell

We will secure effective management and control of risk by:

- ensuring that operators manage risks to well integrity throughout the lifecycle of the well;
- developing a programme of regulatory interventions, focusing on relevant key risks.

We will lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety by:

- establishing an effective onshore oil and gas leadership group;
- improving stakeholder understanding of the health and safety regulatory regime by supporting public engagement events in areas where shale gas development is likely.

We will provide an effective regulatory framework by:

- influencing the industry to be more transparent about their health and safety performance;
- ensuring that health and safety challenges associated with the sector's rapid expansion and the introduction of new workers are properly understood and well managed.