



# Network Assessment Guide

Assessments in association with  
NGED Matrix designs

December 2025

**Electricity  
Distribution**

**nationalgrid**

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# Data Portal 2

## Introduction

This guidance document can be used to assist with the evaluation of National Grid Electricity Distribution's (NGEDs) system in association with the determination process for the connection of loads up to 5.75kVA as per Standard Technique: SD5F.

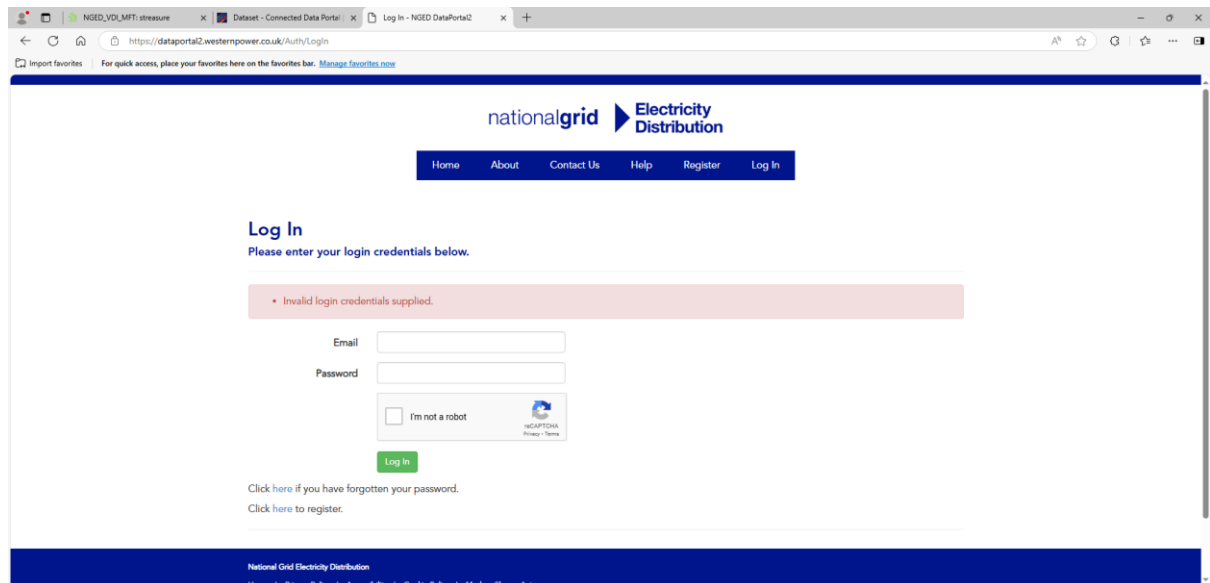
## DataPortal 2

NGED's network topology can be viewed on our DataPortal2 website, please note that only organisations with a business need are provided access. This is for security of our network and customers.

[Log In - NGED DataPortal2](#)

## Step 1. Create an account

We'll accept access to the system for work in conjunction with the assessment of our network in line with our Standard Technique: SD5F (Relating to connecting multiple small low voltage connections with limited network analysis).



The screenshot shows the DataPortal2 login page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the National Grid Electricity Distribution logo and links for Home, About, Contact Us, Help, Register, and Log In. Below the navigation bar, the 'Log In' section is displayed. It includes a message: 'Please enter your login credentials below.' and a red error message: 'Invalid login credentials supplied.' The login form contains fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a CAPTCHA challenge with the text 'I'm not a robot', and a 'Log In' button. Below the form, there are links for 'Click here if you have forgotten your password.' and 'Click here to register.' The footer of the page contains the text 'National Grid Electricity Distribution' and links for 'Home', 'Privacy Policy', 'Accessibility', 'Cookies Policy', and 'Modern Slavery Act'.

Once the account has been accepted, you'll be provided with a link to validate your account, once validated, you can pass to the next step.

## Step 2. Accept Terms and Conditions

NGED\_VDI\_MFT: treasure | Dataset - Connected Data Portal | Accept Terms and Conditions - N | +

https://dataportal2.westernpower.co.uk/Auth/AcceptTandCs

Import favorites | For quick access, place your favorites here on the favorites bar. [Manage favorites now](#)

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Home About Contact Us Help Account Details Log Out

4.4 In most cases the Data will be provided without any Ordnance Survey® Data. You are responsible for:

(a) obtaining and complying with any licences and/or permissions which may be required to use or view the Data or to access the Portal; and

(b) ensuring that your use of the Data does not put you in breach of any third party licensing conditions which may apply to the Data.

I accept the Terms and Conditions ☐

I understand that ONLY National Grid Electricity Distribution assets are shown and NOT Electricity Transmission ☐

Proceed Cancel

National Grid Electricity Distribution

Home | Privacy Policy | Accessibility | Cookie Policy | Modern Slavery Act

## Step 3. Launch EMU Online

This is our mapping system

NGED\_VDI\_MFT: treasure | Dataset - Connected Data Portal | Home - NGED DataPortal2 | +

https://dataportal2.westernpower.co.uk


Import favorites | For quick access, place your favorites here on the favorites bar. [Manage favorites now](#)

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Home About Contact Us Help Account Details Log Out

### Home

#### Online Maps

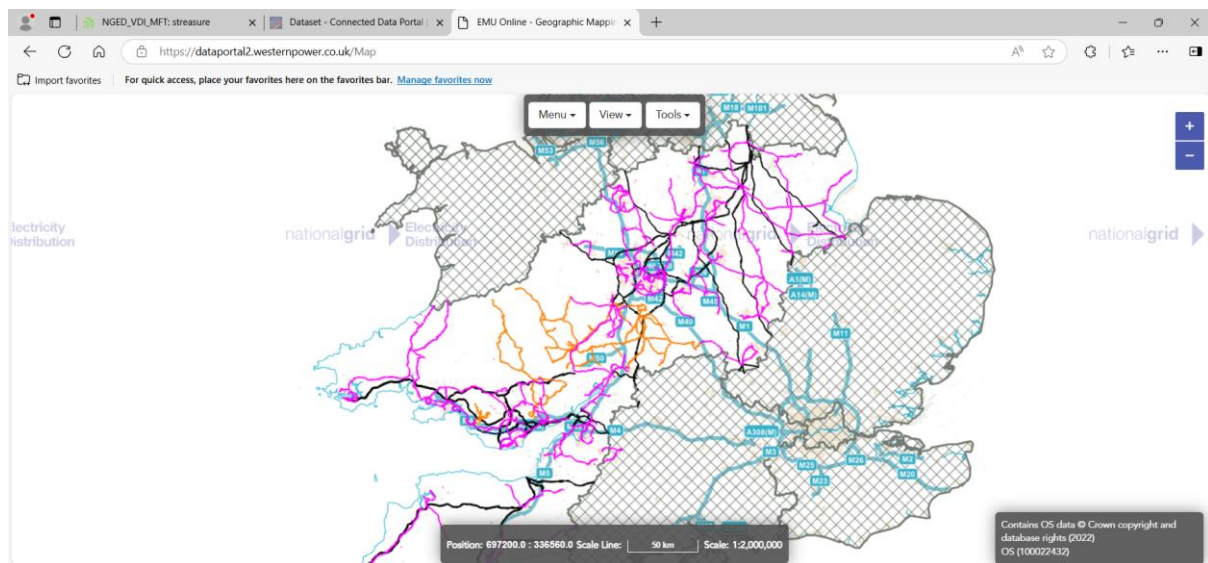
 Our Online Mapping application (EMU Online) provides you with access to our network records and information via an easy to use web interface.

Some of the features available are:

- Gazetteer by Postcode, Street, Locality or NGED Equipment
- Use Grid References or Easting/Northing to locate sites
- Query features for further attribution
- Print to high quality PDF

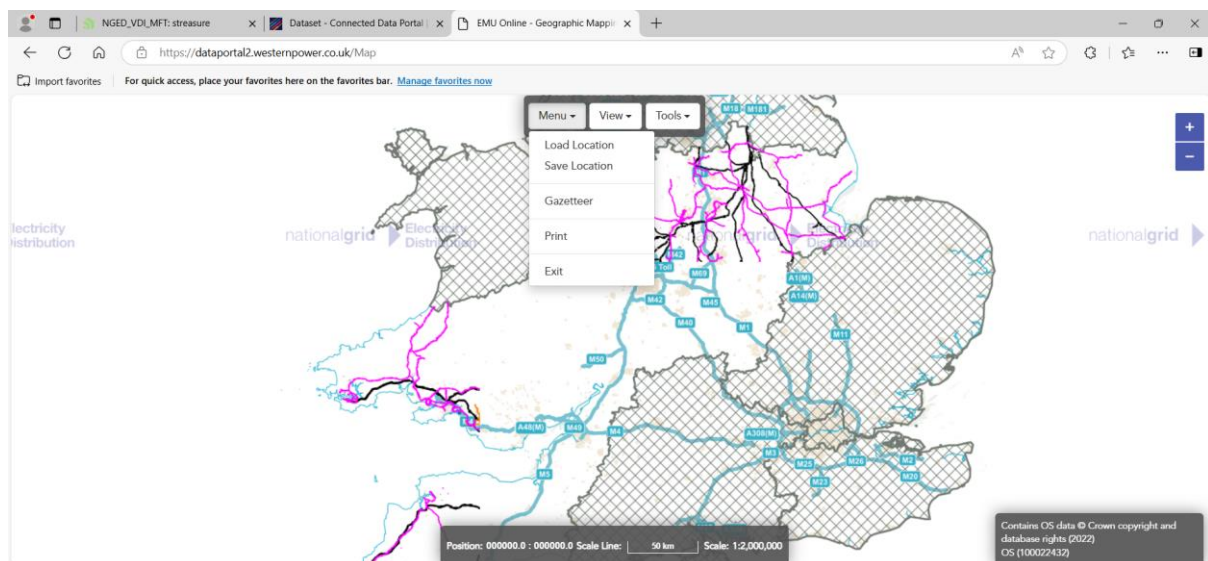
[Launch EMU Online](#)

You'll see this page



## Step 4. Finding the network of relevance.

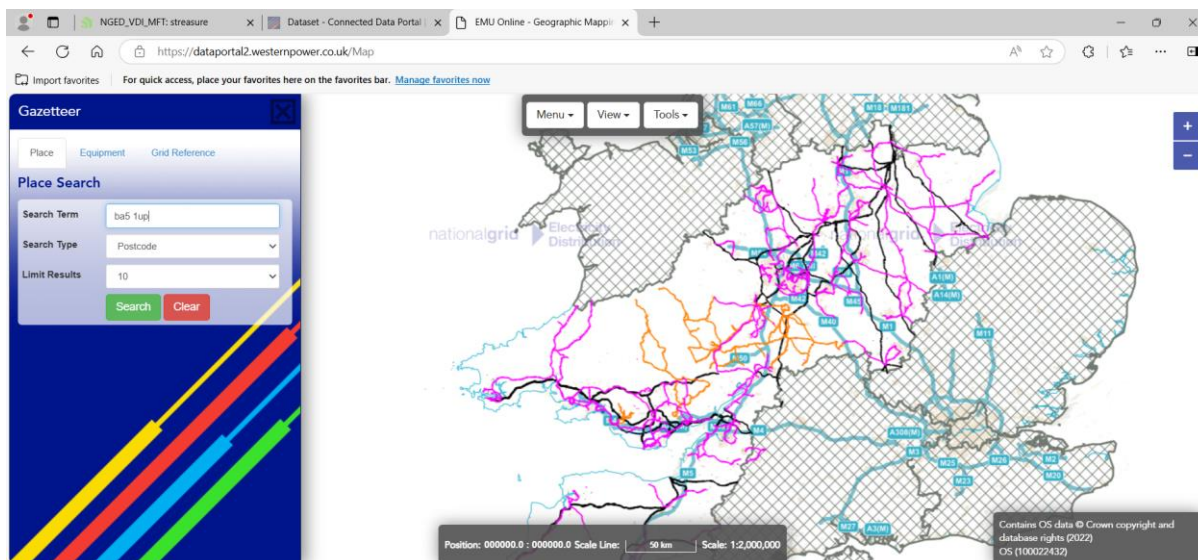
Under MENU, select GAZATEER



Our assets can then be searched via Post Code, Equipment names and numbers or via Grid Reference



Within the example, post code **BA5 1UP** has been entered into the search function



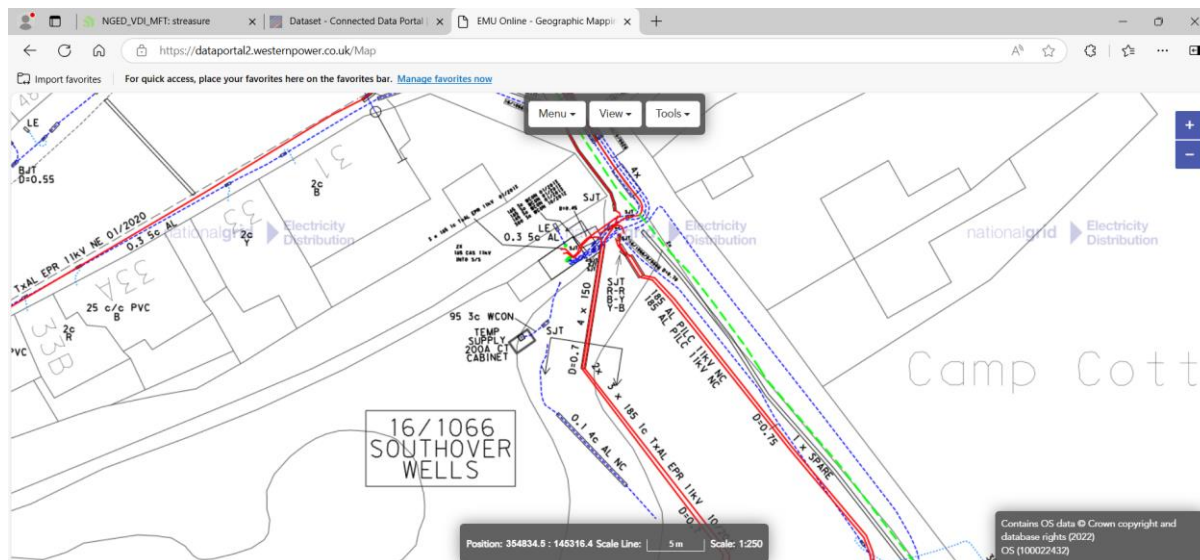
The screen will now display an area of asset associated with the chosen search method

## Step 5. Assessing the network

Substations can be ascertained by the substation text and by determining the red (high voltage conductors) lines entering into an outlined shape with exiting blue (low voltage conductors) lines.

For this example, the Substation is called Southover Wells and the substation number is 16/1066.

The prefix 16 denotes the area – for this example the area is East Mendip (Midsomer Norton office)

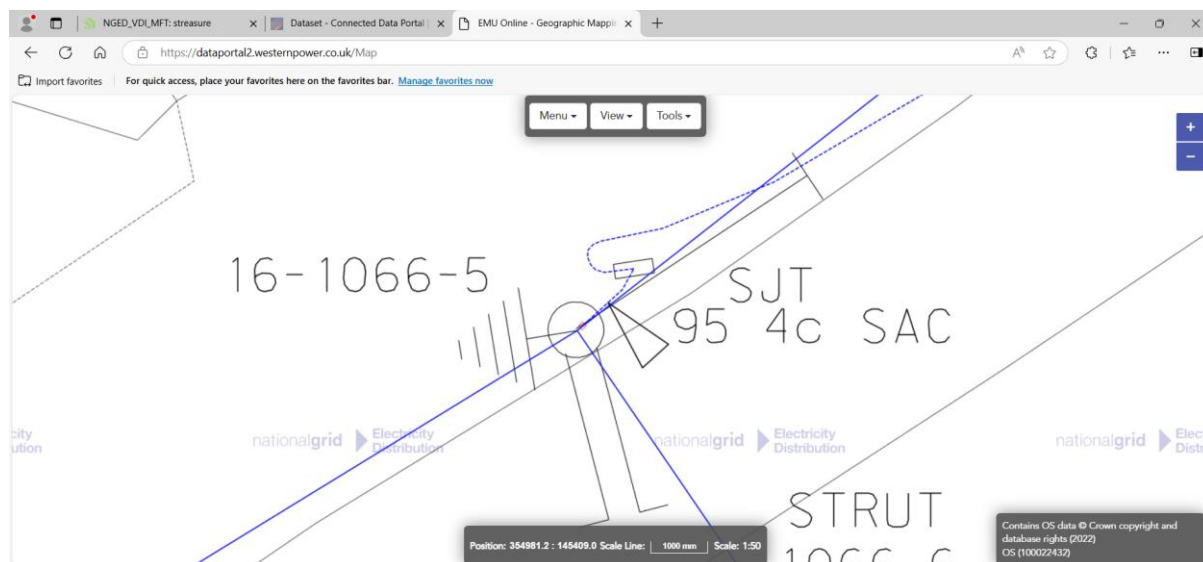


The scroll button can be used to zoom in and out and the left or central mouse button can be used to grab and pull the screen around the network.

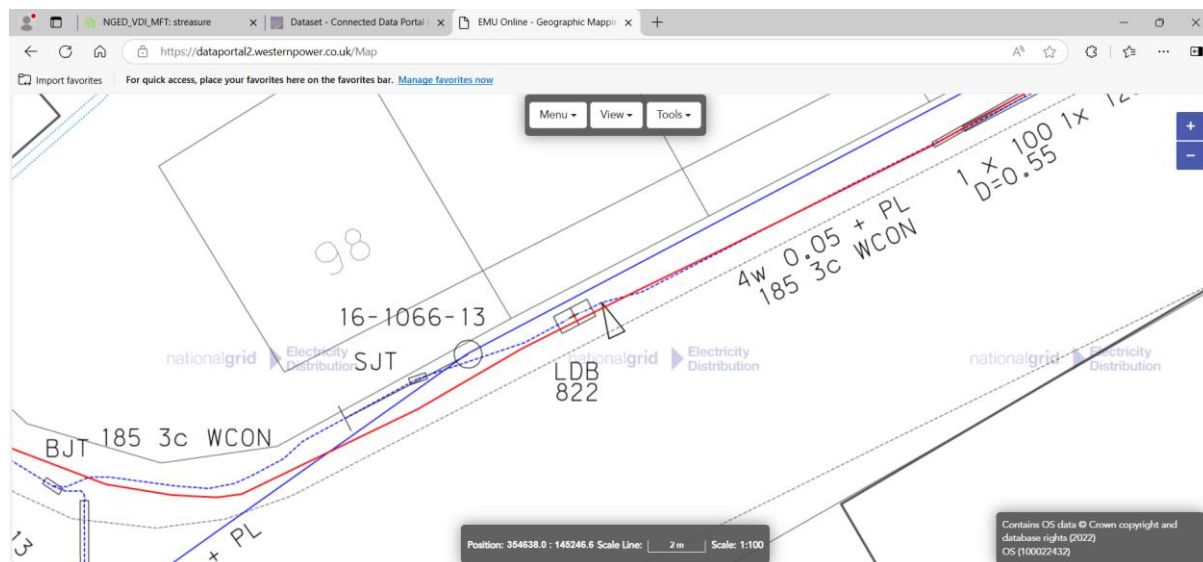
## Guidance with Open Points (ends of network)

To determine the extent of a circuit, the blue lines are followed until an open point is found,

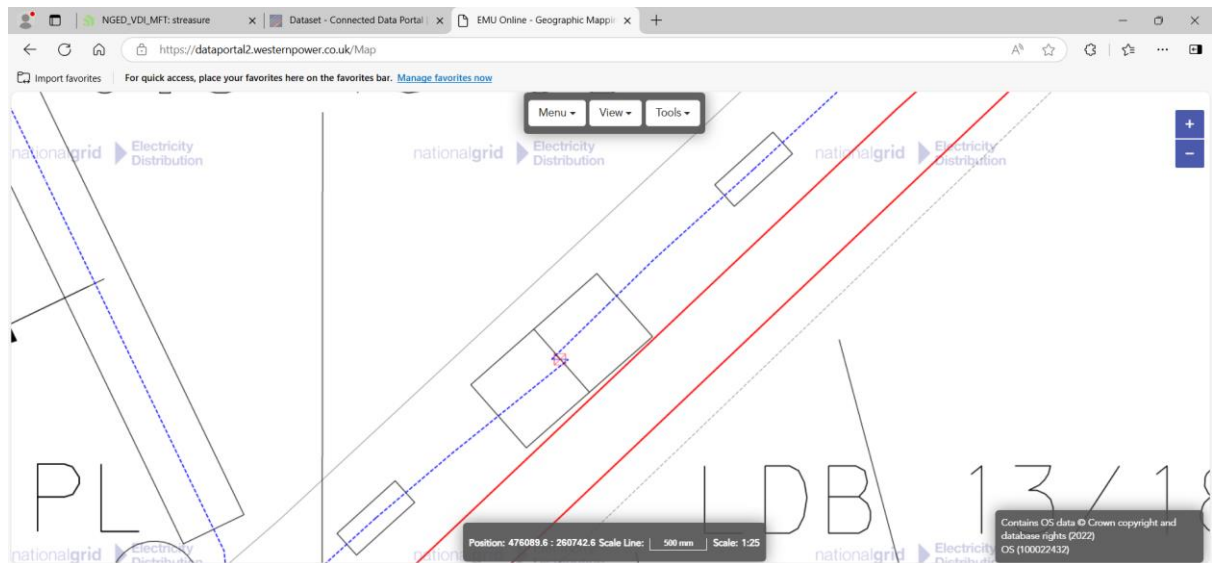
Example of an open point in the South West – A triangle denotes the end of a circuit. For this example, the open link is between the overhead line and underground cable.



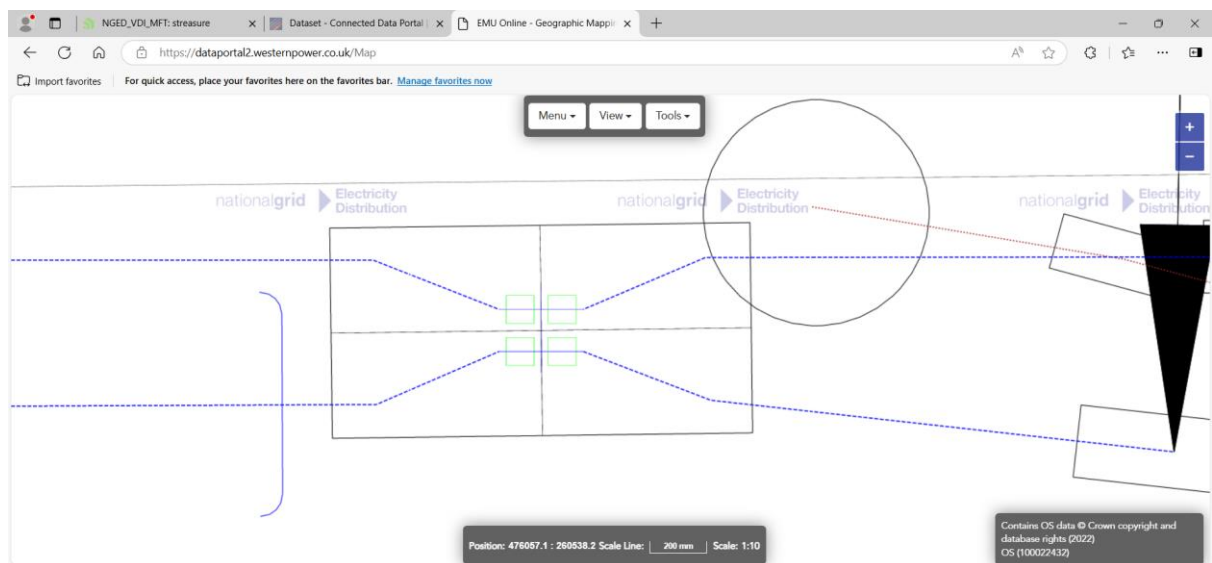
The below drawing, shows an LDB (Linkable Distribution Box), with a triangle showing the end of circuit between two cables.



The below picture shows an open (Links out) link box within the Midlands region – electricity does not flow through the link box



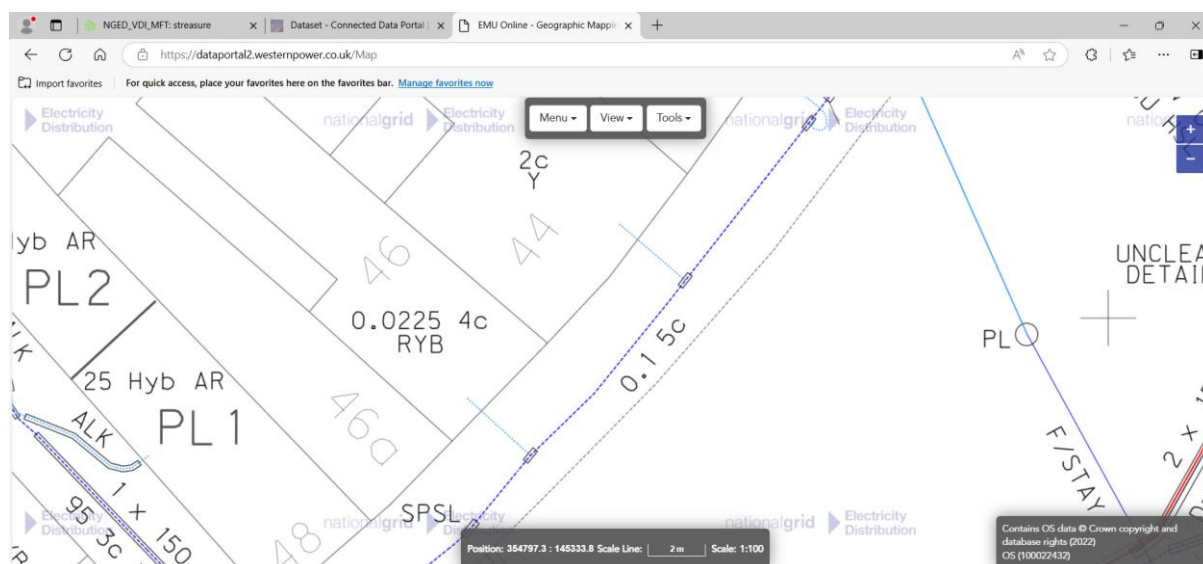
The below picture shows a closed (Links in) link box within the Midlands region – electricity flows through the link box. Therefore, this is not the end of the circuit.





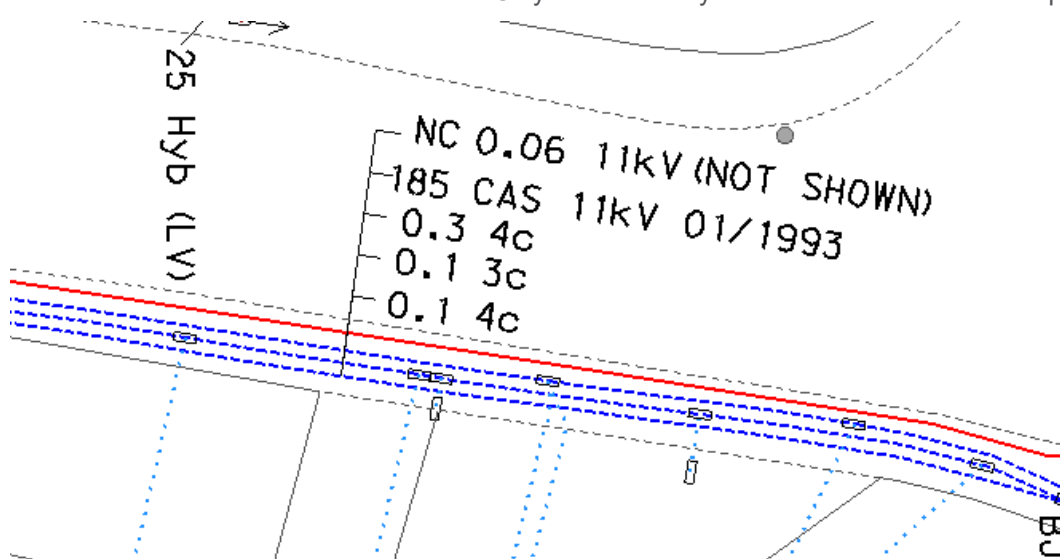
## Conductor guidance

Example of a 0.1 square inch, five core pilc (Paper Insulated Lead Covered) cable. This cable has a modern equivalent cross sectional area of 70mm<sup>2</sup>, the cores will be copper and the five cores show a Separate Neutral Earth (TN-S) cable – this asset has likely been converted to provide PME (TN-C-S). Inside this cable, three of the cores will be for the phases, one will be the neutral, and the fifth core is an old streetlighting core.



The number of cores available will often be a indication of whether three phase is available, some caution may be needed as sometimes three core cables are 'bunched' on single phase systems to help reduce volt drop across the cable. These cables will always be labelled with bunched and detailing the phasing arrangement.

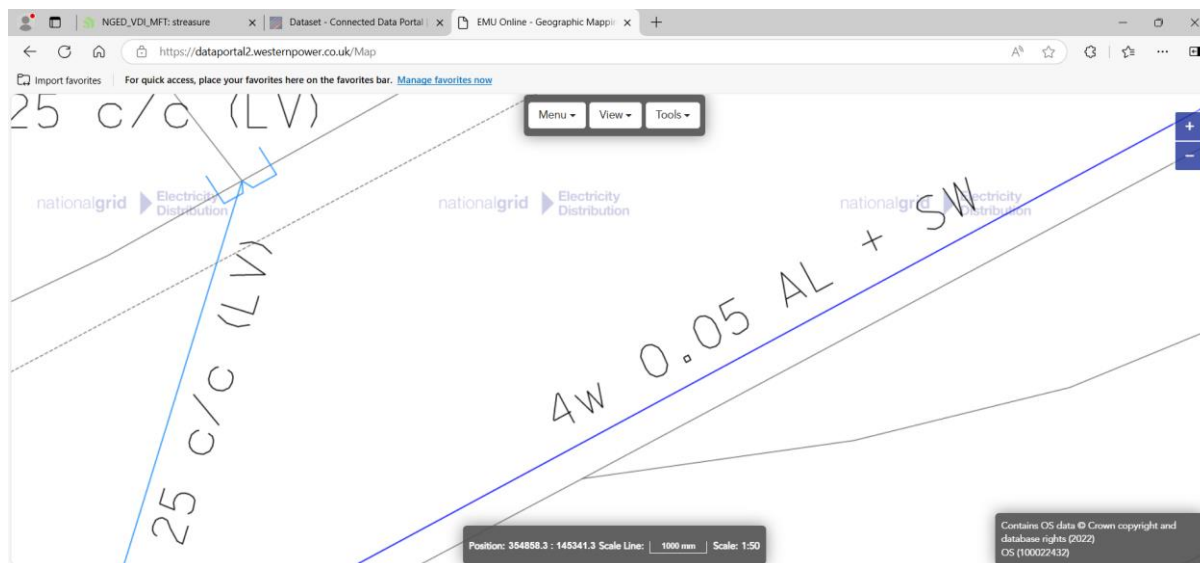
In towns and cities, old cables were reused when the distribution system was standardised across the country, this means that in some places you will see cables for different voltages or misleading nomenclature. For example in the image below you see both 3c and 4c pilc cables, it can easily be misunderstood these are CNE and SNE cables. However 3c pilc cables are actually old DC cables that have been converted to run on the AC system and only contain two out of the three phases.



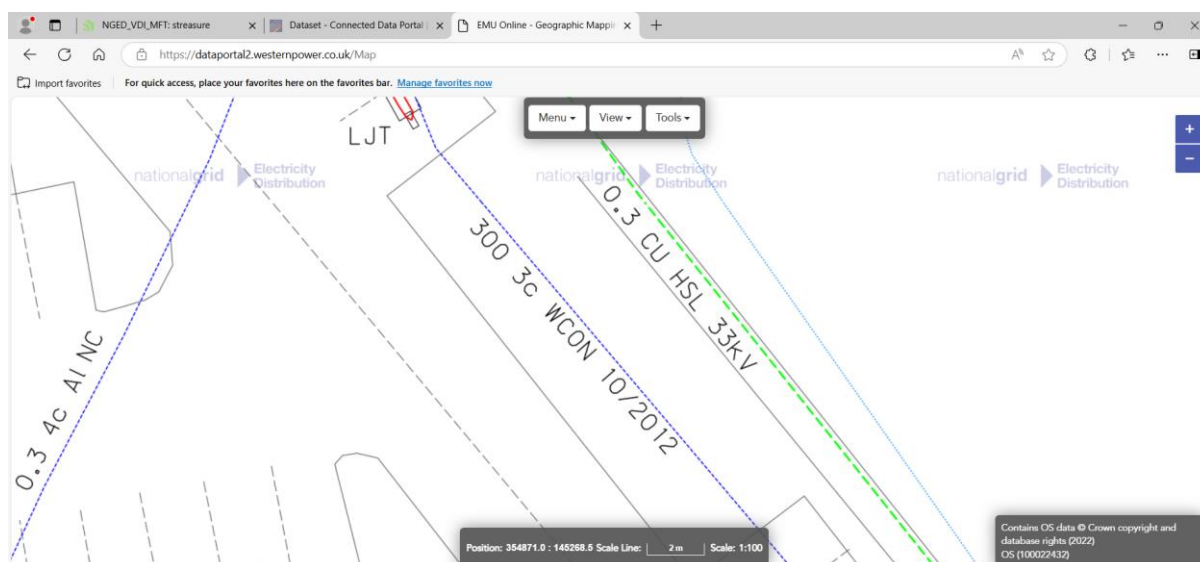
Example of a four wire 0.05 Aluminium overhead line plus street light wire. The direct relationship between the cross sectional area 0.05 square inch and the metric equivalent is 35mm<sup>2</sup>, however, for overhead lines only, the imperial cross sectional areas denote the equivalent copper conductor, based on thermal capacity. Therefore, for an overhead line, the following applies;

- 0.05 AL = 50mm<sup>2</sup> Aluminium
- 0.05 CU = 35mm<sup>2</sup> Copper
- 0.1 AL = 100mm<sup>2</sup> Aluminium
- 0.1 CU = 70mm<sup>2</sup> Copper

The above does not apply to an underground cable, the imperial to metric conversion correlates to size and not thermal capacity.



Example of a 300mm<sup>2</sup> three core wavecon cable (combined neutral earth / PME), the cable has aluminium phases and a copper neutral



## Conductor nomenclature

The below does not impact the assessment.

Historic cables can be seen by the use of imperial square inch cross sectional values, the below cable is 0.3 Sq in or 185mm<sup>2</sup> as a metric value. The cable is also noted as four core (4C) which for a paper insulated lead covered cable (PILC) is a Combined Neutral Earth cable (TN-C-S).

Therefore, the following naming conventions apply,

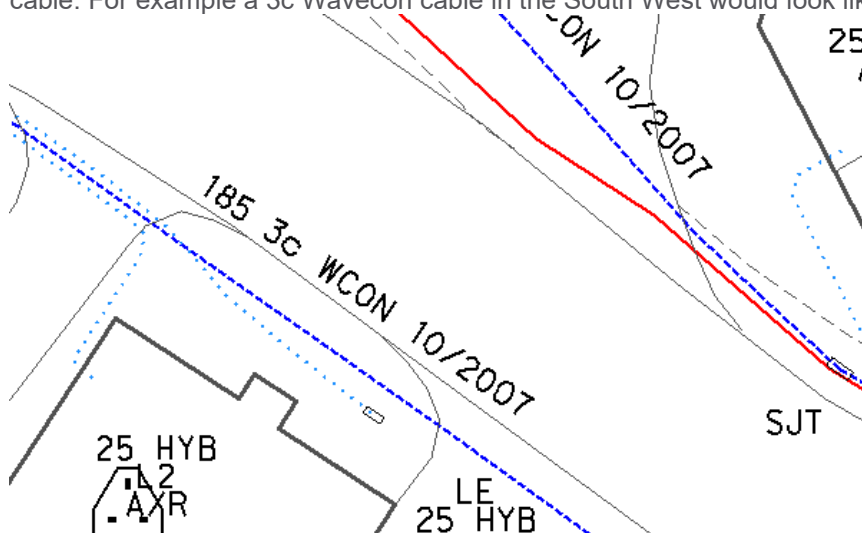
A CNE cable

- 3c wavecon or 4c PILC

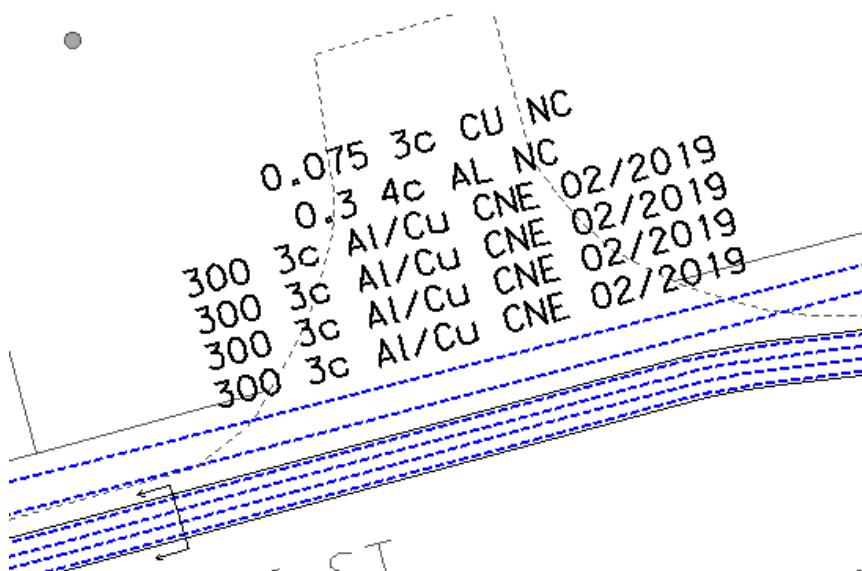
A SNE cable

- 4c wavecon or 5c PILC

There are also differences in how the South West and Wales, and the Midlands describe the same cable. For example a 3c Wavecon cable in the South West would look like this:



Whilst in the Midlands it looks like this:



It should be noted that this is still a cable with aluminium cores, the Cu is referring to the neutral/earth sheath.

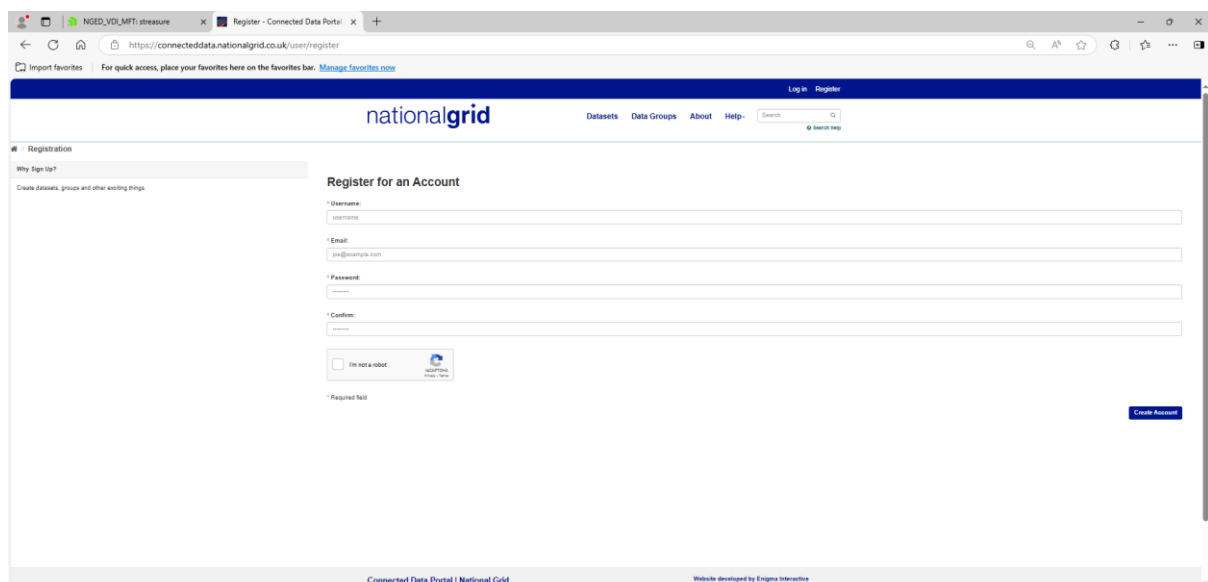
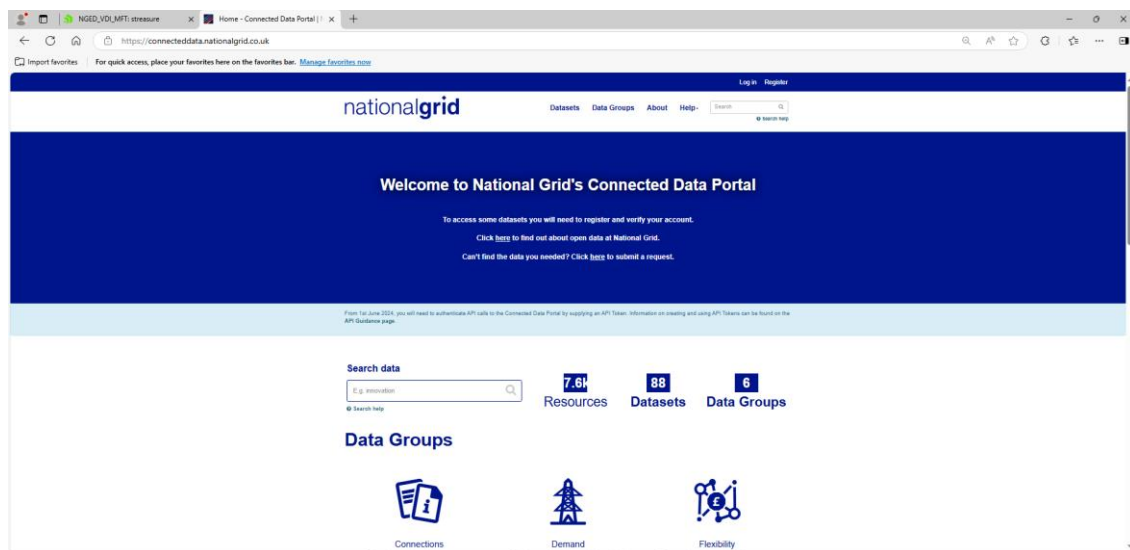
# Connected Data

NGED make various network data available to stakeholders of need and within the Distribution Substation data file, the below information can be found.

Please ensure that an up to date data capture is downloaded for each phase of works.

[Dataset - Connected Data Portal | National Grid](#)

## Step 1. Raise and account and log in





## Step 2. Use the link to search for the ‘Distribution Substation’ data set

The screenshot shows the National Grid Data Portal interface. The search bar at the top contains the text 'distribution substations'. Below the search bar, the results are displayed as a list of datasets. The first result is '22 Datasets found for "distribution substations"'. Under this, there are three main categories: 'Distribution Substations', 'Distribution Substation Location (Easting / Northings)', and '11kV Substations'. Each category has a brief description and a link to view the dataset. The 'Distribution Substations' category is highlighted, showing a description: 'This dataset provides the distribution substations within NGED's four licence areas and their connection to the primary substation. A distribution substation is an electrical...'. The 'Distribution Substation Location (Easting / Northings)' category is also highlighted, showing a description: 'Location of NGED Distribution Substations (Easting / Northings)'. The '11kV Substations' category is highlighted, showing a description: '11kV substations for all NGED areas supplied chunked at OS 20km Grid in zipped ESRI Shapefile (SHP) format. Important Safety Information The information contained in this...'. The '33kV Substations' category is also highlighted, showing a description: '33kV substations for all NGED areas supplied chunked at OS 20km Grid in zipped ESRI Shapefile (SHP) format. Important Safety Information The information contained in this...'. The interface includes a sidebar with 'Data Groups' and 'Tags' on the left, and a search bar and filters on the right.

## Step 3. Locating data

Substation name and number within column J & K

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled 'distribution-substations (1)'. The spreadsheet contains a large table with columns labeled A through V. The first two columns, J and K, are highlighted in green and contain the substation names and numbers. The table lists various substations, including 'Manor Farm Reepham', 'Parker Close Branston', 'Thorpe Grange Indust', 'Oak Crescent Cherry', 'Church View Crescen', 'Lubary Branston', '22 High Street Heighl', 'Perry Grange East', 'Fen View Estate Heig', 'Moor Lane Potterha', 'Robin Court Digby', 'Golto House', 'Carron Close Bardon', 'Manor Farm Stainfi', 'Henry Lane Ind Estat', 'Tanvats Metherring', 'Lubary and Clinic M', 'Harby Railway Bridg', 'Monson Park Skellin', 'RAF Swinderry AMQ', 'Croyal Oak Lane AUBC', 'Shawbury Close', 'Damons Restaurant', 'Meadow Lane N.HYKE', 'North Hykeham West', 'Exchange Road Linco', 'Scott Drive Lincol', 'Triton Road Trading Es', 'Brockside Nth Hyke', 'Elizabeth Ave No 52 N', 'Walbury Close', 'The Point Office Pari', 'The Grove', 'Wirtgen Whiskey Roa', 'Kirkby Green', 'Stone Lane', and 'Station Road Potterhan'. The table also includes columns for 'Grid Ref', 'Longitude', 'Latitude', 'Day Max Dem', 'Night Max Dem', 'Substation LCT', 'Count', 'Energy St', 'Heat P', 'EV Charge', 'Total LCT', 'Total Gen', 'Solar', and 'Wind'.

## Step 4. Formatting data

Freeze frame for titles.

View>Freeze Panes>Freeze Top Row

Highlight the column K and use the search function to search for the substation number of choice.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
1	Licence	AI	Grid	Supp	Grid	Supp	Bulk	Supp	Bulk	Supp	Primary	N	HV	Feeder	Substation	Substation	Name								
2	East	Mid																							
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39	East	Mid																							
40	East	Mid																							

Find and Replace

Find

Replace

Find what: 161066

Options >>

Find All

Find Next

Close

## Step 5. Determining substation utilisation

Transformer rating (kW) is shown within column Q

Day utilisation (kW) is shown within column O

Night utilisation (kW) is shown within column P

Data excludes IDNO connected customers

You can contact us via email [nged.data@nationalgrid.co.uk](mailto:nged.data@nationalgrid.co.uk)

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