



Havtil / Norwegian Ocean Industry Authority

Temporary Abandoned Wells 2026

Public Report

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Abstract: The Norwegian Ocean Industry Authority (Havtil) is a government supervisory and administrative agency with regulatory responsibility for safety, working environment, emergency preparedness and security. Since 2011, Havtil has carried out surveys every two years to evaluate the integrity of temporary plugged and abandoned wells. The operators have been requested to report temporary abandoned wells with and without monitoring of both well barriers according to NORSOK D-010, revision 05/2021. The applicable Activities Regulations sections are 81, 85 and 88. THREE60 Energy AS has been contracted to evaluate the reported 2026 data and present the results. The survey reviews factors such as well integrity classification, monitoring, duration of temporary abandonment, future plans, etc. In 2026, 533 wells have been reported. One well is red, 9.0% are orange, 37.0% are yellow and 53.8% are classified as green. The percentage of wells being continuously monitored is similar to that reported in 2024, with 76% reported as having continuous monitoring of both the primary and secondary barriers, while 24% are reported as not being continuously monitored. The reported data and findings are made publicly available through anonymized data.	



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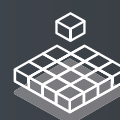
Subsurface



Wells



Engineering



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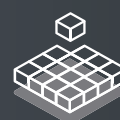
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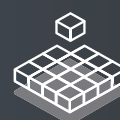
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Abbreviations

Table 1 Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
DHSV	Down Hole Safety Valve
Havtil	Havindustritilsynet (Norwegian Ocean Industry Authority)
HPHT	High Pressure High Temperature
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
NCS	Norwegian Continental Shelf
NOD	Norwegian Offshore Directorate (Sokkeldirektoratet)
P&A	Plug & Abandon
QAQC	Quality Assurance Quality Control
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
XT	Christmas Tree

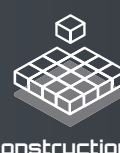


Executive Summary

Every two years, Havindustriilsynet (Havtil) is collecting data from the Operators to obtain an overview of the well integrity of the temporary plugged and abandoned wells on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS). For the 2026 survey, a total of 533 wells were reported, [Fig. 1](#). This report provides an overview of the data reported from the operators for 2026.

Key Findings:

- Well inventory:
 - > 533 wells have been reported as temporary abandoned or temporary plugged and abandoned, representing 23% of the total well stock on the NCS. Total well stock on NCS from the RNNP 2026 report is 2308 wells.
 - > 135 wells reported in 2024 are not part of the 2026 survey, assuming that the wells are back in operation or permanently P&A'ed.
 - > 323 of the wells were also reported in 2024.
 - > 210 wells were not reported in 2024.
- Well integrity:
 - > One well is classified as red.
 - > 48 wells (9.0%) are classified as orange.
 - > 197 wells (37.0%) are classified as yellow.
 - > 287 wells (53.8%) are classified as green.
- Monitoring:
 - > 129 wells (24%) are reported as not being continuously monitored.
 - > Both the primary and secondary barriers are continuously monitored in 404 wells (76%).
- Duration of temporary plugged and abandoned wells without continuous monitoring:
 - > 14 platform development wells are not in accordance with section 88 in the Activities Regulations as they have been temporary abandoned after 1 January 2014 for more than three years. Seven of these have yellow integrity status and one is orange.
 - > 24 subsea completed wells are not in accordance with section 88 in the Activities Regulations as they have been temporary abandoned for more than one year. One of these has red integrity status, six have orange status and one has yellow status.
 - > One exploration well has been temporary abandoned after 1 January 2014. It has been reported with a green integrity status.
- Degradation:
 - > 8.3% of the wells in the 2026 survey are reported with a degrading well integrity status. This is an increase since the 2024 survey where 4.6% of the reported temporary abandoned wells were degrading. It is relatively even split between Platform and Subsea wells, with a slightly higher amount of degrading Platform wells.



- Methane observations:
 - > Methane observations have been reported for 23 subsea wells, while 15 wells have an unknown methane status.
 - > Of the wells where methane has been observed, three wells are categorised as orange.
- Future plans:
 - > The future plans for the temporary abandoned wells have been divided into three main categories:
 - ◆ Permanent abandonment (42%)
 - ◆ Re-use of slot for future production or injection (56%)
 - ◆ Other - to be defined (2%)
 - > The red well is planned to be permanently abandoned. The orange wells are evenly split between permanent abandonment and Re-use of slot.

Conclusion:

The 2026 survey shows similar trends to the 2024 survey. The percentage of wells with green integrity status is approximately the same as in 2024, whereas the biggest difference is the decrease in yellow and red wells and an increase in wells with orange well integrity status. The percentage of wells being continuously monitored has remained stable since the 2024 survey.

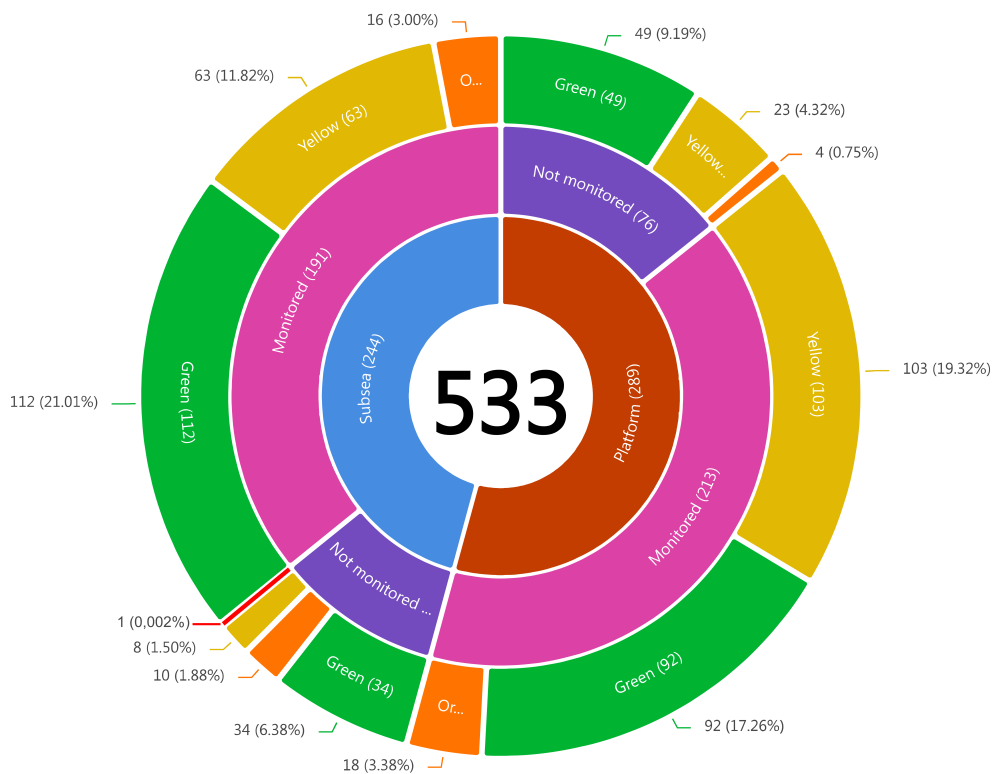
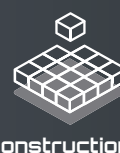


Fig. 1 Distribution of 2026 Survey



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Norwegian Ocean Industry Authority (Havtil) is a government supervisory and administrative agency with regulatory responsibility for safety, working environment, emergency preparedness and security. Havtil updates and develops HSE regulations and performs audits of the oil and gas companies to ensure that they operate within the framework of the regulations. Every two years, Havtil gathers well integrity status and related information on the abandonment period for all temporarily abandoned wells on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS). This is part of Havtil's knowledge gathering related to "plugging and abandonment of wells" and contributes to a broader and more up-to-date overview of the well stock and integrity status. The survey is also part of Havtil's role to ensure that well activities are in compliance with governing standards and regulations. The applicable Activities Regulations sections are 81, 85 and 88.

The operators have been requested to report temporary abandoned wells with and without continuous monitoring of both well barriers according to NORSOK D-010, revision 05/2021. Inactive wells have been included as temporary abandoned wells since the 2024 survey.

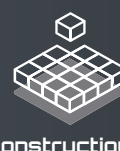
Regulatory requirements and definitions:

From Activities Regulations 88, on duration of temporary abandonment:

- Development wells:
 - > The well integrity of subsea completed wells needs to be monitored if the plan is to abandon them for more than 12 months. Monitoring is defined as continuously monitoring of pressure above primary and secondary well barriers.
 - > In production wells abandoned after 1 January 2014, hydrocarbon-bearing zones shall be plugged and abandoned permanently within three years if the well is not continuously monitored.
- Exploration wells:
 - > Exploration wells commenced after 1 January 2014 shall not be temporarily abandoned beyond two years.

From NORSOK D-010 chapter 3:

- Temporary abandonment - with monitoring: well status, where the well is abandoned, and the primary and secondary well barriers are continuously monitored and routinely tested. Note: If the criteria cannot be fulfilled, the well shall be categorised as a temporary abandoned well without monitoring.
- Temporary abandonment - without monitoring: well status, where the well is abandoned, and the primary and secondary well barriers are not continuously monitored and not routinely tested.



From REGULATION (EU) 2024/1787 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 June 2024 on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/942:

- Inactive well: exploration or production oil or gas well or well site, onshore or offshore, where no operations for exploration or production have taken place for at least the last one year, except for temporary plugged wells and permanently plugged and abandoned wells.
- Temporary plugged well: an exploration or production oil or gas well or well site, onshore or offshore, where well barriers have been installed to temporary isolate the producing reservoir and where access to the well is still provided for.

The wellbore integrity status is reported according to "117 – Offshore Norge Recommended Guidelines for Well Integrity", as displayed below in [Fig. 1.1](#).

Category	Principle
Red	One barrier failure and the other is degraded/not verified, or leak to surface
Orange	One barrier failure and the other is intact, or a single failure may lead to leak to surface
Yellow	One barrier degraded, the other is intact
Green	Healthy well – no or minor issues

Fig. 1.1 Principles from 117 - Offshore Norge Recommended Guidelines for Well Integrity

2 Results

2.1 Overview of 2026 Data

For the 2026 survey, a total of 533 wells have been reported as temporary abandoned or temporary plugged and abandoned on the NCS. This includes inactive wells. These wells represent 23% of the total well stock on the NCS (total 2308 wells from the RNNP report for 2026). From the wells reported, 287 have green well integrity status, 197 yellow, 48 are orange and one is reported as red, as displayed in [Fig. 2.1](#). The location of these are seen in [Fig. 2.2](#), with the integrity status. 604 wells were reported in the survey, where 71 of these were already P&A'ed but missing cutting of the wellhead. These are categorised as permanently P&A'ed and are therefore been excluded from the report.

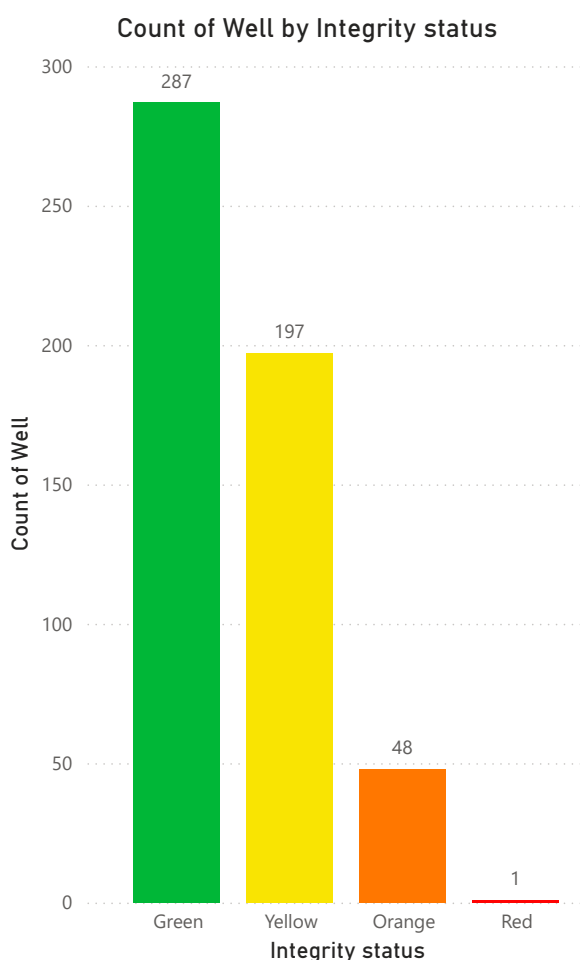


Fig. 2.1 Count of Well by Integrity Status

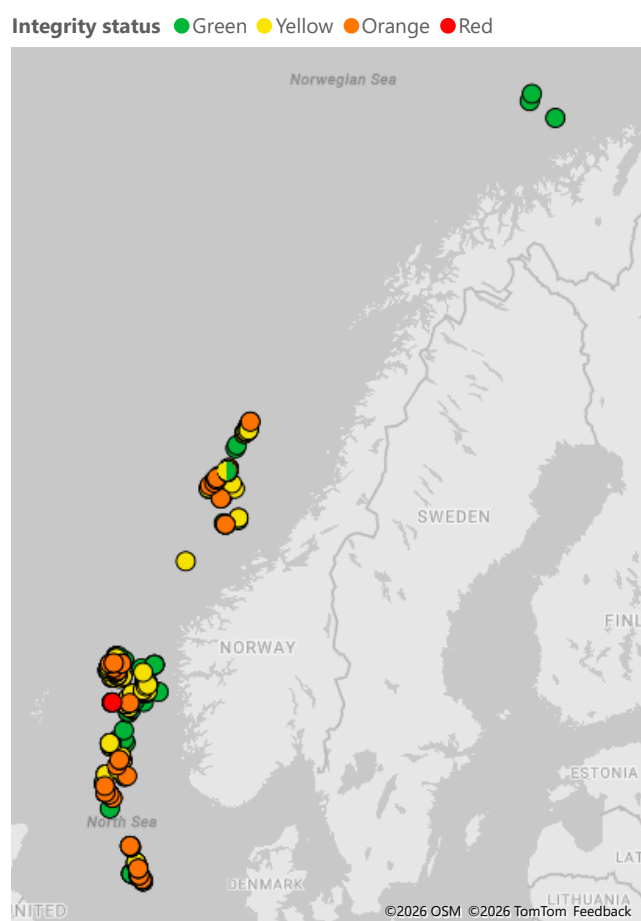


Fig. 2.2 Integrity Status Map

The map displays the location of the reported wells on the NCS, with their integrity status.

As shown in [Fig. 2.3](#), there is an increase of 44 green wells, 15 yellow wells, 18 orange wells and a reduction in red wells from three to one. The percentage of green wells has therefore remained relatively stable since 2024, while there has been a decrease in yellow and red wells, and an increase in orange wells.

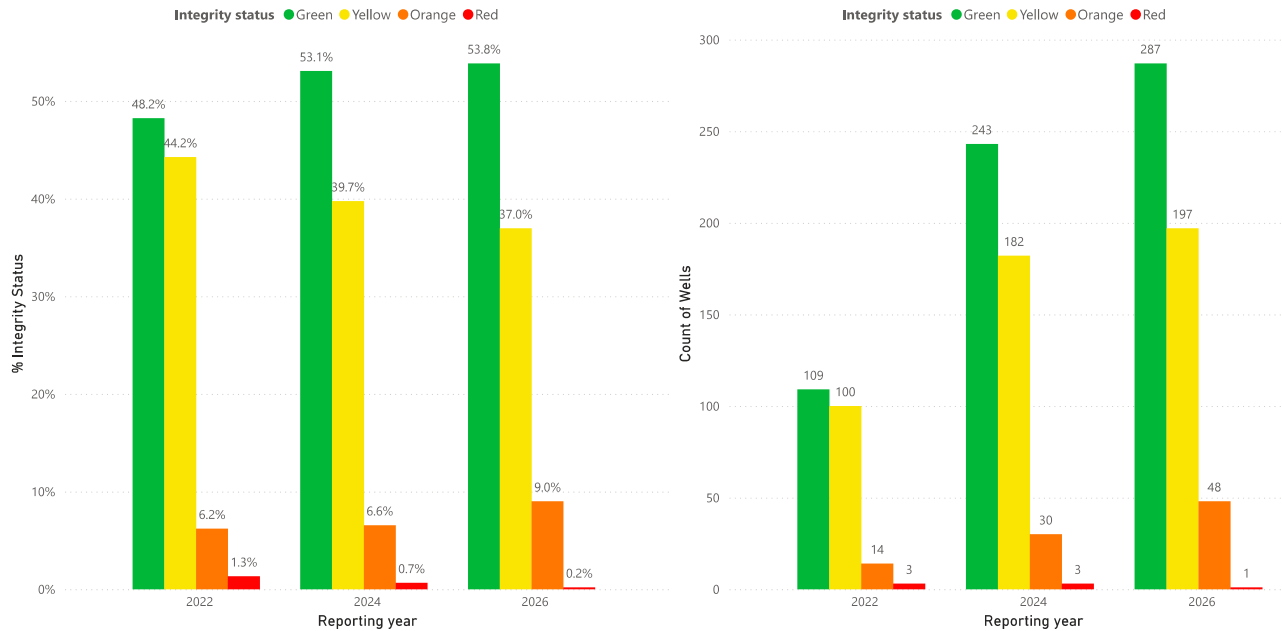
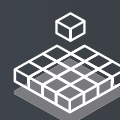


Fig. 2.3 Integrity Status Trend



The number of wells reported has increased by 75 wells compared to the 2024 survey (Fig. 2.4), an increase of 16%. 135 wells reported in 2024 are not part of the 2026 survey, assuming that the wells have been re-used according to reported plan in 2024 and are back in operation or permanently P&A'ed. 323 wells were also reported in 2024, and a total of 210 wells are new temporary plugged and abandoned wells.

Follow-up ● Transfer ● New

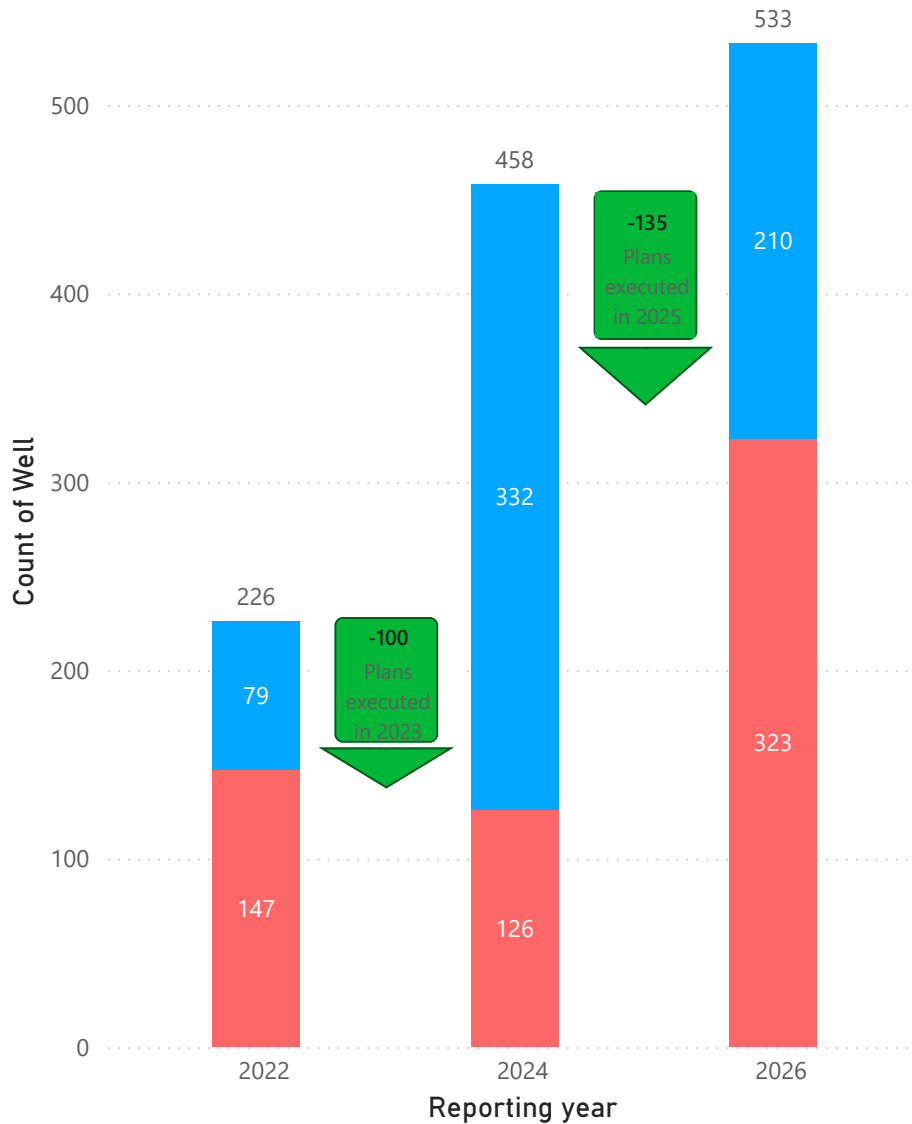


Fig. 2.4 Trend Temporary Abandoned Wells across Surveys

The temporary abandoned wells represent 23% of the total well stock on the NCS. It is slightly increasing from 2024 to 2026 as displayed in [Fig. 2.5](#).

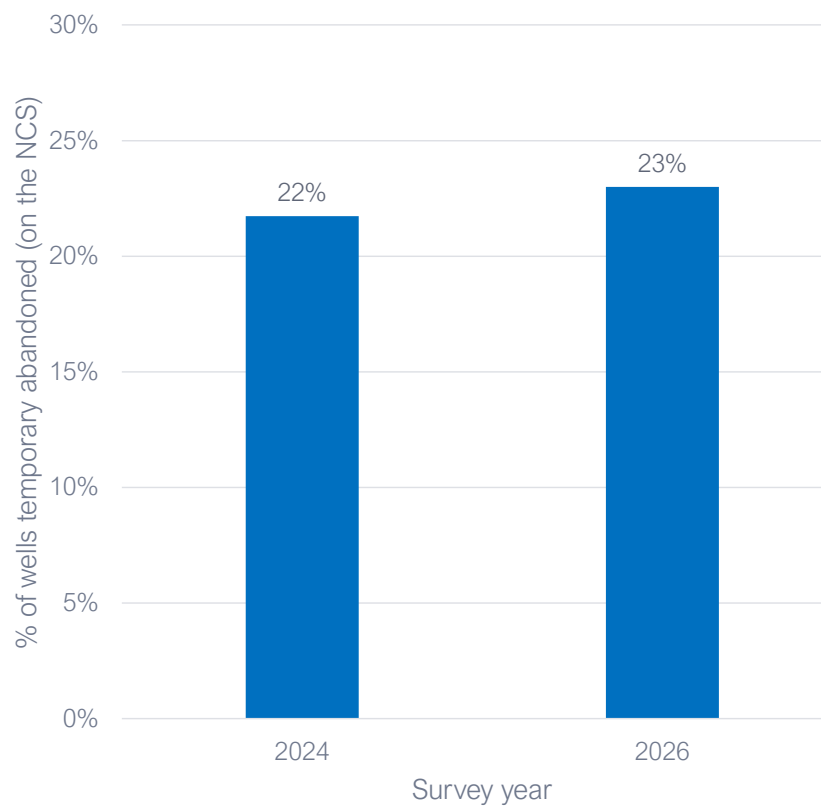


Fig. 2.5 Wellhead Stock Temporary Abandoned

2.1.1 Development vs Exploration

Development Wells

Fig. 2.6 shows the distribution of development wells and their respective well integrity status. Most of the development wells are production wells, where 236 are reported with a green integrity status, 148 are yellow and 38 orange. Fig. 2.7 shows a more detailed overview of the 68 water injectors, 24 gas injectors, eight disposal wells, the three wells categorised as Other and one CCS well.

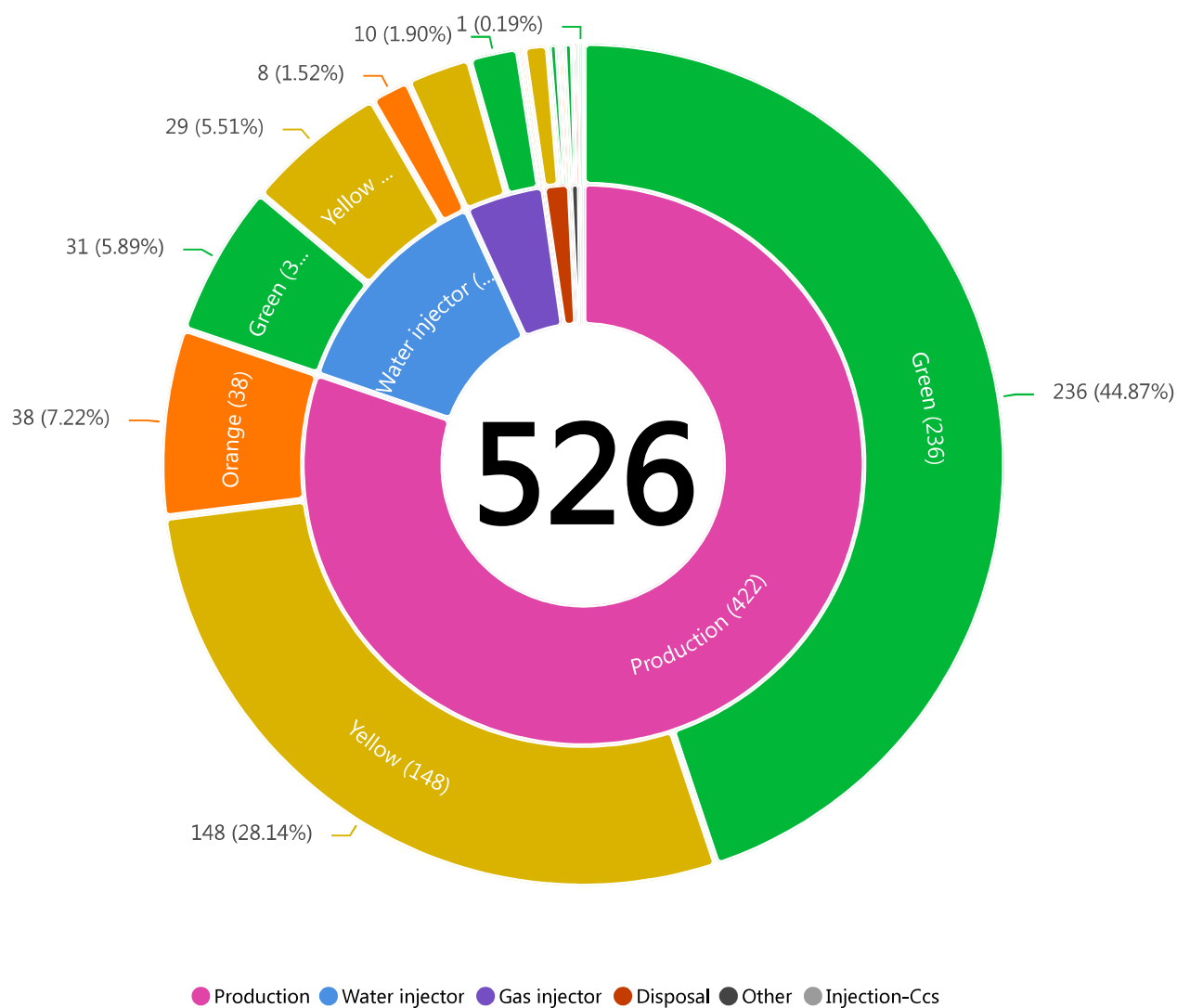
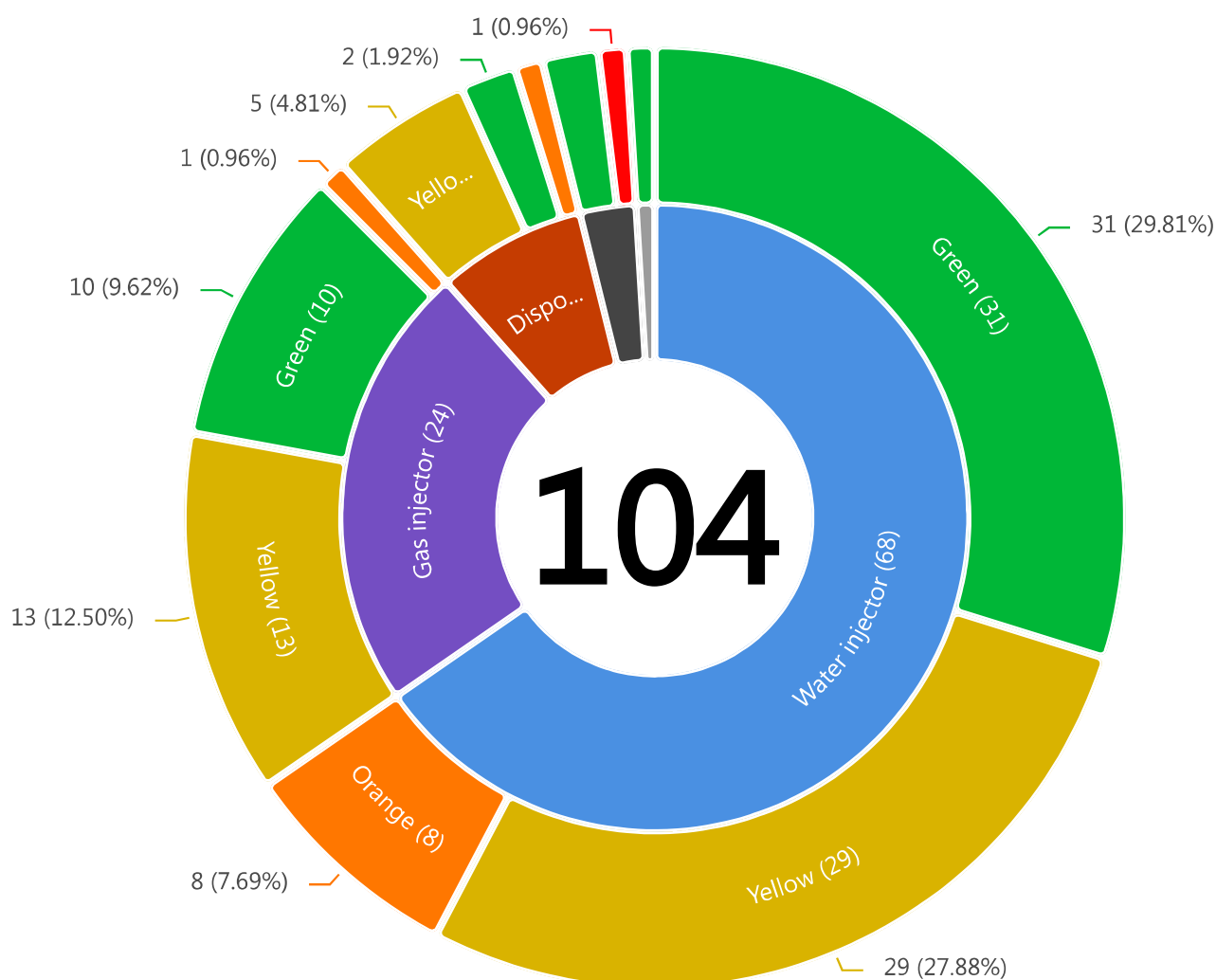


Fig. 2.6 Overview of Development Wells



● Water injector
 ● Gas injector
 ● Disposal
 ● Other
 ● Injection-Ccs

Fig. 2.7 Overview of Water Injectors, Gas Injectors, Disposal wells, CCS and Wells Categorised as Other

Exploration Wells

Fig. 2.8 displays the seven exploration wells reported as temporary abandoned. Four of these are appraisal wells, where two have green well integrity status and two are yellow. The other three exploration wells are green, and are a Wildcat, a Keeper Well and a CCS appraisal well.

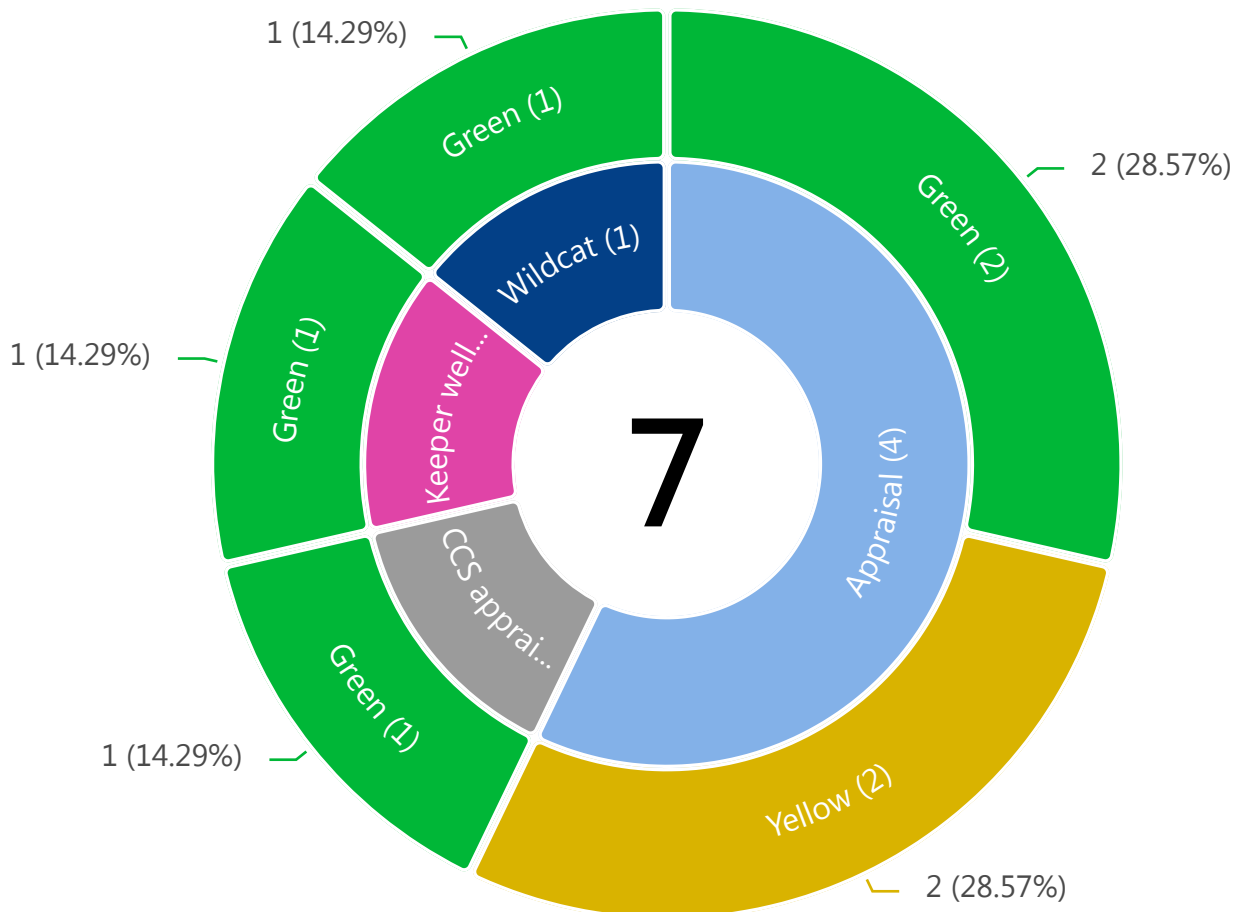


Fig. 2.8 Overview of Exploration Wells

2.1.2 Platform vs Subsea

Fig. 2.9 and Fig. 2.10 below show an overview of platform and subsea wells. Of the 289 platform wells, 126 have yellow integrity status, whereas 22 are classified as orange. For the 244 subsea wells, 71 are reported with a yellow integrity status, 26 are orange and one is red.

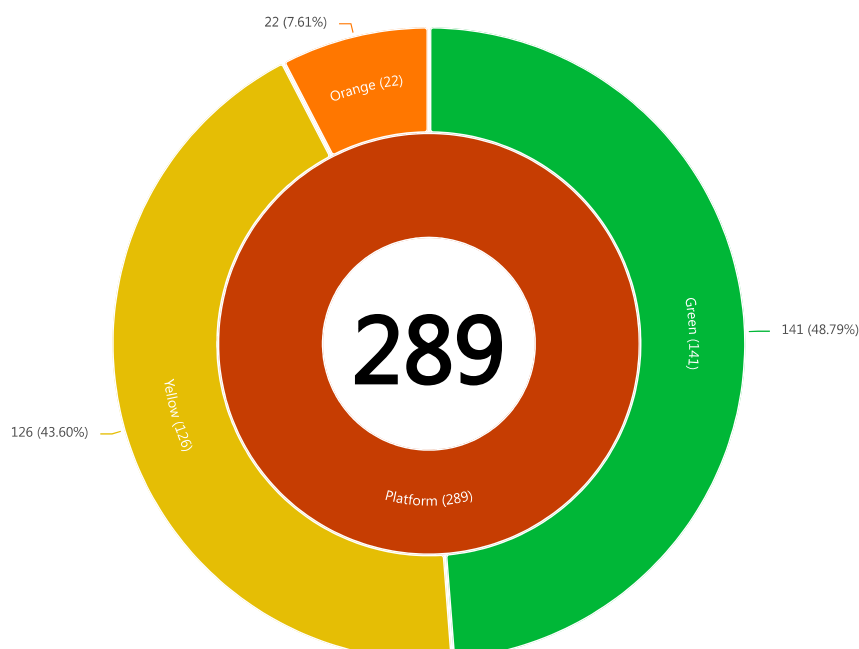


Fig. 2.9 Platform Wells Temporary Abandoned

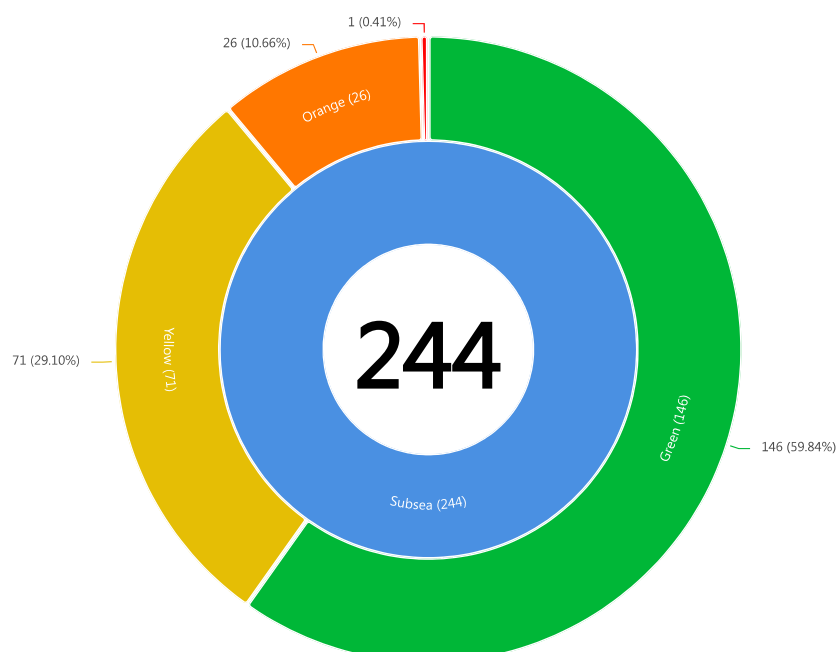


Fig. 2.10 Subsea Wells Temporary Abandoned

2.2 Monitoring of Well Integrity

As noted in [1.1 Background](#), NORSOK D-010 states that for a well to be classified as temporary abandoned with monitoring, both the primary and secondary barriers have to be continuously monitored and routinely tested. For the 2026 survey, this applies for 76% of the reported wells, [Fig. 2.11](#). This is seen to be relatively stable compared to previous years.

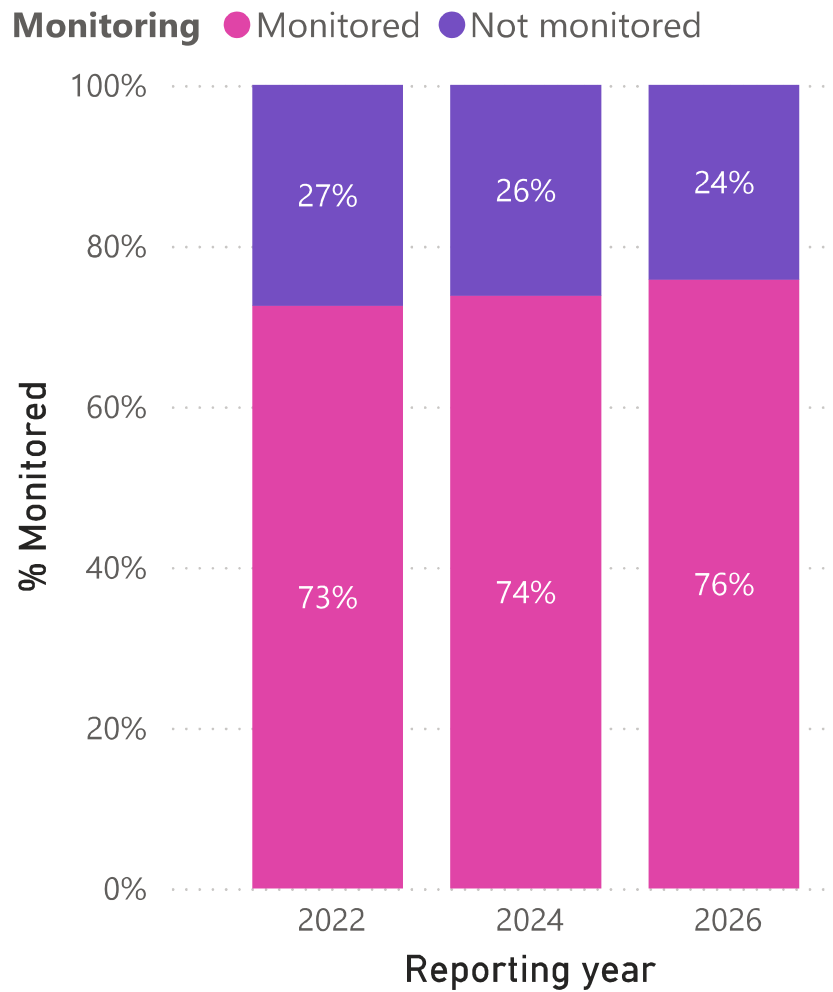


Fig. 2.11 Percentage Overview of Monitored vs not Monitored Wells

The percentage of wells being continuously monitored is evenly split between Platform and Subsea wells, with a slightly higher percentage of Subsea wells being reported as monitored, [Fig. 2.12](#). This shows the same trend as the 2024 reporting.

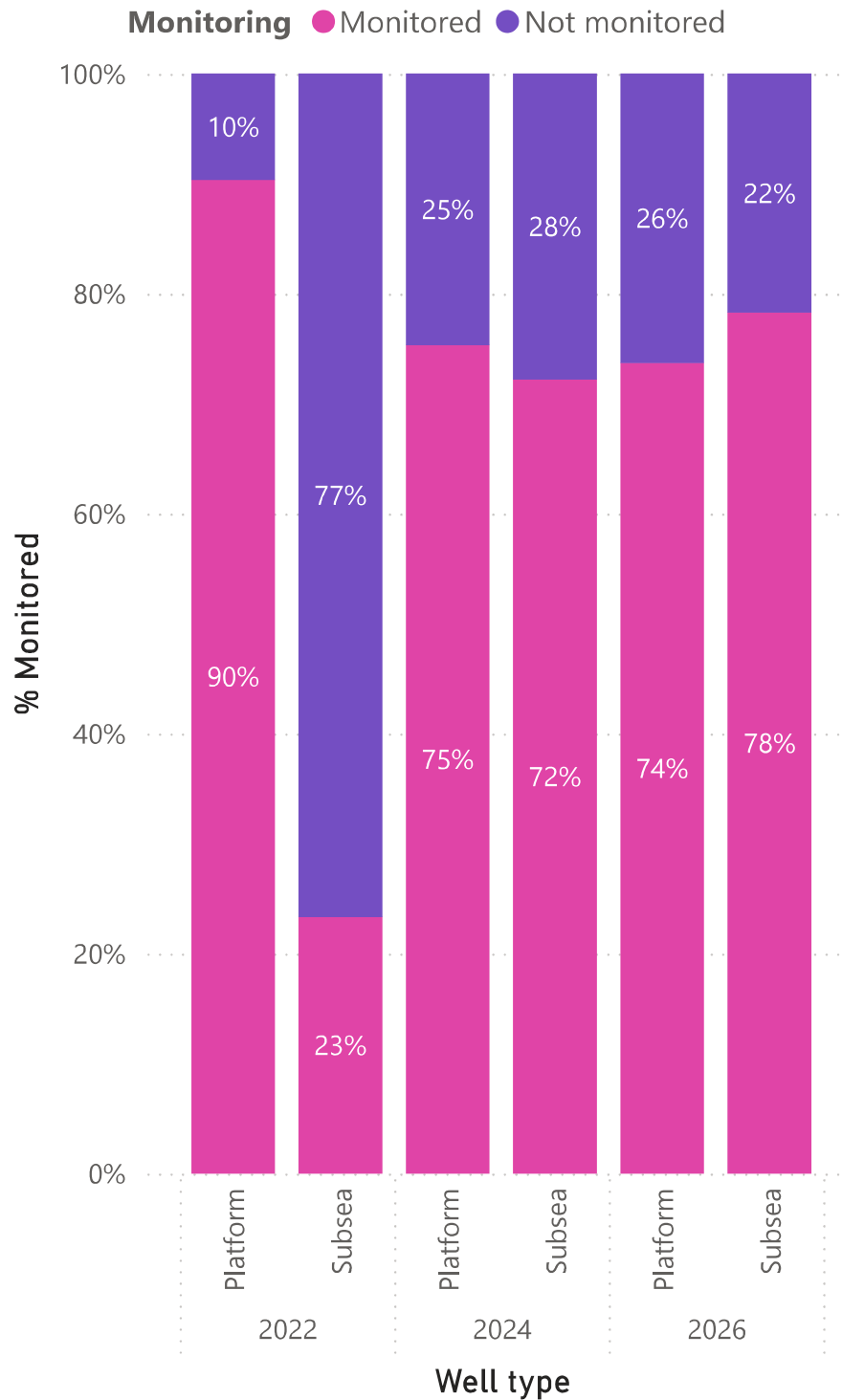


Fig. 2.12 Monitored Platform vs Subsea Wells

Of the 289 platform wells, 76 wells are not continuously monitored. 23 of these are classified as yellow and four are orange. For the 244 subsea wells, 53 are not continuously monitored. Of these, ten are classified as orange, eight are yellow and one is red, as displayed in [Fig. 2.13](#). The distribution is further shown in [Fig. 2.14](#) and [Fig. 2.15](#) on the next page. The ten orange wells that are not continuously monitored are seen to be on different fields, but with the same operator.

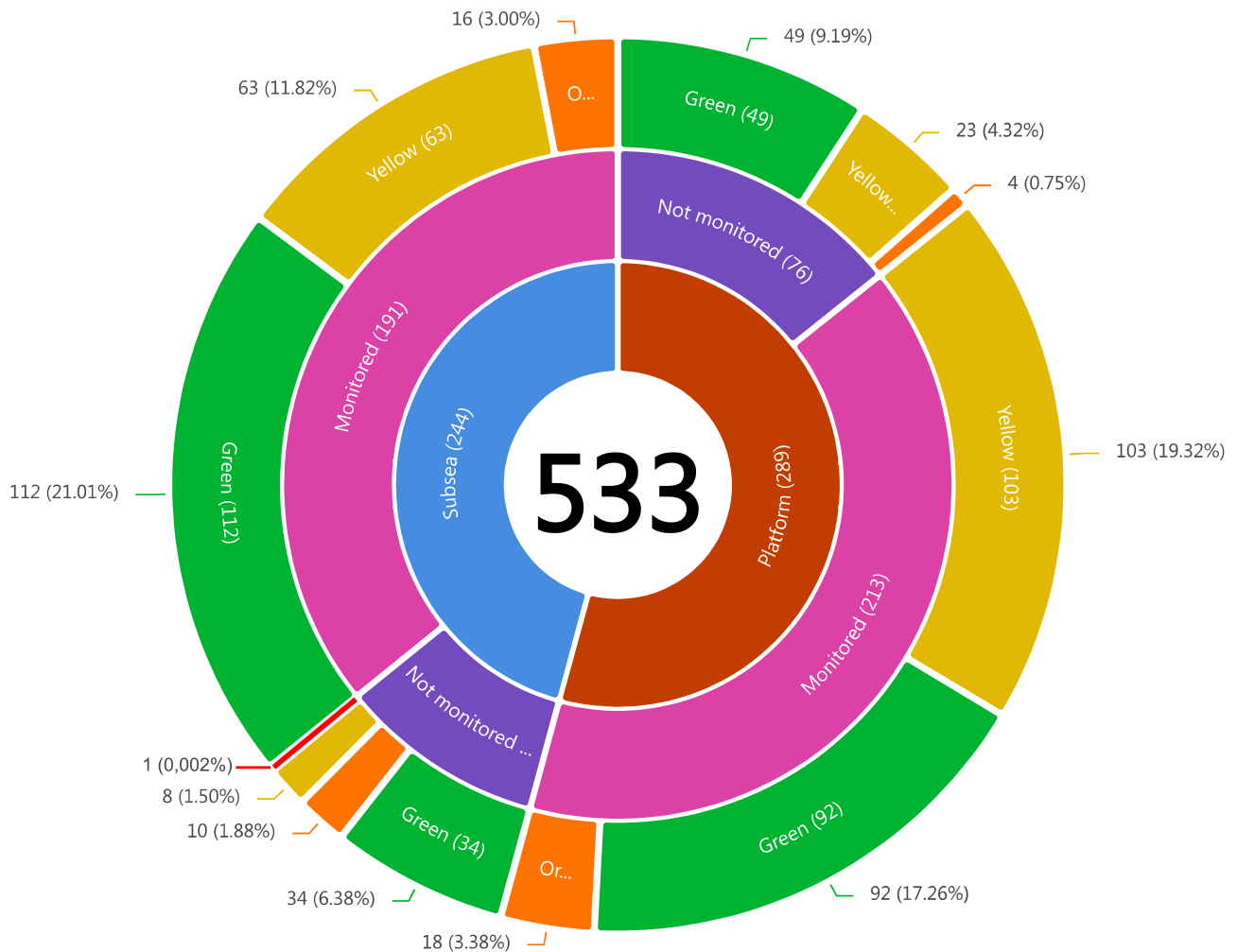


Fig. 2.13 Distribution of 2026 Survey

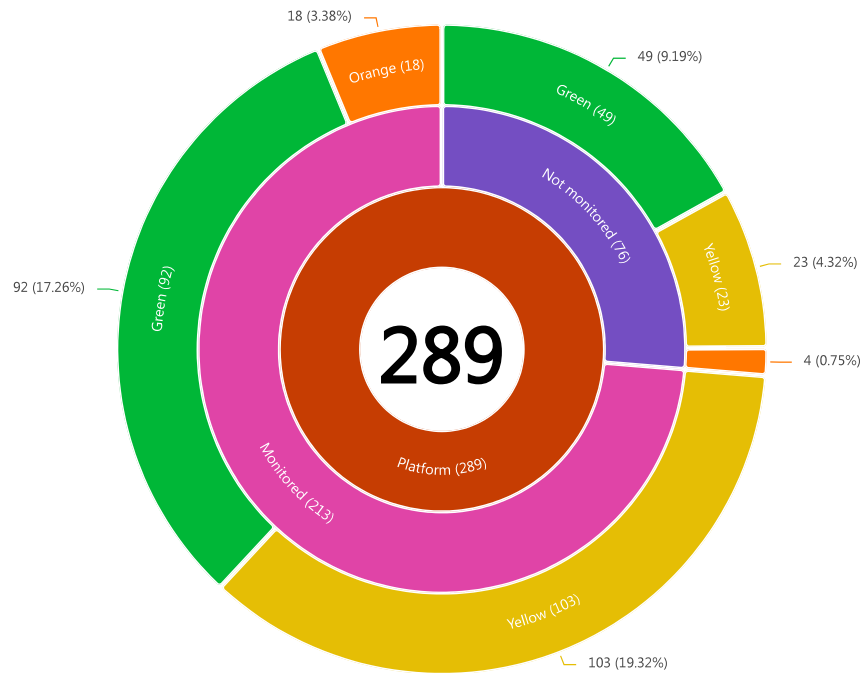


Fig. 2.14 Platform Distribution

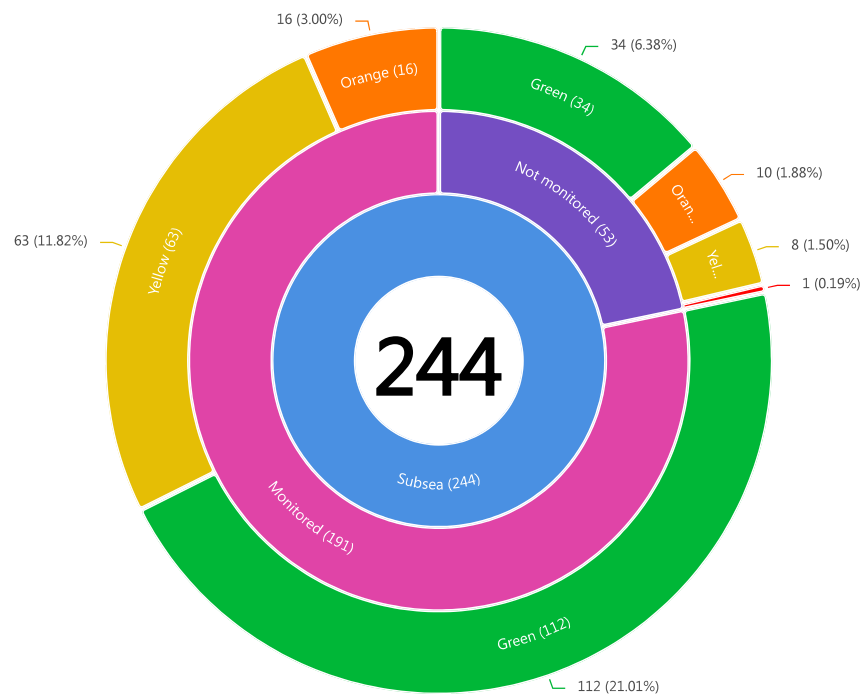


Fig. 2.15 Subsea Distribution



2.3 Duration of Temporary Abandoned Wells

As mentioned in [1.1 Background](#), there are restrictions on how long a well can be temporary abandoned.

Development Wells

Development wells with qualified well barriers that are continuously monitored can be temporary abandoned as long as needed. Therefore, this section focuses on the wells that are not continuously monitored.

Fig. 2.16, displays platform development wells without continuous monitoring. There is a vertical and a horizontal cut-off line. The horizontal line visualise three years in Age from Abandonment. The vertical line visualise the date of 1 January 2014, as it is for wells after this date section 88 in the Activities Regulations apply for. The 14 wells to the right of the vertical cut-off line are not in accordance with section 88 in the Activities Regulations as they have been temporary abandoned without continuous monitoring after 1 January 2014 for more than three years.

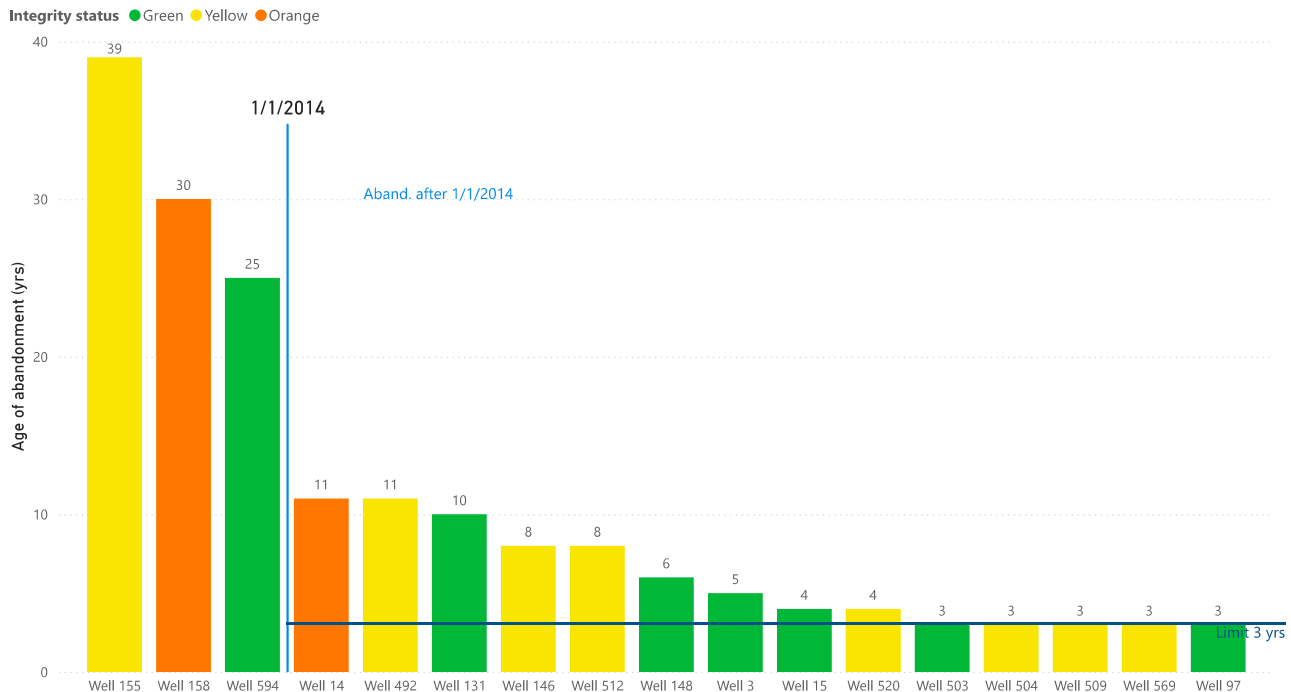


Fig. 2.16 Platform Development Wells Abandoned for more than 3 Years without Monitoring

For subsea completed wells, "well integrity shall be monitored if the plan is to abandon the wells for more than twelve months" according to Activities Regulations section 88: securing wells. [Fig. 2.17](#) shows the 24 subsea completed wells not continuously monitored that have reached or passed the one year limit. The wells temporary abandoned for the longest time are also seen to have the largest share of orange wells.

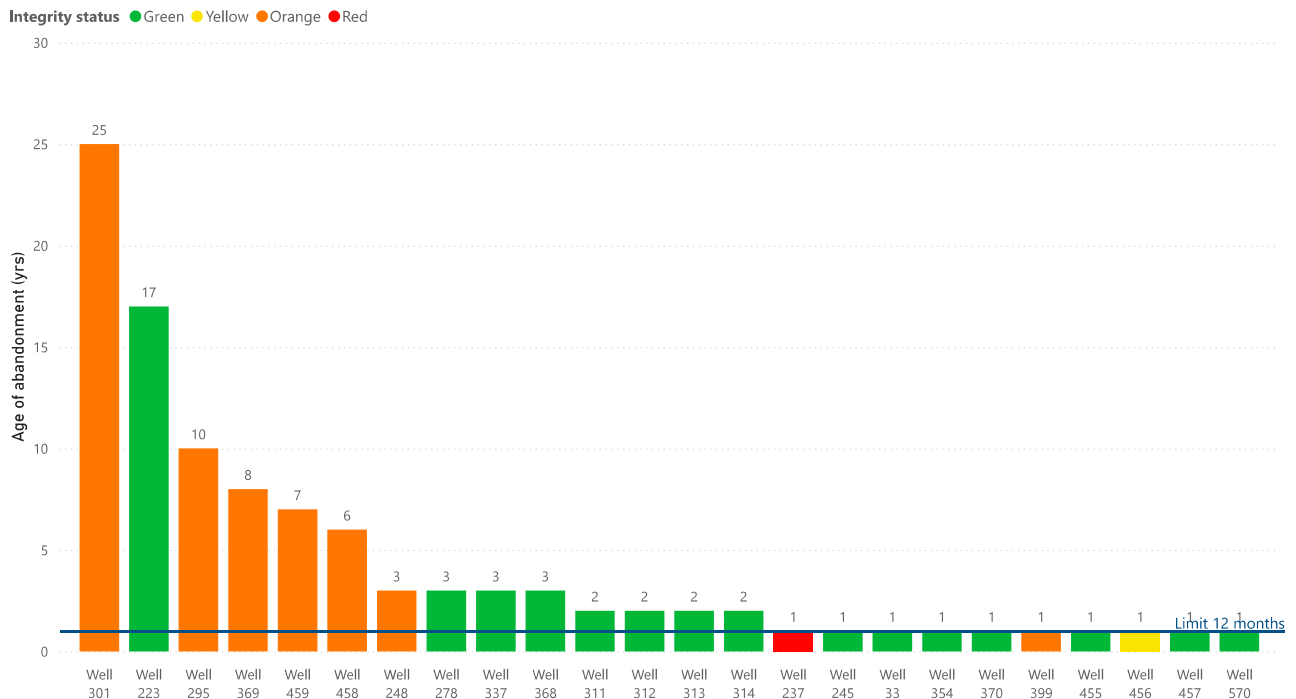


Fig. 2.17 Subsea Completed Wells without Monitoring Abandoned for more than 12 Months



Exploration Wells

All exploration wells reported in 2026 are reported as not being continuously monitored. For the wells abandoned after 1 January 2014, all are in accordance with the Activities Regulations section 88, and have been temporary abandoned without continuous monitoring for less than two years.

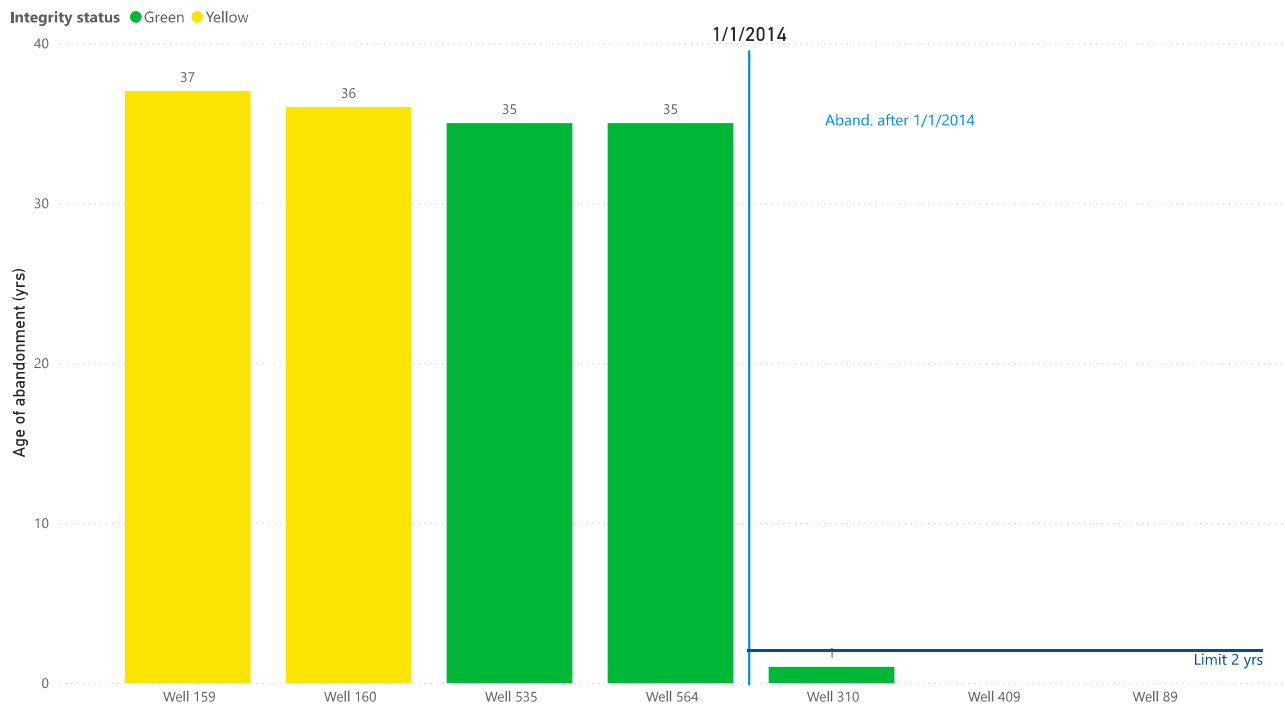


Fig. 2.18 Exploration Wells not Monitored



2.4 Degradation of Well Integrity Status

This section highlights the wells degrading between 2024 and 2026. As shown in Fig. 2.19, 44 wells have a degrading well integrity status, indicating a percentage of 8.3%. This is an increase to the 2024 survey where 4.6% of the reported temporary abandoned wells were degrading. Of the 44 degrading wells, 23 wells are degrading from green to yellow, six are going from green to orange and 15 wells are changing from yellow to orange integrity status.



Fig. 2.19 Degrading Wells Evolution

37 wells have an improved well integrity status, whereas most of the wells have been reported with similar status as in 2024, Fig. 2.20.

Evolution	Count of Well
Degrading ▼	44
Improving ▲	37
New ★	210
Stable ▬	242
Total	533

Fig. 2.20 Wells Evolution Compared to 2024 Data Reporting

2.5 Inactive Wells

A total of 267 wells are classified as "inactive" (Fig. 2.21) where they have been temporary abandoned by using the DHSV as the primary well barrier and the XT as the secondary barrier. Of the inactive wells, 164 wells are subsea and 103 are platform. 95% of these wells are reported to be continuously monitored. Of the subsea wells, 154 are continuously monitored, while ten are not. The ten wells are not currently hooked up to the production facility and cannot be continuously monitored from the facility. These wells are therefore inspected with a yearly ROV containment survey. Five of the not monitored subsea wells are orange, and five are green. Four of the platform wells are not continuously monitored, two having yellow and two having orange integrity status.

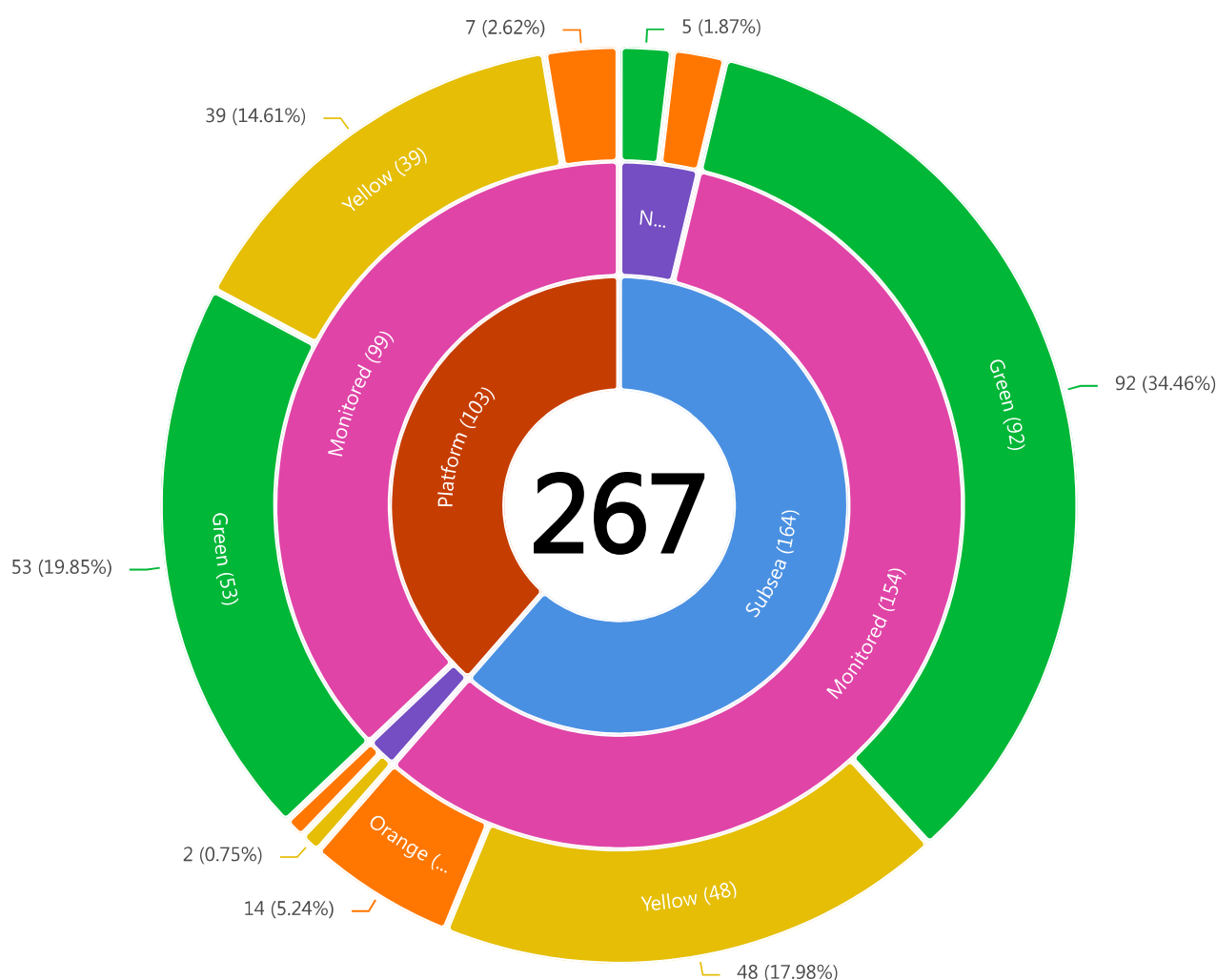


Fig. 2.21 Distribution of Inactive Wells

2.6 Observation of Methane

Since 2022, operators have been requested to report subsea wells where methane has been observed around the wellhead and if possible, report the seepage rate. Of the 244 subsea wells being reported as temporary abandoned, 23 have observed methane (Fig. 2.22). For 15 wells, the survey column is left blank despite a yearly ROV inspection reported.

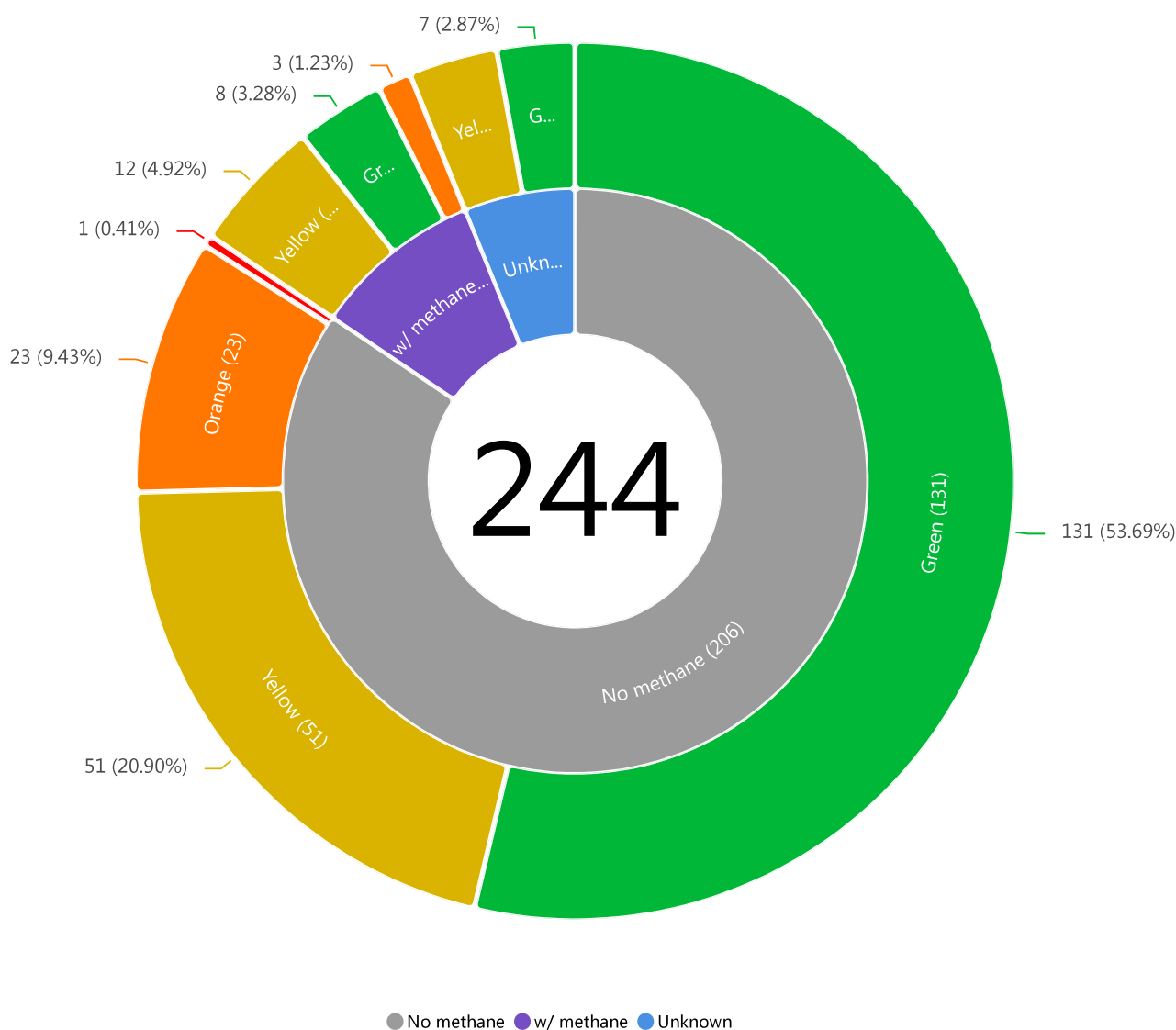


Fig. 2.22 Methane Observations around Wellhead for Subsea Wells in 2026

2.7 Future Plans

The operators have been requested to report the future plans for the temporary abandoned wells. These plans are divided into three main categories, (Fig. 2.23):

1. Permanent abandonment (42%)
2. Re-use of slot for future production or injection (56%)
3. Other - To be defined (2%)

The "re-use" category has been merged from the reported input: slot recovery, back to production, repair well barriers and re-completion.

The Permanent abandonment category has been further divided into Permanent abandonment and wells remaining open hole to surface plug and cutting of wellhead.

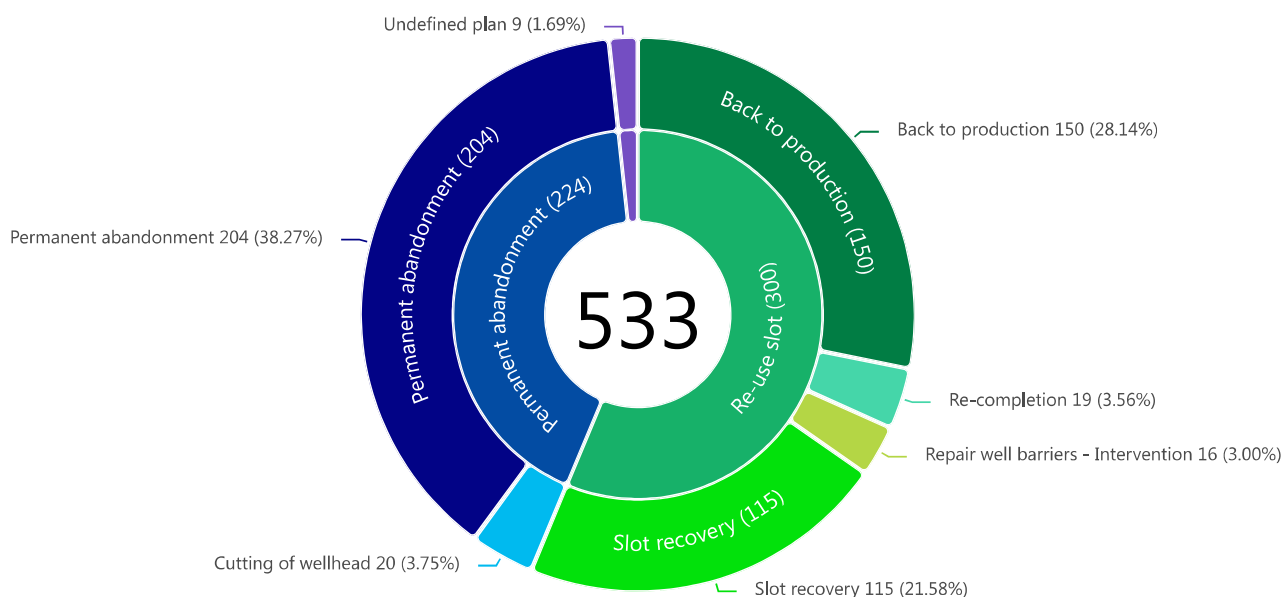


Fig. 2.23 Future Plans Category and Details

Regarding the wells that are planned to be permanently abandoned (42%), most of the wells are planned to be executed within 2030 as seen in [Fig. 2.24](#). This applies for 171 wells.

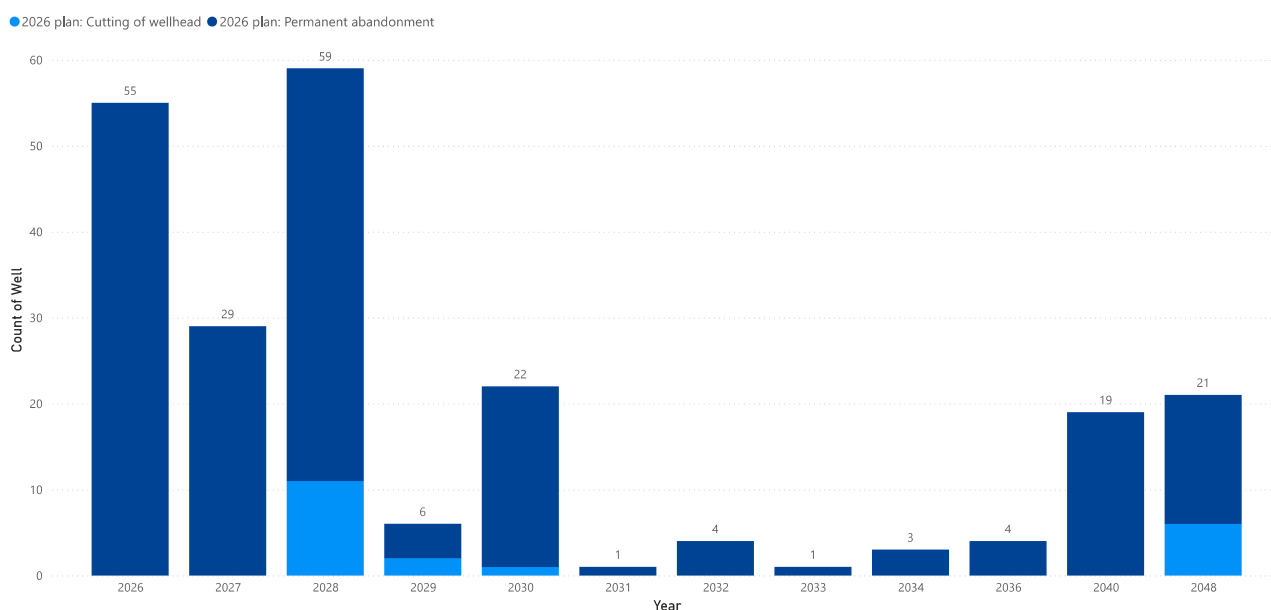


Fig. 2.24 P&A Forecast for Temporary Abandoned Wells

The proportion of slot being re-used is increasing with around 30% in 2022, 43% in 2024 and 56% in 2026. While section Other - To be defined, drops drastically from 31% to 2% between 2024 and 2026.

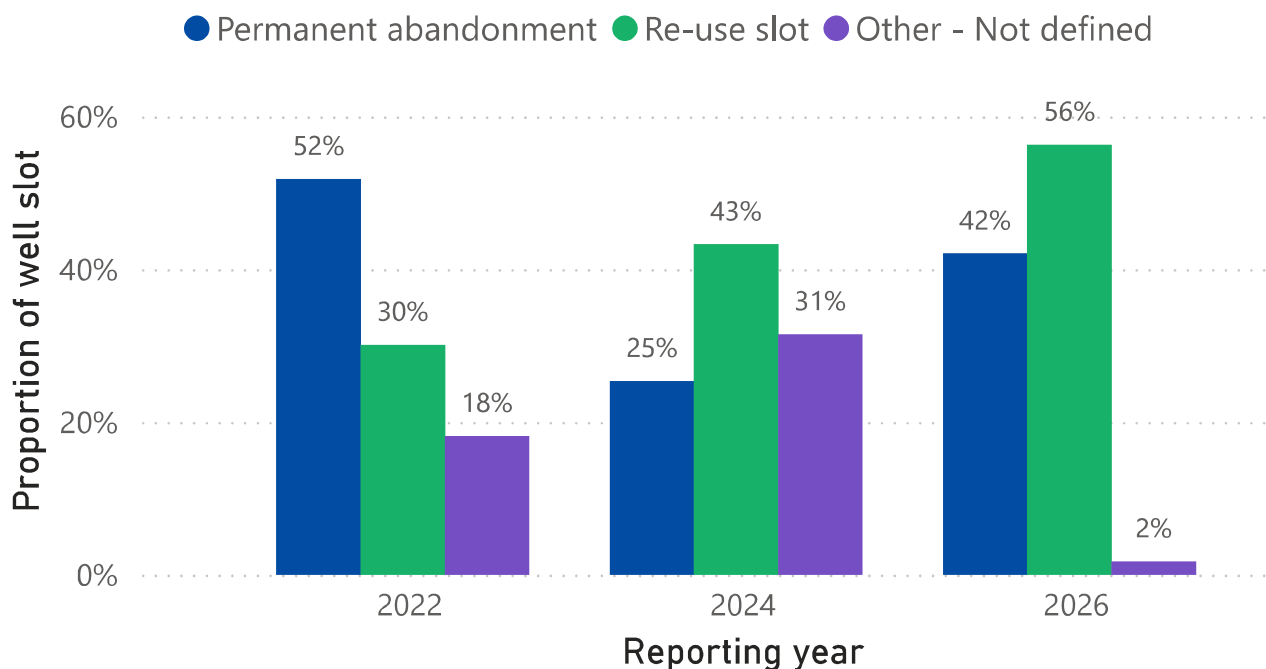


Fig. 2.25 Future Plans

Future plans for wells classified as orange and red

Temporary abandoned wells classified as orange or red have failed barriers and are outside the regulatory requirement. Havtil's focus area is to ensure that these wells are followed up and repaired or permanent plugged and abandoned according to given time frames. 51% of the wells classified as orange and red are planned to be permanently abandoned while 49% of them will be re-used. [Fig. 2.26](#) and [Fig. 2.27](#) give an overview of the plan for the orange and red wells.

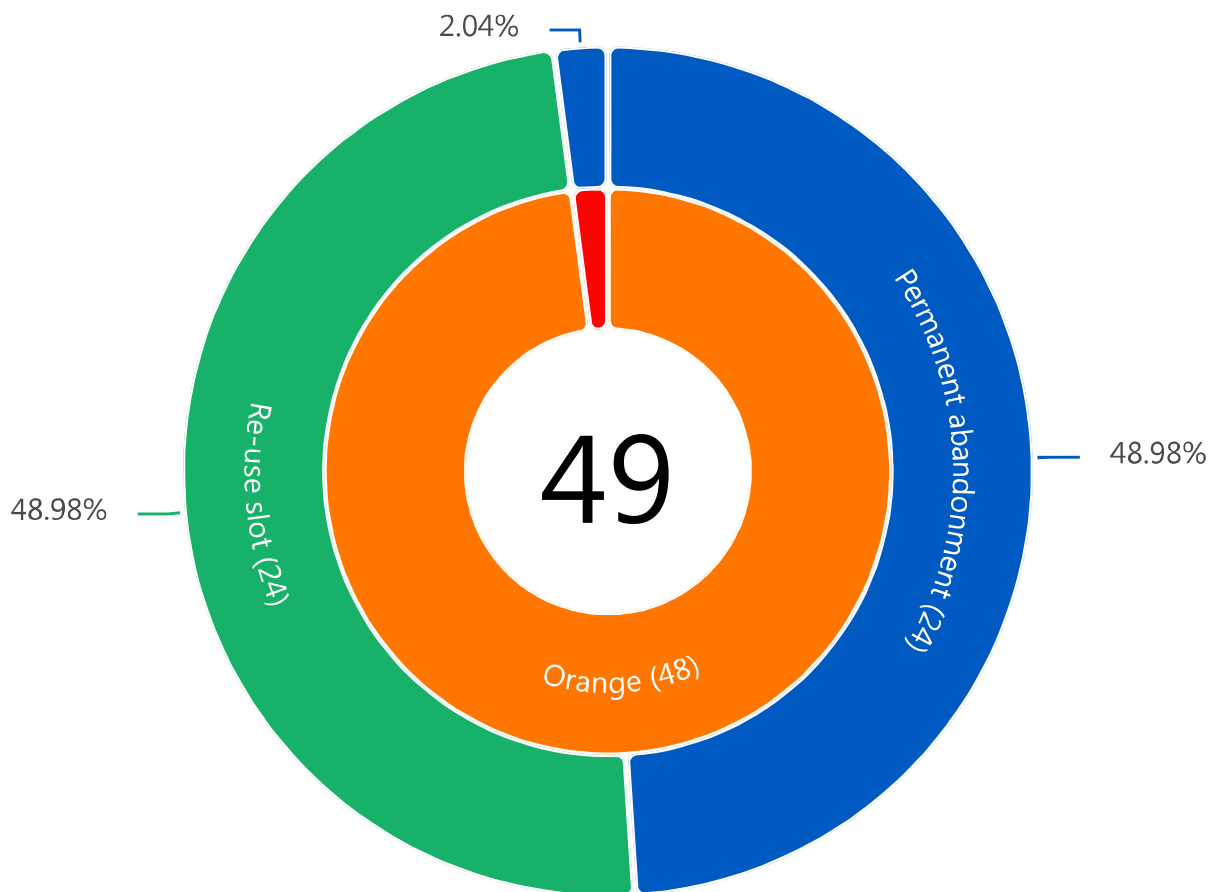


Fig. 2.26 Future Plans for Wells with Failed Barrier

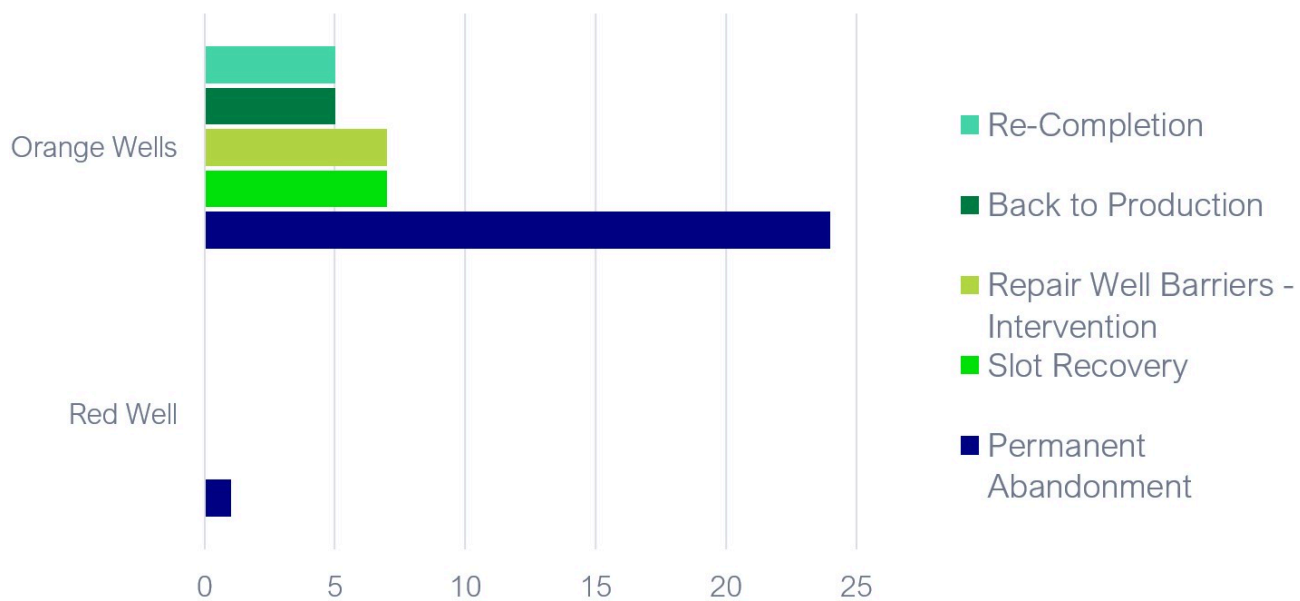


Fig. 2.27 Future Plans for Orange and Red Wells

Future plans for wells where methane is observed

Among the 23 subsea wells where methane has been observed, eleven of the wells are planned to be permanently abandoned (Fig. 2.28). Five will have a slot recovery, four are planned to be put back-in production. One well remains open hole to surface plug and cutting of wellhead, one will be re-completed and one well is reported with an undefined plan.

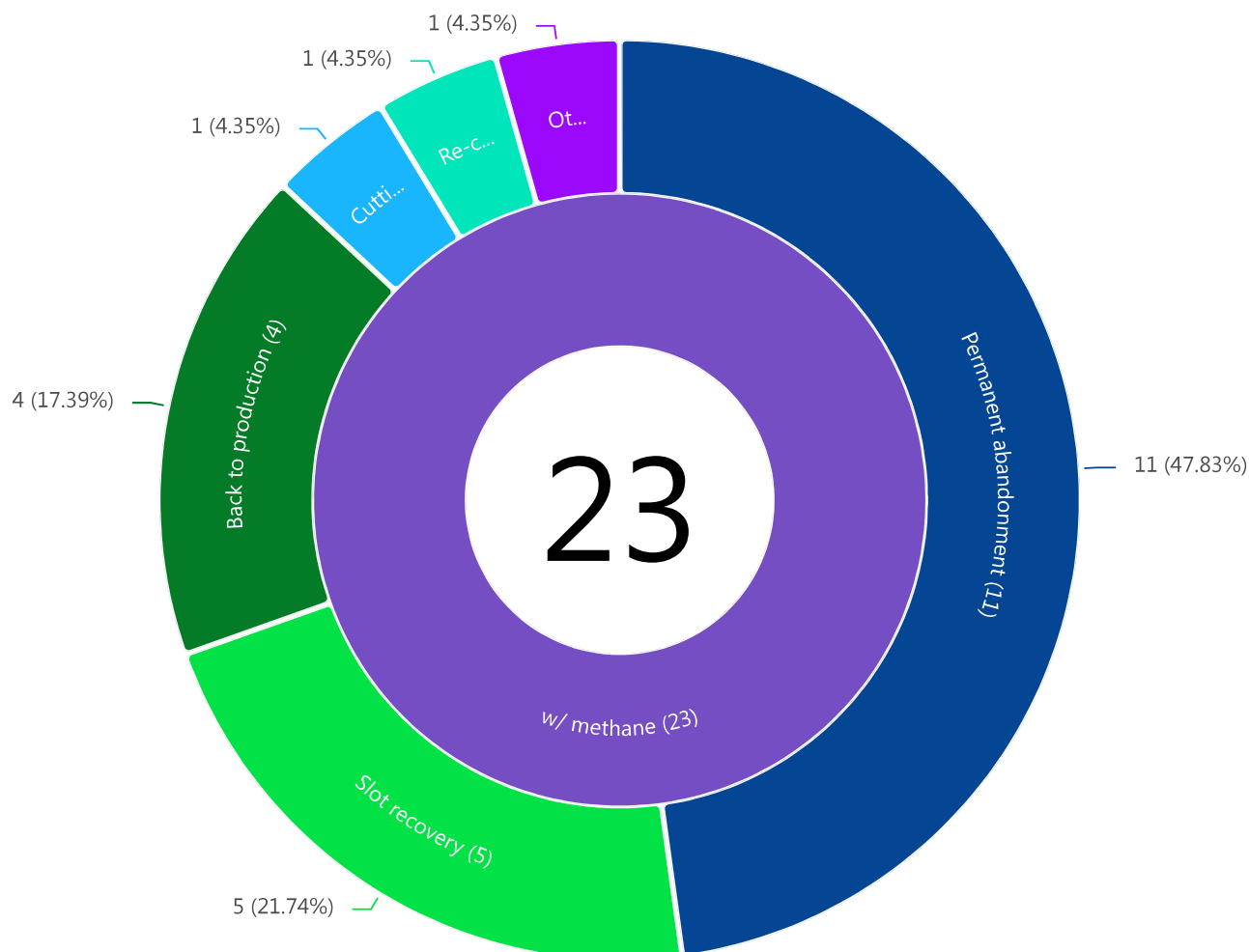


Fig. 2.28 Future Plans for Wells where Methane is Observed



Better Energy Together

