SSEN Distribution

DSO COLLABORATION PLAN

May 2026

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

DSO Powering Change

Contents

COLLABORATION PLAN
MAY 2026

Purpose

As part of RIIO-ED2 Final Determinations for the electricity distribution price control, Ofgem asked Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to coordinate related activities through the Smart Optimisation Output (SOO).

The SOO facilitates collaboration and partnerships between DNOs and their local stakeholders by structuring and packaging network and strategic development data to make them more accessible, transparent and interoperable.

The Smart Optimisation Output is comprised of two parts:

Part 1: Collaboration Plan (this document): Which will describe how Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) is collaborating with stakeholders through a more transparent and user-centric approach to the sharing of data and how we will work in partnership with stakeholders to support the development of local and regional net zero strategies.

Part 2: System Visualisation Interface; A combination of digital network tools on our website and our open data portal.

Our approach to sharing data

Our open data portal remains the single, authoritative source for all openly published SSEN Distribution data. This year we significantly expanded its reach and capability, reinforcing our commitment to comprehensive, transparent data provision across planning, operational and market roles.

DATA PORTAL

- In November 2025 we launched our **Open Data Portal Vision and Strategy**; shaped by the needs of our stakeholders throughout our year of engagement. We've drawn on feedback from 5 data surgeries, events from our autumn and spring series and issued a user feedback survey. From this, we've identified which stakeholder priorities are integral to keeping our data portal relevant and accessible to users.
- Data Availability-Stakeholders want to see an increase in volume and visibility of data available through the portal with clearer signposting of what data is held, shared or available on request.
- Data Portal Usability-Stakeholders gave us clear insight into future features for the portal including improving search functions, clearer data set descriptions and more self service functions.
- Data Quality-Stakeholders highlighted ways in which we can improve confidence in data by increasing consistency, standardisation and alignment with other DSOs.

SOO interaction and interface

DELIVERY

Activities
Our DSO planned activities across years 4 and 5.

Network investment efficiency
- Implement new DNOA methodology.
- Utilise the updated CEM for new flex use cases, refining data needs, operational requirements and funding mechanisms.
- Refresh Network Development Plan.
- Refresh our SDP's using enhanced methodology and evaluation tools.
- Coordinating local and national planning through engagement with stakeholders and an agreed strategy in place.

Network operating efficiency
- Implement new CEM and flexibility evaluation methodology for new use cases.
- Trial and refine our implicit flex offering through 'Smart Signal'.
- Trial flex for operational resilience.

Faster connections
- Update our website and library of Access Products to improve customer understanding.
- Develop a digital solution to replace cost prohibitive comms equipment enabling us to roll out access products to LV customers.
- Enhance the consolidated geospatial heatmap to provide additional insight to prospective customers.
- Incorporate Secondary Network data into the heatmap.

Wider electricity system efficiency
- Enhance operational data sharing with NESO for Primacy and Technical Limits.
- Support development of FMAR.
- Collaboration with other DSOs to define a shared ask for ED3—ensuring consistent support across Great Britain.

Third-party efficiency and effectiveness
- Provision of dashboards and tailored use cases on the data Portal.
- LTDS provided in CIM format.
- Redesign our DSO website to improve user accessibility and experience.
- Continuous improvements to data quality and data portal accessibility.
- Advanced search functions and Generative AI that answers complex data questions.

STRATEGY AND VISION

Digital Strategy and Action Plan
Why and how we become more digital.

Digital Architecture — Connected Community
Building on our digital foundations, we move from products to capabilities aligned with innovation — easy to access and maintain. Guided by strong UX and aligned with both short and long-term efficiency and sustainability.

Operating an Open Data Ecosystem
Driving forward our open data ecosystem with more data updates and analysis through stakeholder engagement. Improved data quality and data-led decisions via tools such as Power Track and LENZA.

Driving the Future Whole System and Partnerships
Strategic partnership plan offering commercial opportunities and external product support, linking current tools and extending ability to support businesses, local authorities, decision-makers and communities.

Promoting a Digital First Culture
Combining focus areas to lay solid foundations for a digital-first approach with tools and support so nobody gets left behind. Open communications improve digital footprint, data quality and customer satisfaction.

Partners and Peers
Working with a wide range of organisations to deliver the energy transition — developing new partnerships and sharing data with others.

Customer Experience
Putting the customer at the heart of everything — serving customers with more complex needs better than ever before.

Platforms and Data
IT systems and processes up to date and ready to receive, process, analyse and share much bigger volumes of data, much faster.

People and Ways of Working
Changing how we organise our business and how we work to deal with a bigger and more complicated network and customer needs.

DSO Action Plan
Prioritising activities that deliver against customer outcomes, aligned to our Theory of Change framework.

Network investment efficiency
Reduced distribution network Capex (and bills); opportunities for FSPs in constraint management; and reduced embedded carbon in network assets.

Network operating efficiency
Reduced distribution network Opex, feeding through to bills; opportunities for FSPs in distribution system services; and reduced carbon from diesel generation.

Faster connections
Reduced national system costs and carbon from earlier access to low carbon generation; earlier revenue for connectees driving economic growth.

Wider electricity system efficiency
Reduced national system costs and carbon through improved access to DER; and increased revenue opportunities for FSPs driving economic growth.

Third-party efficiency and effectiveness
Lower operating costs for third parties as well as more effective planning that can improve connections timeframes and revenue maximisation.

Our approach to boundaries and interfaces

We work closely with other organisations in the energy sector to align our strategic energy planning processes and to work collaboratively towards GB net zero targets and ambitions.

National Energy System Operator (NESO) For our Strategic Development Plans (SDPs), we'll align to and incorporate insights from the Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan and from the outcomes of Connections Reform and Clean Power 2030. We're continuing to engage closely with NESO on the Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs) as they develop.	Connections Reform – NESO has been working to align reforms to the connections process to the needs of the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. The outputs of the Connections Reform process will result in a reordering of the connections queue for generation and storage projects requiring a Transmission Impact Assessment. As a result, some projects will be brought forward, pushed back or may no longer be moving forward and therefore, there will be impacts on our load forecast and generation insights provided in our SDPs which will be reflected in the next iteration. Strategic Energy Planning – NESO are undergoing strategic long-term energy planning which is being shaped through three core areas: the Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP), Strategic Spatial Energy Planning (SSEP), and the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP).
Transmission Operators (TO) National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and SSEN – Transmission are the TOs for our Central Southern and North of Scotland licence areas, respectively.	Working collaboratively – we regularly hold bilateral meetings with SSEN-T and NGET to discuss alignment of future plans and impacts of the transmission network. We also hold workshops regularly with both TOs to deep-dive into specific regions of our network. This allows us to provide early insights to the TO on where we see needs arising on the distribution network which require coordinated decision making between distribution and transmission.
Ofgem As the regulator for Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) guidance from Ofgem including the Sector Specific Methodology Consultation and the ED3 Framework will provide direction for our strategic planning as we prepare for ED3.	Preparing for ED3 – Distribution Network Operators receive funding from Ofgem via 5-year long price controls and the next price control will be ED3 which will run from 2028 to 2033. The first iteration of our SDPs have provided a basis for the preparations our system planning teams are doing for ED3. The ED3 Framework and Sector Specific Methodology Consultation is guidance from Ofgem to guide DNOs in their preparations for ED3. Your voice in ED3 – We're currently engaging a wide range of stakeholders to gather views on what we should be doing in ED3 and what we should be considering in our decision-making. For more information on how to have your say, see Section 6.
National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA) In February 2025, NISTA, formerly the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), produced a key report on electricity distribution networks with key recommendations for future planning.	'Electricity distribution networks: Creating capacity for the future' Report recommendations – The NIC report stresses the importance of proactive investment and strategic energy planning as the country moves to decarbonise the energy system. It also supports a programmatic view to projects as well as the development of flexibility markets. The recommendations have fed into how we're planning for ED3 and as such, the five priority areas we have identified for ED3 each align to a recommendation within the report – more information can be found in our Emerging Thinking for ED3.

Collaboration in the Development of regional projects, plans, and net zero strategies

Our energy system landscape is changing with new players emerging and existing ones taking on new responsibilities as we work to decarbonise the energy system. In recognition of this, we've outlined at a high-level the primary organisations we collaborate with on strategic energy planning.

DNOs and DSOs

As a DNO, our role in the energy system is to carry electricity from the higher voltage transmission grid to industrial, commercial and domestic users. In Great Britain, there are six companies which own the fourteen licenced DNOs as well as several Independent Distribution Network Operators which own and operate small sections of the network. SSEN have two licence areas, one in the north of Scotland and one in central southern England.

As SSEN, we also provide DSO Services for the distribution networks we own and operate, this means we're responsible for planning and delivering a smarter electricity system which includes strategically planning the development of our network. We collaborate with other DNOs and DSOs to share best practice and to ensure alignment for other stakeholders. This allows us to optimise investment across system boundaries so that our decisions serve the wider network and energy system.

Local Authorities, Customers and Consumers

Local authorities are increasingly undertaking energy planning activities to decarbonise their local areas. This can take the form of producing a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) or a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (Scotland only) which both have a role in planning how energy is generated and used in their area.

Community energy groups and generators are key stakeholders in understanding local generation on our network.

Businesses and industries are also planning how they will grow as well as decarbonise their operations which includes planning for how they use energy and from what source they get it from.

Domestic customers across the UK have a role in energy planning as we see people examining and changing how they use energy in their homes and daily lives.

NESO

In October 2024, the NESO was established to act as an independent system planner and operator to help accelerate Great Britain's energy transition. NESO was previously the Electricity System Operator (ESO) but has been expanded to enable it to look holistically across electricity, gas and other forms of energy.

NESO act to inform Ofgem's decision making on strategic energy planning of the electricity networks and therefore, we work closely with NESO to develop our plans and incorporate insights. Through being the ESO, NESO already had the responsibility to plan the Transmission network but now also has a role in shaping the Distribution network through the introduction of the Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs).

Ofgem - Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

Ofgem are the energy regulator for Great Britain and so regulate SSEN and other energy companies to protect the interests of energy consumers and to make decisions on how the energy system is developed and operated.

We work closely with Ofgem on all aspects of the work we do as a DNO and DSO. In the Strategic Energy Planning space, Ofgem respond to our proposals for projects to decide how and where we invest in the network.

Other Energy Vectors

Similarly to the electricity networks, the gas networks operate on a national and local level as part of our energy system. The Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) transport gas at a local level to homes and businesses.

District heating or heat networks can offer an alternative opportunity to decarbonising heat than individual customer solutions. Engaging with heat network developers and local authorities helps us to understand where these are emerging.

Electricity Transmission Operators

The Transmission Operators maintain, own, and invest in the electricity transmission network and there are three TOs in GB. The transmission network takes electricity from large generators and transports it long distances across GB to industrial customers and interfaces with Distribution Networks via Grid Supply Points.

UK Government and The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

In December 2024, the UK Government published its Clean Power 2030 Action Plan which set out its ambition to deliver clean electricity by 2030. This has shaped how the industry is progressing and accelerating to meet this goal.

Development of regional projects, plans, and net zero strategies

As NESO's role in Regional Energy Strategic Planning develops, we're collaborating closely on ensuring we're aligning our strategic planning processes accordingly.

The first outputs from the RESP were released on 30th January 2026 through the transitional RESP. We're currently ingesting the outputs, and we've laid out here how we're using each of the four components of tRESP. We'll receive the first full RESP outputs in late 2028, and we will continue to enhance and orient our processes over the coming years.

What are RESPs and tRESPs?

In November 2023, the National Energy System Operator (NESO) was directed by Ofgem to take on a new role in Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP). This role involves the production of Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs) which will be whole energy strategic plans shaping the future of local energy systems including the distribution electricity and gas networks.

The RESPs aim to support the energy transition through enabling consistent, transparent, and coordinated whole energy system planning to provide insights on system requirements and where proactive investments should be made.

The first full RESPs are expected towards the end of 2028. Given that electricity distribution networks are in the process of working on their ED3 business plan submissions for the period of 2028 to 2033, it was recognised that there was a need for transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plans (tRESPs) which focused on providing key outputs for DNOs to use more quickly. The tRESPs were published at the end of January.

More information is available here from NESO on Regional Energy Strategic Planning, the RESPs, as well as the published tRESPs.

Nations and Regions Context

Through our continuing engagement with our communities across both licence areas, we have a strong foundation of knowledge on the areas we serve. The Nations and Regions Context provides a coherent source for datasets relating to our local areas. Going forwards the full RESP draft methodology indicates that the Nations and Regions Context will also provide a placebased engagement channel which we'll utilise for whole system working as well as for management of external conflicts or trade-offs.

Nations and Regions Context

The tRESP Nations and Regions Context provides an initial view of conditions and priorities for each RESP nation and region. Included is an overview of the demographics, energy infrastructure in the area, industry and economic indicators, and local ambitions.

Pathways and Consistent Planning Assumptions

For Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) 2025, we worked closely with the RESP team to ensure alignment between our forecasts and the pathways. The DFES 2025 Holistic Transition scenario has been an input for the development of tRESP and as such the technology building blocks are well-aligned. We're now in the process of beginning further sensitivities, reconciliation and analysis to ensure the outputs of tRESP are ingested into the DFES and our load forecast for use in our ED3 and long-term planning. When investigating load-related needs, for the SDPs and in the Distribution Network Options Assessment (DNOA) process, we'll use the tRESP pathways to create our load forecast and perform sensitivity analysis against the four DFES scenarios. The Common Planning Assumptions (CPAs) from the output of tRESP will be applied when creating our load forecast. We're continuing to work closely with other DNOs and RESP team on this approach and the iterative nature of our SDPs allows us to be flexible to changes at a regulatory level.

Pathways

The tRESP outputs provide a single pathway for the period 2025-2035 which splits into three long-term pathways for the period 2035-2050. This consists of volume predictions of selected technologies at a Grid Supply Point level as well as by tRESP area and indicatively by local authority area.

Common Planning Assumptions

The Common Planning Assumptions (CPAs) allow for consistent translation of the technology volumes from the tRESP Pathways into a load forecast. We've been engaging closely with NESO on the CPAs so that we can integrate them into our load forecast for use in our SDPs and wider network modelling. The tRESP includes CPAs for EVs, residential heat pumps and residential energy efficiency.

Strategic Energy Need

The tRESP outputs include information for DSOs on Strategic Energy Need (SEN). These will be incorporated into our investment decision-making and hence will be included in the strategic analysis for our SDPs. Considering these in our planning allows us to understand the network requirements of areas with SEN and to subsequently justify strategic investment needs where intervention is required. The tRESP identifies GSPs or, in Scotland, groups of GSPs with a SEN. These align to our SDP areas enabling us to align well with the tRESP process.

NESO has focused on projects which are strategic and significant on a regional or national level and have a high level of certainty. These are referred to as needs that may support a case for proactive investment. As the DSO, we will be considering these needs in our SDPs, but we're also interested in a broader range of energy needs to inform our longer term strategic plans. The RESP SEN will form an important input into this process. We will engage with relevant stakeholders as needed to gather updated and additional evidence so that they can be considered at the appropriate point in our planning process.

Strategic Energy Need

In the summer of 2025, NESO launched a request for information (RFI) to invite a variety of stakeholders to submit evidence of energy needs. This fed into the development of the Strategic Energy Need (SEN) outcomes which have identified areas within each RESP nation and region where a strategic approach to investment is needed if the network cannot accommodate the capacity required by the SEN.

Participation in the development of LAEPs, Net Zero roadmaps and other strategies and cross-utility solutions

Local Authority and Regional Authority Plans

Our local authorities are a vital input into our long-term strategic planning processes so that we can ensure we're creating a network our communities need. We engage closely with organisations across both licence areas to understand their net zero ambitions, their wider development plans, and how the network can help facilitate these ambitions.

Understanding ambitions for growth at a local level is important to allow us to understand where demand and generation is likely to increase and what types of technologies are driving this increase. To collect these insights, we review published material from local authorities alongside directly engaging through bilateral discussions to ensure we're correctly representing their views and targets.

Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA)

The Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) tool is a geospatial planning platform powered by Advanced Infrastructure Technology Limited's (AITL) LAEP+ software. It has been developed through SSEN Distribution's Project RESOP. LENZA is designed to support users in their strategic energy planning endeavours, including LAEPs and, where relevant, LHEES. The tool empowers users to plan decarbonisation pathways, which in turn drive our longer-term strategic network planning that will power local net zero ambition. Insights shared with SSEN Distribution through the platform will be included in future iterations of the DFES and therefore improve the insights presented within our SDPs. For more information on LENZA and information on how to get involved, please visit this link or get in touch to arrange a demo.

Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs)

Over the last year, there has been an uptake in local authorities pursuing to Local Area Energy Plan development. LAEPs provide a valuable avenue to understanding how local energy systems will need to grow and develop to achieve local and national decarbonisation targets. As such they are a valuable input into our SDPs so that our network is being developed in line with local plans.

We've been working alongside Winchester District Council on the first Digital LAEP using our LENZA tool which we aim will pave a more accessible route for local authorities to undertake further local area energy planning activities. The second Digital LAEP is also now underway with Southampton City Council.

Regional and National Bodies

As well as local authorities, we are actively working with wider regional and national bodies including the Scottish Government, the Greater London Authority and the Oxford Growth Commission.

Understanding regional and national strategies is critical to realising their ambitions within our future network needs. We work closely with regional and national bodies to help overcome issues and inform strategic policy development. This then feeds into local LAEPs and LHEES ensuring overall alignment.

Industrial and Commercial Customers

Cross energy vector collaboration is key to enable us to build a more whole system view of the area being studied. We're therefore interested in seeking insights from wider stakeholders including water companies, large demand users, and large generation operators.

We're interested to learn more about the needs of local industrial and commercial customers and so we'll be reaching out to understand stakeholder growth and decarbonisation plans. Our engagement with industrial and commercial customers will be supplementary to engagement as part of NESO's SEN process. Our approach to how we're engaging and gathering information in relation to these needs will follow an annual process and hence be complementary to the RESP process which operates as a three-year cycle. This information will be a key input into understanding the growth in our licence areas and what associated electricity requirements will need to be met. We're interested in growth and decarbonisation plans to understand the scale and timing of future energy requirements associated with such plans. Insights are then assessed to determine how they are incorporated into our SDP.

When we engage with industrial and commercial customers, we're looking at insights which sit outside of the DFES technology building blocks, and which connect at 33kV or above. As part of this, there are ongoing innovation projects looking at the energy transition of specific industries. Notably, the Future Agricultural Resilience Mapping (FARM) project focuses on the decarbonisation of domestic farming industry; SeaChange works with ports to identify energy transition pathways; and the FORTRESS (flexibility and optimisation for resilience in energy systems) project which looks to accelerate the decarbonisation of important sites like hospitals.

Community Energy

Community energy projects involve generation or energy management at a local level and create opportunities for communities to benefit through generating income, providing resilience, and reducing emissions.

Responding to stakeholder feedback, industry changes, and national best practices, SSEN's DSO has broadened its support for community energy schemes. We aim to work with national partners to deliver guidance, tools, and learning events, strengthening local initiatives. By the end of 2026, we will have a single contact point and a published programme of learning workshops to help community energy schemes navigate electricity network services.

Through our 2026 SDP programme, we look to engage further with community energy groups incorporate future plans into our approach and planning.

How we are innovating to support collaboration in our Communities

Low Carbon Technology Connections Readiness Indicator

Our NIA-funded innovation project, Low Carbon Technology Connections Readiness Indicator (LCT CRI), developed models to estimate the cutout rating and service cable status for properties, and created a customer engagement approach built on extensive research, culminating in an address lookup webpage that was tested with customers in field trials and a large dataset which was ingested into our core systems where asset records were unknown. The customer engagement and data modelling approach were discussed with other DNOs and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), enabling them to carry out their own modelling of LCT readiness to advance their own strategies.

Shared with Regen for DFES, as well as the LENZA tool to make the data available to Local Authorities to support their creation of LAEPs and Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) as knowing the readiness of a property allows more efficient planning and awareness of potential timescales for necessary upgrades at a property.

Central LCT database

Collated data from our systems to present a single view of LCTs known to have connected to our network. In addition we worked with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) to establish a data sharing agreement to help boost the visibility of LCTs which we were not aware of being connected. Engaged with Department for Transport to seek a data sharing agreement with them that will allow us to further boost visibility of EV chargers which may have gone unreported, which will improve the ability to provide LCT uptake visibility to our stakeholders, so that they can carry out their tasks relating to decarbonisation.

Initial outputs were shared with Regen to create an updated series of Distribution Future Energy Scenarios, as well as the LENZA tool to make the data available to Local Authorities to support their creation of LAEPs and LHEES, and also uploaded to our **Data Portal** (aggregated to Primary Substation level) to allow others to use the data in their activities.

Building DSO capabilities, releasing capacity and connecting customers faster

DSO decisions accelerate our journey to net zero. We have significantly grown our capabilities to meet the challenge and continue to invest in our people, tools and systems to ensure we effectively support our customers and communities.

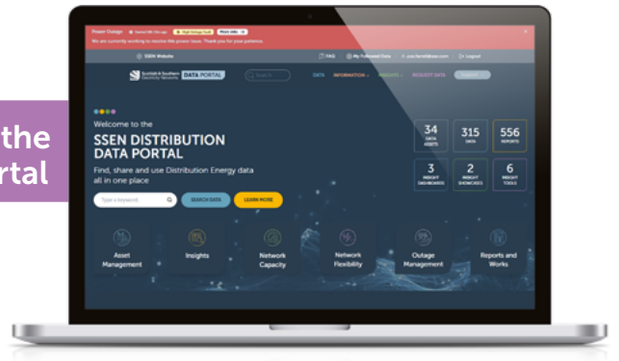
	Strategic Development Plans (SDPs)	Distribution Networks Options Assessment	Network connection planning	Operational decision-making framework	Real-time, open and shared data and reports
					
	Long term electricity system blueprints.	**Develop and evaluate detailed options to address capacity needs.**	**Identification of point of connection and reinforcement works for new connections.**	**Coordination of flexibility dispatch, access rights, outage planning and wider system action.**	**Sharing granular data about our network to support coordination and drive innovation.**
Process	Our DSO team combine stakeholder insights at a local level with the national Future Energy Scenarios (FES) to develop Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) and conduct power system analysis to identify capacity needs out to 2050. Each Strategic Development Plan has modular build and flexibility options for a specific network area, typically a Grid Supply Point.	Detailed network reinforcement and flexibility options are prepared, evaluated and compared to maximise consumer value. Our DNOA decisions are shared with stakeholders to increase awareness of future network developments and new opportunities for the use and provision of flexibility.	New connection requirements are served by our DNO Customer team. With the related scheme analysis and design necessary to release new capacity prepared by our DSO System Planning team. Our approach ensures the DSO is fully accountable for network capacity and can make well-informed decisions.	Our Operational Decision-Making (ODM) defines clear dispatch principles to ensure safe, secure and efficient interaction between flexibility services, access rights and outages on our network. It sets out the operational interactions between DSO and DNO teams alongside other System Operators.	We have prioritised the publication of real-time data across our network. We routinely exchange operational and planning data with the NESO and are piloting data sharing infrastructure so that our customers and stakeholders can benefit from a smarter, more flexible, electricity network.
New Capabilities	Our Whole System team and **Net Zero Specialists** support Local Authorities and stakeholders. **Over 400 stakeholders** are using our LENZA tool to support their community energy plans and provide input to our strategic development plans. This supports our continued evolution towards Long-term Integrated Network Development Plans (LINP).	Our analysis uses the **Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM)** alongside the **Deterministic Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA)** and **Strategic CBA**. We have developed and refined our **independent assurance** process to give confidence in our outcomes.	Our System Planning team have grown by more than **20 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) since April '24,** through innovative schemes such as **Electrical Power Networks Engineering and Power System Analysts supported by Oxford and Loughborough Universities**. We use industry-leading power flow analysis software and we're unlocking our network modelling data so customers can self-serve.	Our ODM has **set the industry standard.** We report quarterly and refine through stakeholder feedback. Flexibility and access rights are managed using flexibility market, **active network management and dispatch platforms**. Our next generation of tools are being developed through the **Systems for Flexibility Programme.**	Our **NeRDA** and **Smart Metering data** sets provide unrivalled insight into how our network is used from the street level upwards. By applying rigorous internal and external data governance and partnering with **IceBreaker One** we have developed new capabilities in the data needed for system wide coordination.

Our system visualisation interface

What is it?

The data portal is a single point of access for all SSEN Distribution Data that we publish with our industry peers, partners, regulator, and even our customers and the public. The portal is designed to make finding the right data and accessing it easy for our data consumers. Data consumers are able to browse, search, view, visualise and download data.

Click to open the SSEN Data Portal



How do we decide what data to publish?

We categorised Stakeholders based on 4 main user groups that could interact with the SSEN Data Portal

For each user group we:

- Mapped our DSO Strategy Personas
- Developed use cases based on understanding of your data needs
- Identified how we meet those needs through our data products today and in the longer term
- Published a data roadmap setting out what data we intend to publish

Reader instructions:

Read through the user groups, use cases and data products and validate the assumptions being made about your data needs.

What we need from you...

1. Your data needs – in order for us to provide the right data in a usable format for you, it's important you share with us what data you want and how you want it shared.
2. Collaborate with us – making data sharing a two-way relationship, sharing your insights derived from the use of data with us.
3. Tell us the type of insights that you want from our data so you can use the information effectively.

Adapting and enhancing data provision to meet our stakeholders' needs

Over the past year we've materially improved the quality, transparency and accessibility of network data, providing stakeholders with richer insight to plan, invest and participate with confidence.

Continuous stakeholder feedback has driven improved accessibility and usability of open data, with a redesigned portal, clearer navigation, glossary, newsfeed and multiple ways to explore data.

The full list of new features and how its helping stakeholders can be found on the right.

Visit our website to access
data.ssen.co.uk

NEW DATA PORTAL FEATURES	HOW IT'S HELPING STAKEHOLDERS
Share Ideas and Examples	Users can share and view ideas and examples on how to generate value from our data.
View Real Time Outage Banner	Users can stay up to date on any outages on our network by viewing our alert notifications.
Monitor Data Portal newsfeed	Users can quickly identify the most recent updates to the data portal.
Create maps and charts	Users can generate bespoke visualisations to improve their understanding of our data.
Track SSEN data events	Users can view upcoming event notifications; as well as download recordings and related materials.
View SSEN Reports and Documents	Users can put our data in context by viewing historic SSEN reports and documents, shared on the company website.
View the SSEN Centralised Network View	Users can access a single, centralised view of our electricity network through a user-friendly mapping solution.
Receive Data Asset Notifications	Users can follow data assets to receive notifications when any updates have occurred.
View Data Quality insights.	Users can view insights on the quality of the data that we share to help inform their decision making around data usage.

Co-designing with stakeholders, delivering best in class tools to meet their needs

We're excited to have launched a new consolidated geospatial heatmap, combining frequently combined datasets into a single tool, enabling users to layer datasets and view dashboards for specific use cases. We've called this our Centralised Network View.

An application that provides a centralised, interactive view of the electrical network for SSEN, showing the relationships between Primary Substations. Grid Supply Points (GSPs), Bulk Supply Points (BSPs) and associated network areas.

Users can Quickly and clearly identify where there is capacity on our network. They can identify areas with high expectations of growth and view our investment plans.

Visit our website to access
ssen.co.uk/tools

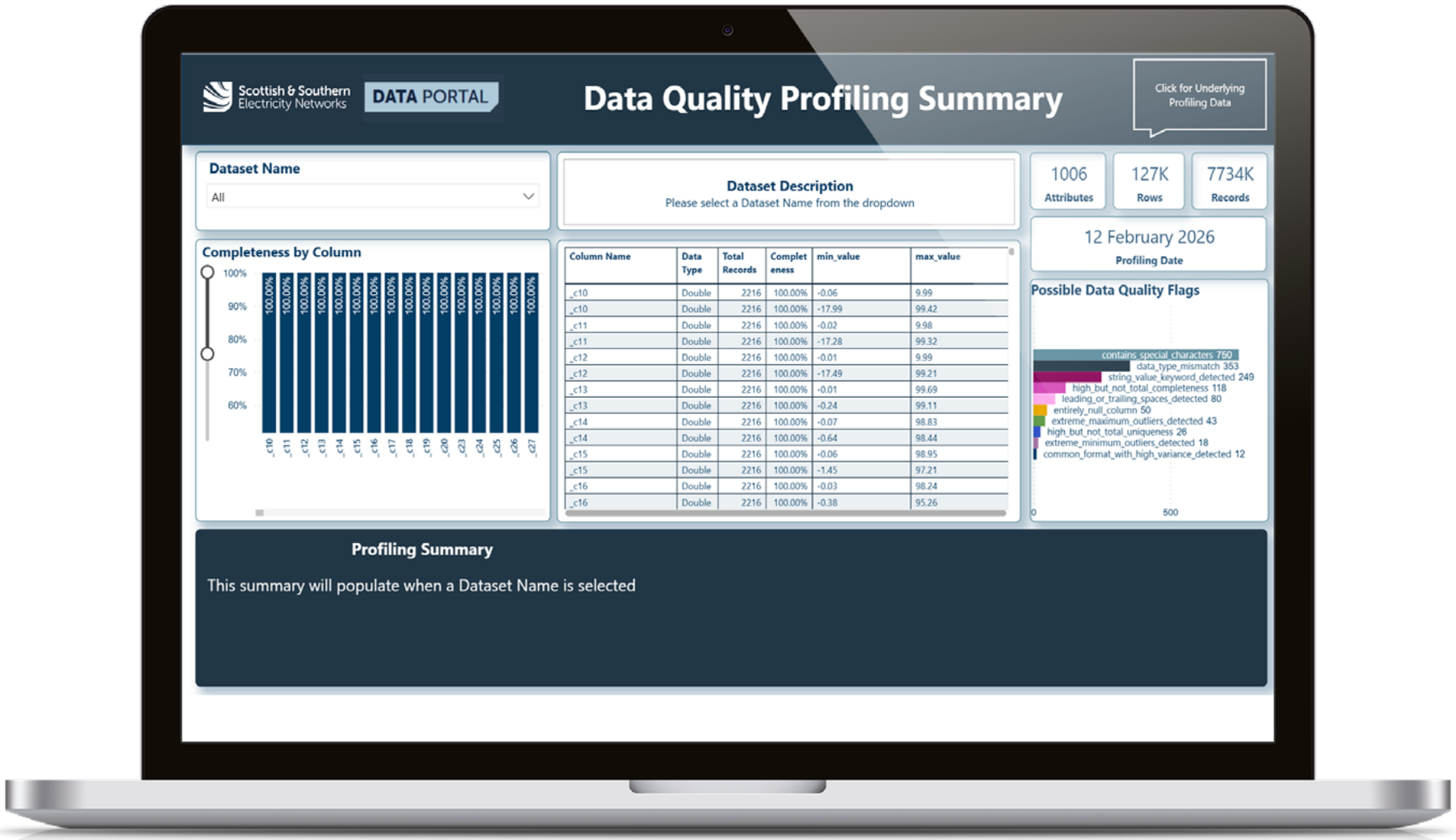
High-accuracy data that stakeholders can rely on with confidence

We've introduced data quality profiling across our platform, assessing 1,500 tables and 66 billion data points to give clear visibility of data quality at scale.

Our Data Quality Engine applies 600+ rules using a governed methodology aligned to SSE's data quality dimensions, executing standardised SQL to detect, score and log data quality issues and anomalies.

Users can access insights on the quality of the data we share through our data quality profiling summary dashboard.

To make this data more accessible, we provide a brief AI summary of the results to explain the state of the data in easily understandable language. This enables users to make more informed decisions with our data.



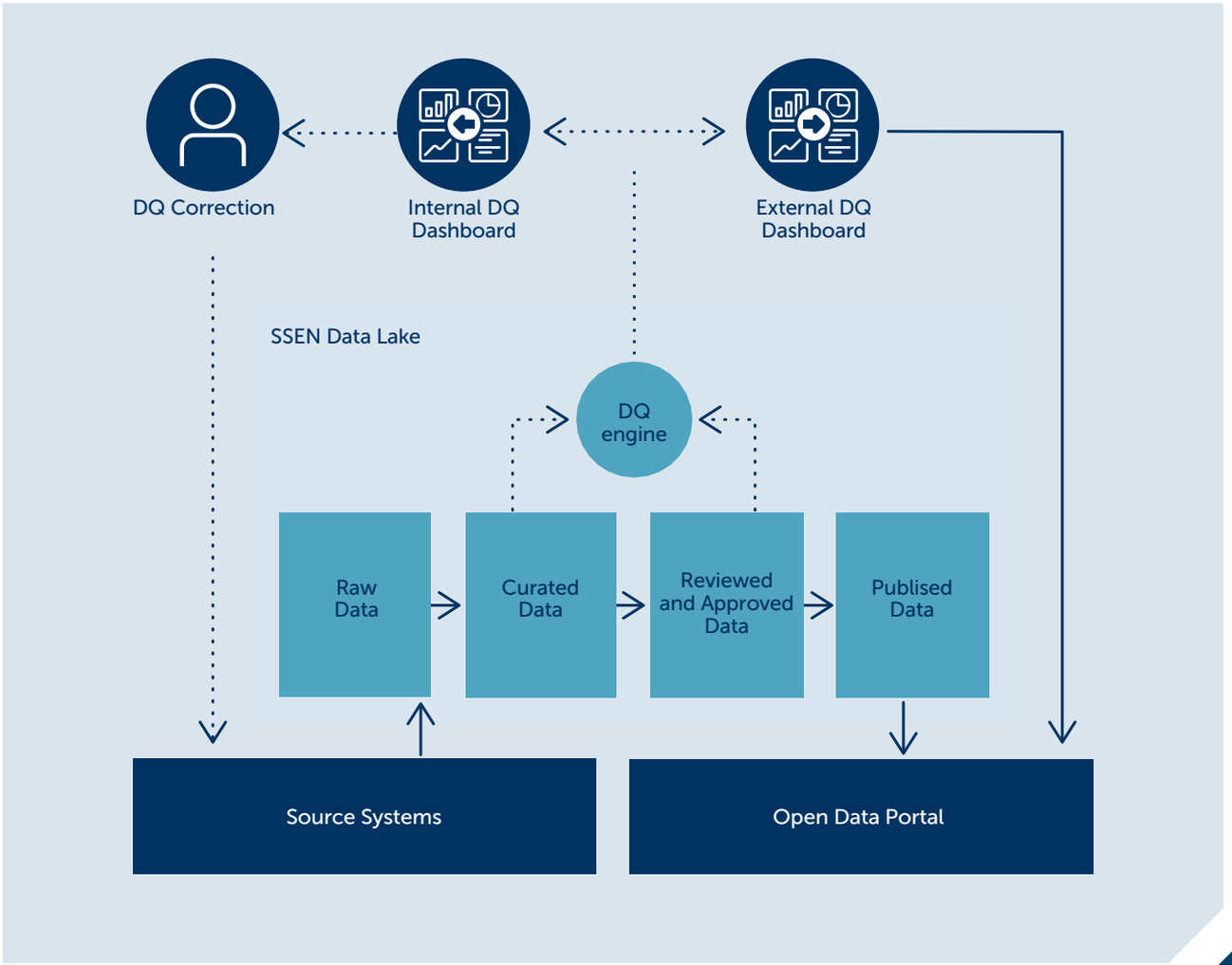
Ensuring quality and accuracy through automation

We have implemented a fully auditable data quality issues process, enabling any staff member to log issues, supported by a new automated dashboard providing real-time oversight.

All activity aligns with Ofgem's Best Data Practice Principle 7, prioritising data quality improvement based on user needs.

Data will be automatically pulled from our source systems, curated, and passed through the data quality engine before being onboarded to our portal. As data is refreshed onto the data portal, it will also pass through our data quality engine. The results of the data quality engine will be shared openly on our data portal, with any corrections sent back to our teams for improvement.

Through this process we will Increase the frequency of data being published and enhance data quality over time.

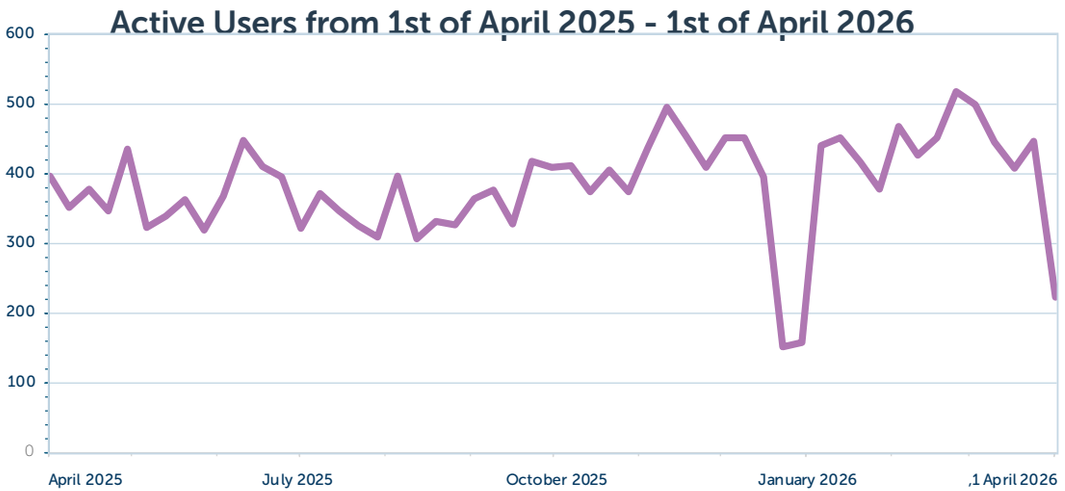


Engaging with our stakeholders and how you can get involved

Measuring Engagement

15,058
Active Users since 1st April 2025

123,162
Views since 1st April 2025



4 Data Surgeries on:
- NeRDA
- Smart Meter Data (Part 2)
- Data Portal, New Features and Plans
- Centralised Network View

Attendees
200+

39% Confidence Increase on Data Portal Use (Average)

How you can get

What's next?

SSEN is focused on delivering for the communities we serve and doing our part to ensure a just energy transition.

- SSEN is focused on delivering for the communities we serve and doing our part to ensure a just energy transition.
- We're continually engaging with stakeholders to speak about things that matter to them.
- This document shows our commitment to collaborating with an array of stakeholders, from Local authorities and Academia to System Operators. And the work doesn't stop there.
- Sign up to our DSO Newsletter where you can receive updates on our latest projects, strategy and action plan development. This is where you will also find our upcoming events and engagements where we will continue to collaborate with other stakeholders in the co-development of strategic regional projects, plans and net zero strategies.

You can also keep up to date with our events at
ssen.engage-360.co.uk

SCAN ME
Sign up for our DSO newsletter

Glossary

Term	Description
CPA	Common Planning Assumptions
Decarbonisation	Reducing the carbon intensity in terms of emissions per unit of electricity generated.
DER	Distributed Energy Resources. Any resource on the distribution system that produces or stores electricity. This can include distributed generation, storage, heat pumps and electric vehicles as well as other technologies.
DNO	Distribution Network Operator.
DNOA	Distribution Network Options Assessment.
DSO	Distribution Systems Operator. The directorate within SSEN that supports a more flexible network operation. Uniquely placed to ensure simple and consistent access to new markets for our active customers through maximising the utilisation of our existing electrical and communication networks.
DSAP	Digital Strategy and Action Plan.
FMAR	Flexibility Market Asset Register.
FSP	Flexibility Service Provider.
ENA	Energy Networks Association.
EV	Electric Vehicle.
GIS	Geographic Information System.
HV	High Voltage.
IB1	Icebreaker One.
IDNO	Independent Distribution Network Operator.
KPIs	Key performance indicators.
LAEP	Local Area Energy Plan. A data-driven and whole energy system, evidence-based approach that sets out to identify the most effective route for the local area to contribute towards meeting the national net zero target, as well as meeting its local net zero target.
LCT	Low Carbon Technologies.
LENZA	Local Energy net zero Accelerator. SSEN's tool for supporting local authority LAEPs.
LHEES	Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies.
LV	Low Voltage.
NDP	Network Development Plan.
NeRDA	Near Real-Time Data Access.

Term	Description
NESO	Electricity System Operator. The electricity system operator for Great Britain, making sure that Great Britain has the essential energy it needs by ensuring supply meets demand.
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission.
NIA	Network Innovation Allowance.
NUAR	National Underground Asset Register.
OHME	EV charger brand.
Open Data	Data in a machine-readable format that can be freely used, shared and built on by anyone, anywhere, for any purpose.
RAG	Red, Amber, Green visual indicator status.
RESP	Regional Energy Strategic Planning.
RIIO-ED2	Price control for Electricity Distribution (2023-2028).
SEN	Strategic Energy Need.
SEPD	Southern Electric Power Distribution.
SHEPD	Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution.
SIF	Strategic Innovation Fund.
SPEN	Scottish Power Energy Networks.
SOO	Smart Optimisation Output.
SSEN	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks.
tRESP	Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plans.
TO	Transmission Owner.
VFES	Vulnerability Future Energy Scenarios

Appendix 1: Engagement and change logs

We've expanded our data provision for customers

Insights	Action
Greater granularity of data needed to help unlock flexibility *(Data for flexibility roundtable date).*	**We published data from two million smart meters, updating it daily with figures on half hourly consumption, as well as near real time data from LV, HV and EHV monitors in substations across our network.**
Want accessible data to develop future energy predictions, scenarios and plans for their communities *(repeat request from local authorities, at events and bilaterals).*	**We developed our LENZA tool so local authorities could directly pull our data for their Local Area Energy Plans and offered it at zero cost to all the local authorities in our license areas.**
Need standardisation of the definitions and datasets between DNOs to facilitate the path to net zero *(request in workshops and in Data Roadmap Consultation response).*	**We led an ENA session with the other DNOs to agree a Data Collaboration Plan. This has delivered a clear and consistent structure and approach across all DNOs, enhancing clarity and ease of use.**

We've put flexibility at the heart of our strategy

Insights	Action
Need confidence in our end-to-end process as a key prerequisite for facilitating market participation *(Flexibility webinars).*	**We published our flexibility roadmap which outlines why and when we use flexibility as well as our plans for flexibility in the future.**
Increased data sharing needed to drive reduced delays in delivery and to develop business cases for new energy assets at our flexibility data workshop *(Flexibility providers bilaterals*).	**We launched our data portal and have shared a data roadmap committing to sharing more and more open data for use by our stakeholders.**
Want clarity and coordination on the compatibility of different flexibility opportunities *(Multiple stakeholders, multiple channels).*	**We engaged with the NESO to ensure the use of standardised products and promote non-exclusivity.**
Need confidence in our ability to manage large volumes of trade as the market grows *(Flexibility providers).*	**We've invested in new platforms and increased the conversion rate from what's contracted to what's delivered.**

Options assessment and conflict of interest mitigation

Insights	Action
We must consider the broader benefits of network investment *(Multiple stakeholders).*	**We enhanced our cost-benefit analysis to consider the wider socio-economic benefits that can arise from network interventions.**
Want greater openness and transparency when evaluating network needs *(Scottish Islands Whole System Webinars).*	**We consulted on our DNOA process and published the outcomes of decisions as well as using an independent third-party to produce load growth evidence studies.**
There is a need for ability to assess network options holistically *(Local authorities – LAEP bilaterals).*	**We updated our DNOA methodology to give clear insight and description of the factors influencing a decision as well as outlining all the credible options.**

DER dispatch decision making framework

Insights	Action
Key priority for transparency and purposeful decision-making during dispatch *(Flexibility providers).*	**We published our Operational Decision- Making framework which demonstrates how we make fair and efficient decisions for a resilient network when dispatching DER.**
Seeking confidence that control rooms could easily operationalise our decision-making Framework *(ODM Consultation response).*	**We engaged both our control rooms during the development of our decision making framework and published a control room vision that underpins the interaction between our DSO and DNO teams.**

ENGAGE WITH US

For any queries or to request further information, please contact us:

CONTACT

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stakeholder.engagement@sse.com

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