

Accessing NTS Capacity – an introductory guide

Guidance document.

V1 September 2026



Welcome

Objective

The objective of this document is to provide a high-level summary on the options available for obtaining gas Capacity on the National Transmission System (NTS).

This assumes no prior knowledge of capacity and aims to provide guidance on where to get further information.

Scope

- ✓ Explain NTS Capacity
- ✓ Explain options available for acquiring capacity
- ✓ Provide points for consideration for the developer/customer
- ✓ Provide further information pointers and contacts including where to start

Please note that this does not cover the connections process which is a separate process to obtain a physical connection to the network.



Further Information:

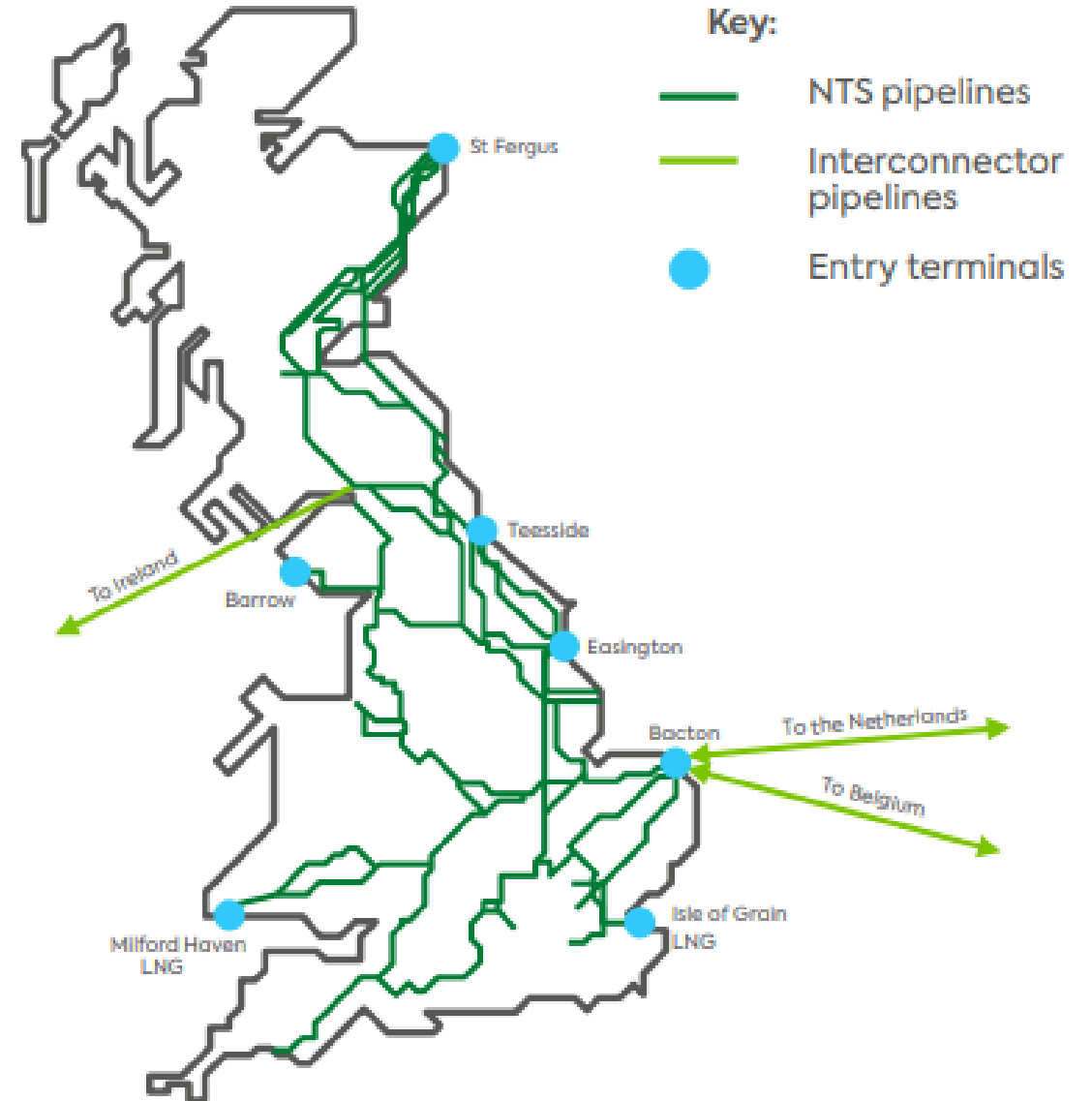
[Connections |
National Gas](#)

Introduction

National Gas Transmission owns and operates the high-pressure national gas network the **National Transmission System (NTS)** that transports gas reliably to wherever it's needed in Britain. The NTS consists of 5,000 miles of pipeline along with a vast array of operational assets.

There are both **Entry** Customers (putting gas into the network) and **Exit** Customers (taking gas from the network) connected including Entry Terminals, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Interconnectors, Power and industrial customer and Distribution Networks who take gas and transport it in their own networks all the way through to domestic users.

National Transmission System (NTS)



Capacity

Capacity is essentially space in the pipeline. Shippers must rent pipeline space for the duration they wish to move gas through it.

If we think of the NTS as a motorway network for gas, then renting capacity is like a motorway toll – it's your ticket to ride on the network.

Capacity gives the entitlement to flow gas.

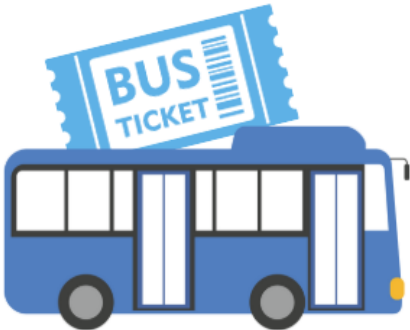
Capacity Principles

Buying Entry or Exit capacity gives Users the commercial right to flow gas on to or off of the NTS

Exit Capacity	Entry Capacity
Capacity to move gas out of the NTS through an exit point e.g.: Gas Distribution Networks, Power stations, Large industrial users, Gas storage, Interconnectors	Capacity to move gas into the NTS through an Entry Point e.g.: Onshore Terminals, LNG facilities, Storage Facilities, Interconnectors

Capacity is a ‘ticket to ride’. Users need to hold one unit of capacity to flow one unit of energy onto or off the system.

Capacity Type	Bus analogy	Details
Firm / Obligated / Baseline	Seats on the bus	Financially and contractually guaranteed to be available. Quantities are defined in Licence. Buyback option in a system constraint, with NGT paying a market-driven price.
Interruptible / Off-peak	Standby seats sold	Can be withdrawn if it is not possible to deliver on the Gas Day.
Incremental	Additional seats added to the bus permanently	Released above the obligated amount and released via means such as substitution, funded (through a revenue driver) or other commercial mechanisms.
Non-obligated	Additional seats added to the bus temporarily	Capacity that NGT makes available at its own discretion..



Baseline Capacity

Baseline Capacity is the capacity which is defined within National Gas Licence and which-National Gas is obligated to make available as Obligated Capacity at Entry and Exit points, as defined in Licence.

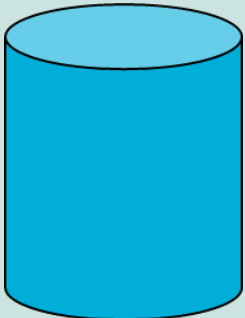
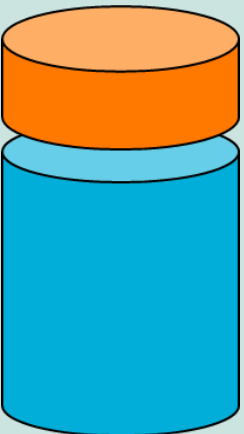
Baseline Capacity is applicable to an NTS Entry or Exit point.

Only booking of NTS Capacity gives entitlement to the baseline capacity.

Unsold capacity can be moved to another point following agreed capacity methodologies.

Firm Capacity Types

Firm Entry or Exit capacity is financially and contractually guaranteed to be available

Baseline obligated	Incremental obligated	Non-obligated
		
• The minimum amount of capacity that National Gas must offer for sale under the terms of the Licence. • Includes any capacity substituted from other Entry or Exit points.	• Capacity released over the Baseline amount. • Available to buy annually in a long-term auction window. Often associated with exit points. • The increase in capacity is permanent. • This product helps us to decide where to invest in the system.	• Additional capacity can be released on a discretionary basis, where there is evidenced market need and sufficient system capability to support additional flows

Interruptible Capacity Types

Interruptible (Entry) / Off-Peak (Exit) capacity can be withdrawn if the system cannot provide it on the Gas Day. It is designed as an anti-hoarding mechanism, which is deemed to be anti-competitive as it prevents others from entering the market.

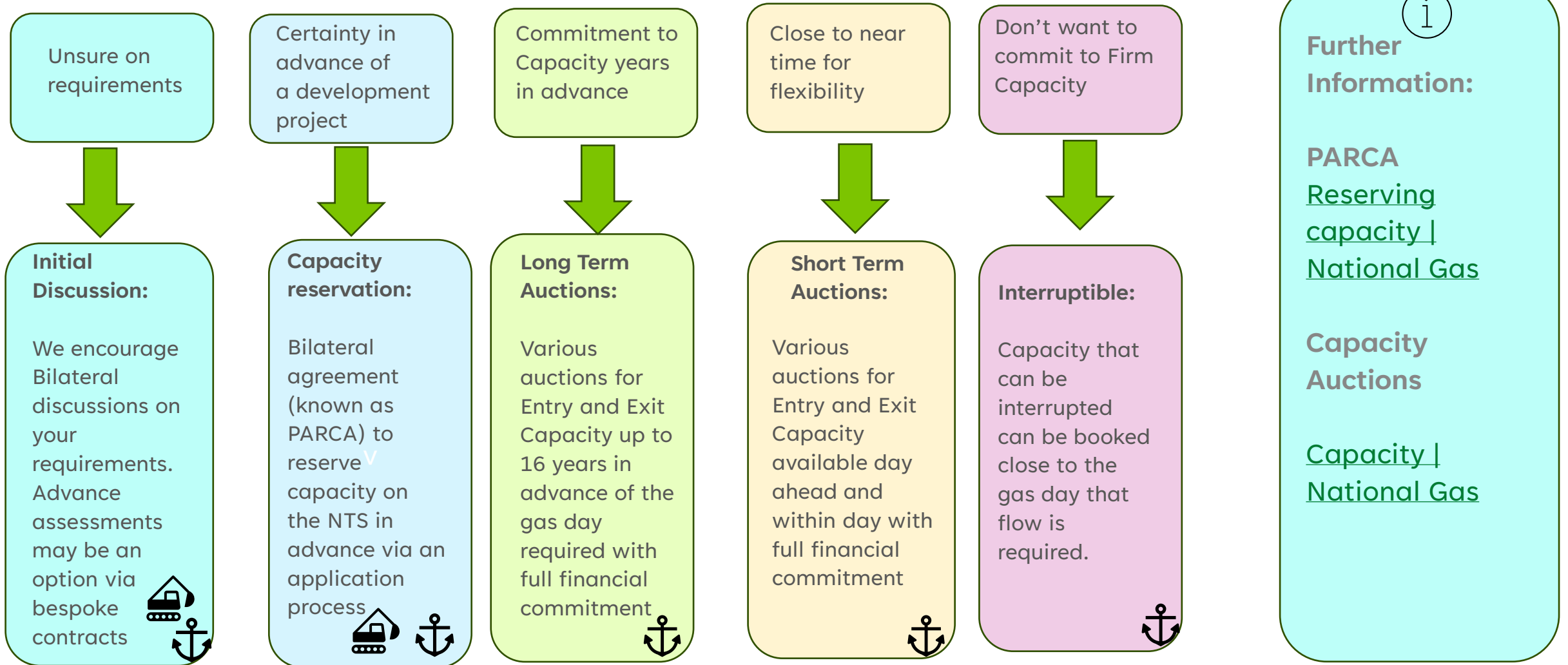
Use It or Lose It	Unutilised MNEPOR (Exit)	Discretionary
		
This is based on a rolling quantity of unused Firm Capacity over the preceding 30 days.	The NTS demand forecast is published on the day before the Gas Day (D-1) at 13:30. Where this demand forecast is less than 80 per cent of the annual peak 1-in-20 demand forecast, any remaining capacity up to the MNEPOR level is released as Off-peak Capacity. <i>(Maximum Network Exit Point Offtake Rate)</i>	This is offered to the market as additional Interruptible Entry / Off-peak Exit Capacity and is a discretionary product.

Capability

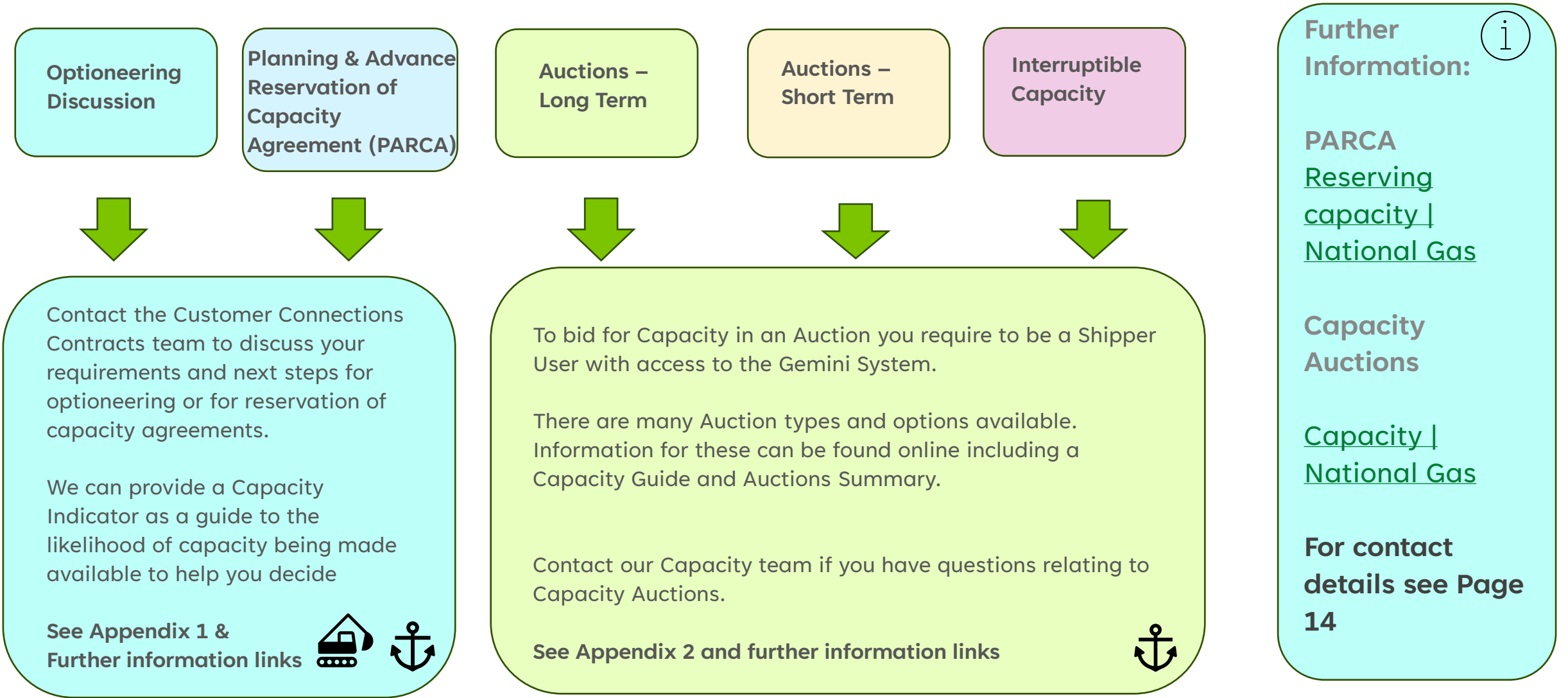
It is an important distinction that Capability is different to Capacity

Network Capability is the maximum flow of gas that the network can physically transport to and from specific locations/regions without exceeding safety and asset limitations.

Options to NTS Capacity



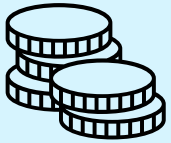
Options to NTS Capacity – first steps



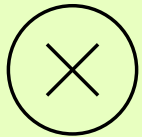
Considerations



The **time** taken to carry out the required processes needs to be considered. In particular, if new assets are required to be built this can take a number of years. For Capacity Auctions they run at specific times. The Rules are set out in the [Uniform Network Code \(UNC\)](#)

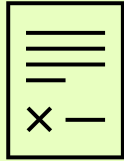


There will be **commitments** required. Depending on the process chosen this may be in terms of paying application fees, putting down financial security to full financial commitment when booking capacity.



Penalties and Liabilities – There will be liabilities within our agreements. Users are incentivised to book capacity. Flowing without capacity will incur a penal “overrun” charge.

Further information and Contacts



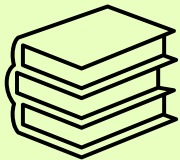
Document Links:

[Reserving capacity | National Gas](#)

[Capacity | National Gas](#)
[Capacity Guidelines April 2025.pdf](#)
[PowerPoint Presentation](#)



[Capacity Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Capacity Guidelines](#)
[Capacity Auctions Summary](#)
[Capacity Data Reports](#)
[Capacity methodology statements](#)



[Capabilities and methodologies | National Gas](#)
[Uniform Network Code \(UNC\)](#)

Contact Us:

For Capacity reservation enquiries, please contact our contracts team **Email us**

For capacity booking, our auctions and how to participate, please contact our Capacity team: **01926 568057** or **Email us**

If you have a query about anything else, please visit our Contact Us page for our full list of contacts: **Contact us**

Thank you

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Appendix

- 1 – Acquiring Capacity Key points
- 2 - PARCA further information
- 3- Capacity Auctions further information

Acquiring Capacity – key points

- Capacity can be acquired at an entry or exit point on the NTS only if the point is included in the Gas Transporters Licence.
- Users requesting the capacity must be a Shipper (or a Distribution Network for Exit), be a UNC signatory and have a Shipper Licence.
- User can apply for NTS Entry and Exit Capacity by using the Gemini and PRISMA systems for non-IP and IPs respectively.
- Applicants who are not Shippers or Transporters can reserve NTS Entry and Exit Capacity by exception through the Planning and Reservation of Capacity (PARCA) process.

GB and IP (Interconnection Point) Capacity

- Capacity for GB points is made available on the Gemini system in line with the schedules set out in the UNC.
- We offer capacity for IPs on the PRISMA joint capacity booking platform. The frequency and timings of capacity auctions are outlined in the ENTSOG auction calendar, which is updated annually.
- Capacity allocations made on PRISMA are reflected on Gemini. IP capacity cannot be booked directly on Gemini but instead must be booked through PRISMA.

Reserving Capacity – PARCA process

If you are planning a project that requires a supply of gas from the NTS, or a project that will inject gas into the NTS, you can reserve future capacity. This can be via two mechanisms; application in the annual Long-Term Exit auctions or via a PARCA.

Planning and Advanced Reservation of Capacity Arrangement (PARCA)

Phase 0	• Bi-lateral discussions and PARCA Application process
Phase 1	• Application fees range from £53k to £120k, but costs reconciled • Initial Optioneering – identification of options to progress • Hold PARCA Window / Ad-hoc QSEC or Ad-hoc Exit Reduction Window (as applicable or required) • Agree capacity delivery date & tolerances • Reports - ‘Phase 1 Output, ‘Need Case’ & ‘Technical Options’ (if applicable) • Total PARCA Security Amount based on 1 year of average capacity charges stepping up over 4 years (25% per year) • Informal notice to ‘The Authority’ & wider industry, ahead of reservation, of our capacity release proposal – ‘<i>We are intending to this..</i>’. • Notice to confirm reservation
Phase 2	• Capacity reserved exclusively for PARCA signatory (now Reservation Party) • Develop projects up to planning permission or agreed commercial solution • PARCA ends if terminated or if capacity is allocated to the NTS User (Shipper) • Customer may be invoiced for a termination fee if capacity is not allocated • Notice to The Authority & the wider industry to say ‘<i>We are now doing this</i>’, UNLESS The Authority vetoes
PARCA Expiration (a.k.a in some quarters as PARCA Phase 3)	• Funding through Revenue Driver met through general transportation charges • In a build scenario we have 24 months to deliver the capacity under our Gas Transporter License

Possible Solutions to meet capacity requirement:

- Using existing unsold capacity
- Moving from another point – “substitution”
- Building new assets – Funding required

Capacity Auctions

Multiple GB and Interconnector auctions take place for Entry and Exit capacity products

GB Points	Entry	Type	Y-2 to Y-16	Y to Y-1	M-1	W-1	D-1	D
		Firm	Quarterly QSEC	Annual Monthly (A)MSEC	Monthly RMTNTSEC	Weekly WSEC	Daily DADSEC	Daily WDDSEC
		Interruptible					Daily DISEC	
	Exit	Type	Y-4 to Y-6	Y-1 to Y-3			D-1	D
		Firm	Enduring EAFLEC	Annual AFLEC			Daily DADNEX	Daily WDDNEX
		Off-Peak					Daily DONEX	
Interconnection Points	Entry and Exit	Y-1 to Y-15	Y-1 to Y	M-1			D-1	D
		Firm	Annual Yearly IPAY SEC / NEX	Annual Quarterly IPAQ SEC/NEX	Monthly IPRM SEC / NEX		Daily IPDADSEC / NEX	Daily IPWDD SEC/NEX
		Interruptible / Off-Peak					Daily IPDI SEC / NEX	