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QThermonet

A thermonet dimensioning tool for QGIS

Tutorial 1 (v. 0.1 – June 2025)

Data Licenses

Please attribute Qthermonet/pythermonet with a link to:

Poulsen, S. E., & Tordrup, K. W. (2023, okt. 12). Pythermonet - a Python library for designing thermonet. https://github.com/soeb1978/pythermonet (update when paper is published)

Data used in this tutorial is licensed under an Open Database License (?)

Introduction/1

- The aim of this tutorial is to introduce the capabilities of the QGIS-integrated QThermonet platform for the dimensioning of thermonets.
- The platform integrates the free and open-source dimensioning tool pythermonet (Poulsen & Tordrup 2023*) as a plugin within the desktop QGIS.
- To complete this tutorial basic knowledge of QGIS is required.

*Poulsen, S. E., & Tordrup, K. W. (2023, okt. 12). Pythermonet - a Python library for designing thermonet. https://github.com/soeb1978/pythermonet (update)

Introduction/2

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Download and installation of the following software is required:

• QGIS version 3.34.15 Prizren (Note: v4 to-be-released in October)

This tutorial was successfully performed within Windows 11 OS and using QGIS version 3.34.15 Prizren.

Introduction/3

This tutorial is divided in two parts.

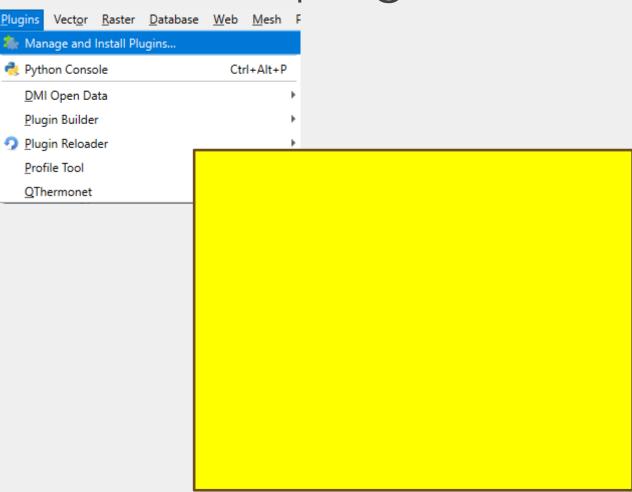
Part A covers pythermonet + QThermonet installation & requirements, and access to datafordeler.dk

Part B covers an example of full dimensioning of a simple thermonet with a case from Denmark.

The estimated time required to go through part B is about 1-2 hours.

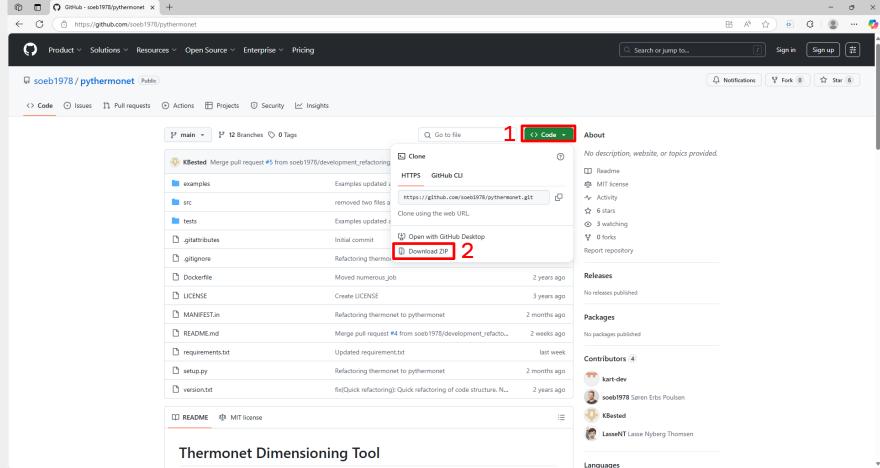
Part A / Installing QThermonet plugin

- First, ensure you have a recent installation of QGIS: 3.34 or later (performance tested on 3.34.15 Prizren)
- To get the latest version of the QThermonet plugin for QGIS go to 'Plugins' in the QGIS menu bar and click on 'Manage and Install Plugins...'
- In the dialogue window that opens select 'All' and search for "QThermonet"
- Click "Install plugin" and close the dialogue window.
- The 'Qthermonet' plugin should now appear in three places: the menu-bar, the processing toolbox, and as a submenu to the 'Plugins' menu.



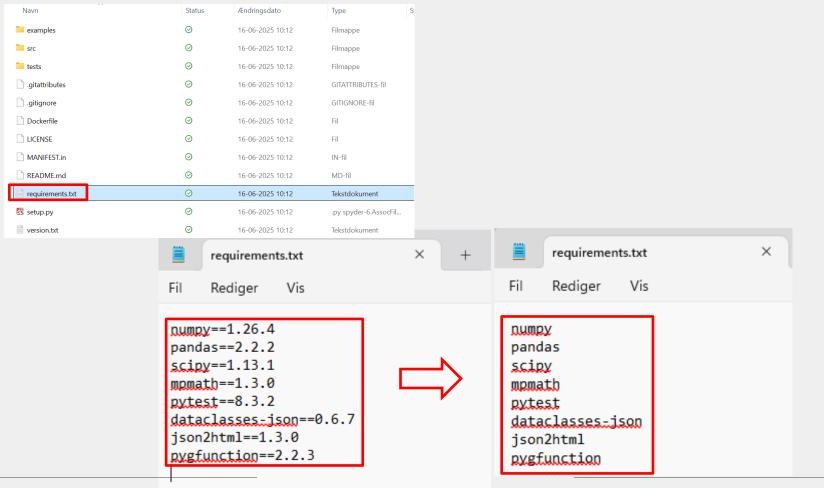
- Please visit <u>GitHub</u> -<u>soeb1978/pythermonet</u> to download a copy of the pythermonet repository (Poulsen & Tordrup 2023*)
- Unzip the downloaded folder to your desktop or C-drive

*Poulsen, S. E., & Tordrup, K. W. (2023, okt. 12). Pythermonet - a Python library for designing thermonet. https://github.com/soeb1978/pythermonet (update)



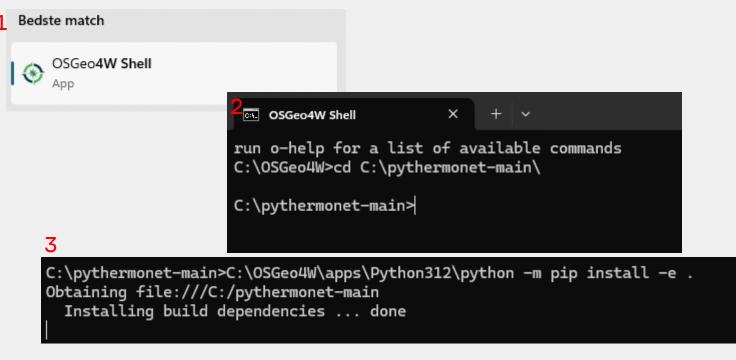
Next, you need to make a few changes to connect the pythermonet codes with QGIS so that the plugin will work.

- From the unzipped pythermonet-main folder open the requirements.txt file
- Remove the version numbers from each line.
- Save and close the file.



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- Open the OSGeo4W shell (search for it on your computer)
- 2. In the shell, navigate to the pythermonet folder, e.g.: cd C:\pythermonet-main\ (replace with path to pythermonet on your computer)
- 3. In the shell, type:
 C:\OSGeo4W\apps\Python3
 12\python -m pip install -e.
- 4. This should lead to succesful installation of pythermonet within QGIS

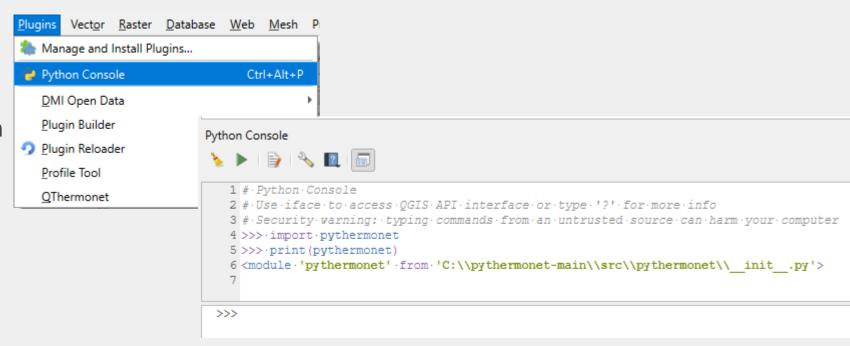


Successfully built pythermonet
Installing collected packages: pythermonet
Successfully installed pythermonet-0.1.0

Check that the installation was succesful by

- Restarting QGIS
- Opening the QGIS "Python Console"
- Run 'import pythermonet'
- Run 'print(pythermonet)'
- Check that the path is correct

NB: if you are re-installing pythermonet, you need to delete the old version or change the filepath.



Part A / DATAFORDELER login 1

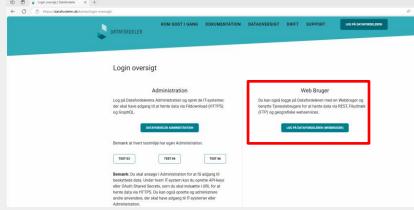
To calculate heatloads for existing buildings in Denmark you need to retrieve BBR information within the QThermonet plugin.

For this, you need a login to DATAFORDELER.dk which you can get after creating a user (ctrl+click left image to follow link):



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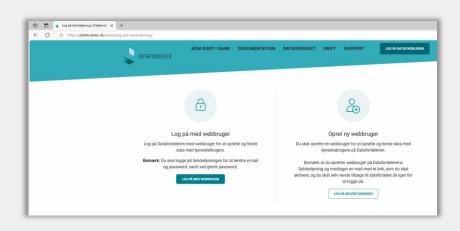
Select 'Web Bruger' in the next step



Part A / DATAFORDELER login 2

If you have not used datafordeler before, you need to create a new user ('opret ny webbruger' - follow the guidelines on the homepage).

Else you can log on with your existing user and then NemLog-in + MitID



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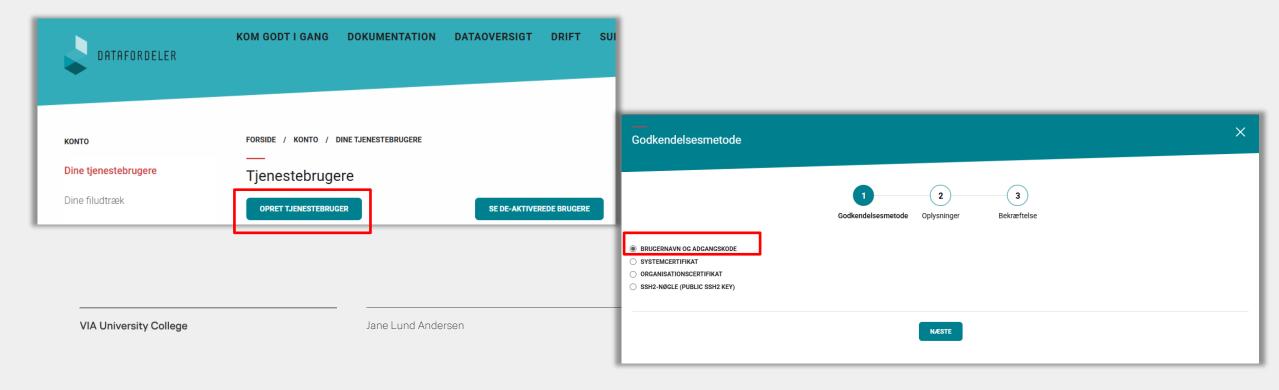


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Part A / DATAFORDELER login 3

After entering the system you have to:

- Create a 'Tjenestebruger'
- Select 'Brugernavn og adgangskode'
- Type your username and password which you will use in QThermonet.



Part B / Test Case Overview

In part B of this tutorial we will work through an example of how to perform full dimensioning of a thermonet for a test case in Denmark. It is divided in three parts:

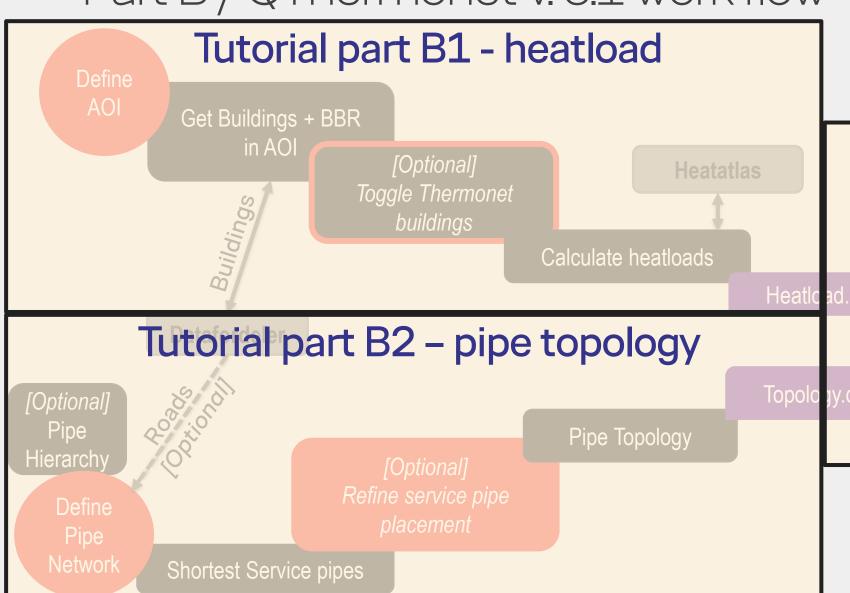
- In part **B1**, the expected heatloads are calculated for a defined AOI
- In part B2, the thermonet pipe layout and topology is developed
- Finally, in part **B3**, dimensioning of the thermonet source is performed

The workflow diagram on the following slide shows how the different tools are connected

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User input Part B / QThermonet v. 0.1 work flow Plugin tools External Data products Define AOI Get Buildings + BBR in AOI [Optional] Heatatlas Toggle Thermonet Buildings buildings **Pythermonet** Calculate heatloads Heatload.dat **Datafordeler** Full Dimensioning Pipe & source Topology.dat [Optional] dimensions Pipe Pipe Topology Hierarchy [Optional] Refine service pipe Define placement Pipe 18. juni 2025 15 Network Shortest Service pipes

Part B / QThermonet v. 0.1 work flow



User input
Plugin tools
External
Data products

Tutorial part B3 – dimensioning

Pythermonet

Full Dimensioning

yy.dat

Pipe & source dimensions

18. juni 2025

16

User input Part B / QThermonet v. 0.1 work flow Plugin tools External Data products Define Click a box to jump to explanation AOI Get Buildings + BBR in AOI [Optional] Heatatlas Toggle Thermonet Buildings buildings **Pythermonet** Calculate heatloads Heatload.dat **Datafordeler** Full Dimensioning Pipe & source Topology.dat [Optional] dimensions Pipe Pipe Topology Hierarchy [Optional] Refine service pipe Define placement Pipe 18. juni 2025 17 Network Shortest Service pipes

Part B / Test case setting

The test case area that we will work with in this tutorial is located in the village of Kattrup, Horsens Kommune, Denmark. In Kattrup, most buildings are currently heated by natural gas or oil. Buldings are from 1751-2021.

According to the climate plan for Horsens Kommune, Kattrup could be a potential candidate for thermonet or individual heatpumps in the future (*Varmeplan Horsens Kommune**).

*Varmeplan 2023-2030 – for Horsens Kommune, last revised 08.06.23, not legally binding.



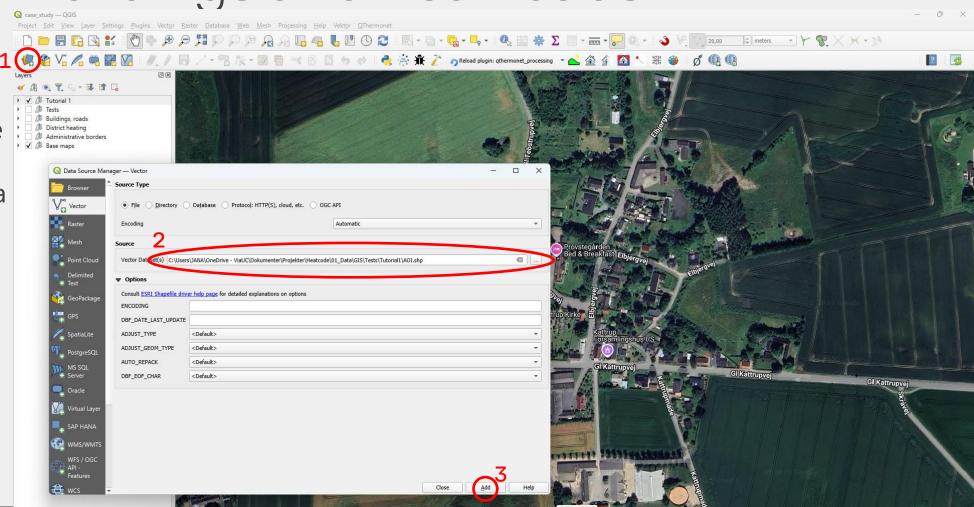


18. juni 2025

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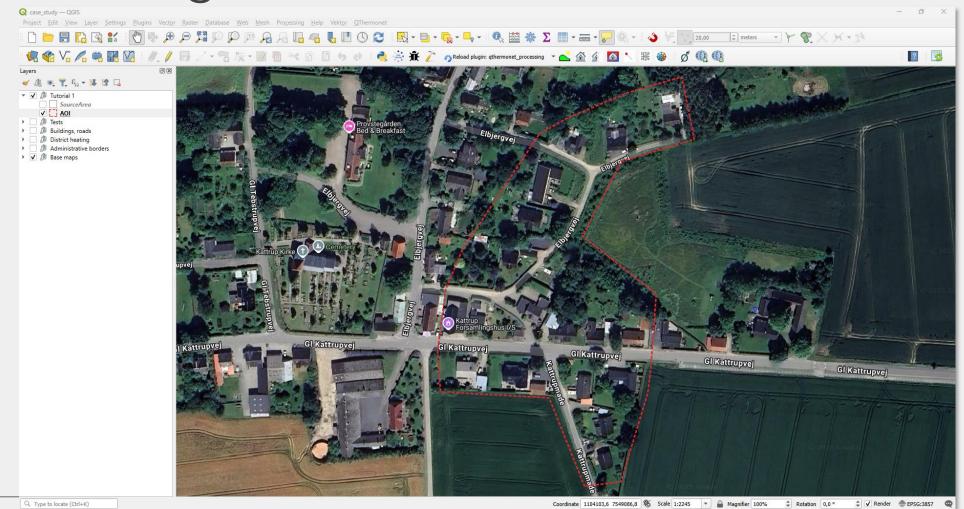


We define the area of interest (AOI) for a potential thermonet in the eastern part of Kattrup using a single polygon in a shapefile/geojson file.



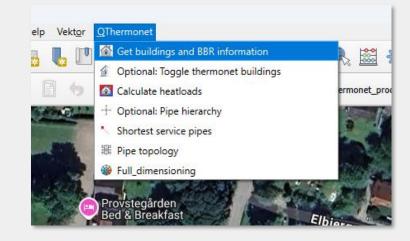


We define the area of interest (AOI) for a potential thermonet in the eastern part of Kattrup using a single polygon in a shapefile/geojson file.



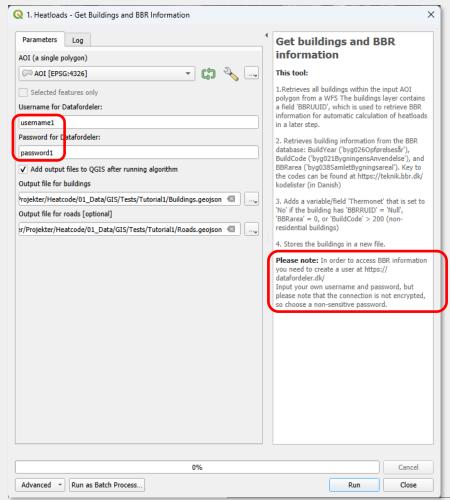


Using the first tool in the QThermonet plugin: "Get Buildings and BBR information" we retrieve the buildings (and roads) within our AOI and the BBR information of the buildings (Total Area, Building Code, Construction Year).



Running the tool requires a username and password for datafordeler.dk (Instructions to set up a user)





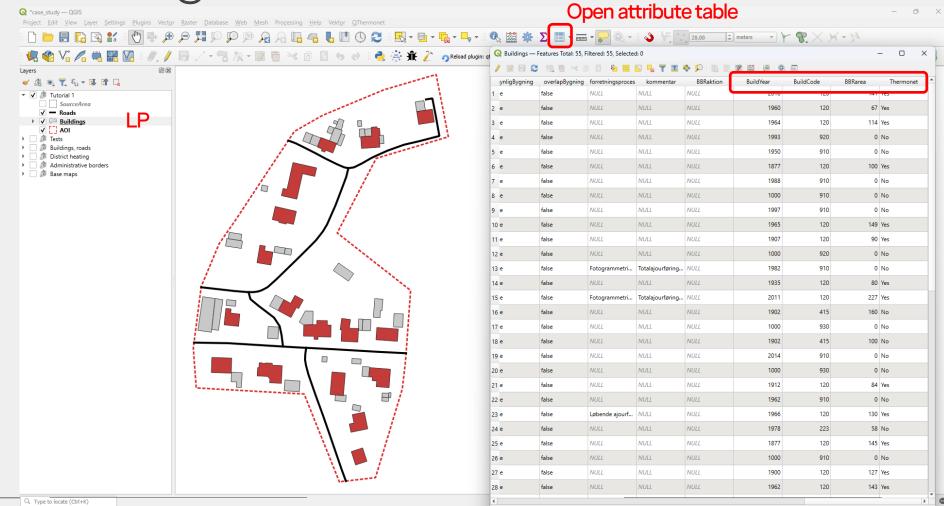
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After running the tool, buildings (+ optionally roads) within the AOI are loaded into the layers panel (LP) of QGIS.

The 'Buildings' table can be inspected using the 'Open attribute table'.

The attribute table contains the data retrieved from datafordelen + three columns from the BBR database + a column called 'Thermonet'



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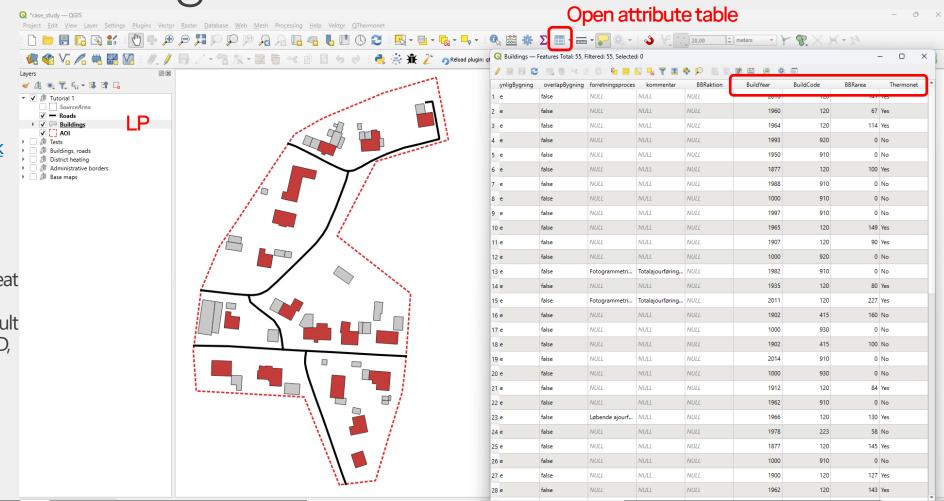
BuildYear: Construction year of the building.

BuildCode: Type of building (residential/industry etc), see codelist here (in Danish): <u>Kodelister - BBR Teknik</u>

BBRarea: Total area of the building (including potential multiple floors)

Thermonet: This column controls whether a building is included in the heat load calculation and connected to the thermonet or not. A building is by default included (set to 'Yes') if it has a BBRUUID, an area >0, and a BuildCode < 200 (residential).

Buildings in red on the map have Thermonet = 'Yes'



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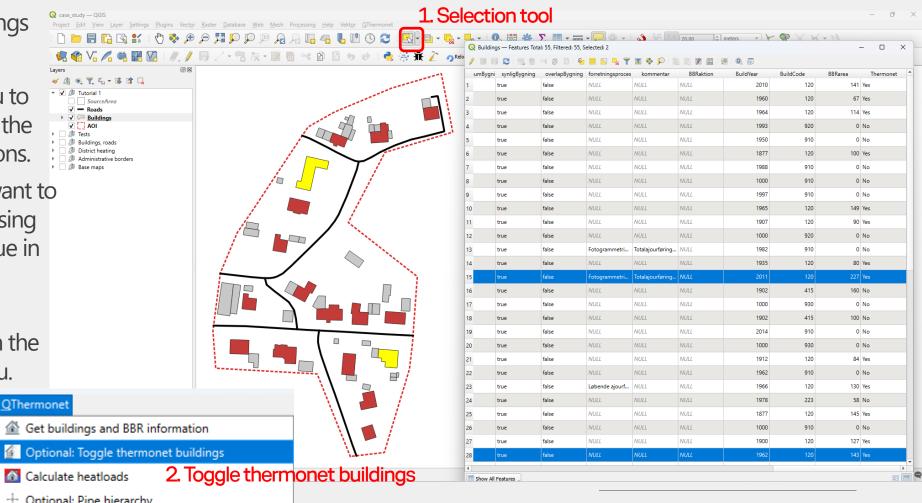
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Optional: Toggle thermonet buildings

This is a helper tool that allows you to easily include/exclude buildings in the heat load and thermonet calculations.

- Select the buildings that you want to toggle on/off the thermonet using the selection tool (they turn blue in the attribute table).
- 2. Open the 'Optional: Toggle thermonet buildings' tool from the QThermonet drop-down menu.



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Calculate heatloads

Coptional: Pipe hierarchy
Shortest service pipes

Pipe topology

Full_dimensioning



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▼ ✓ 🐧 Tutorial 1

✓ — Roads

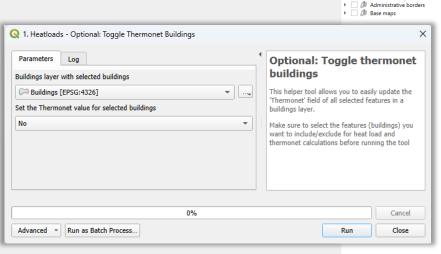
▶ ✓ 🗭 Buildings

Buildings, roads District heating

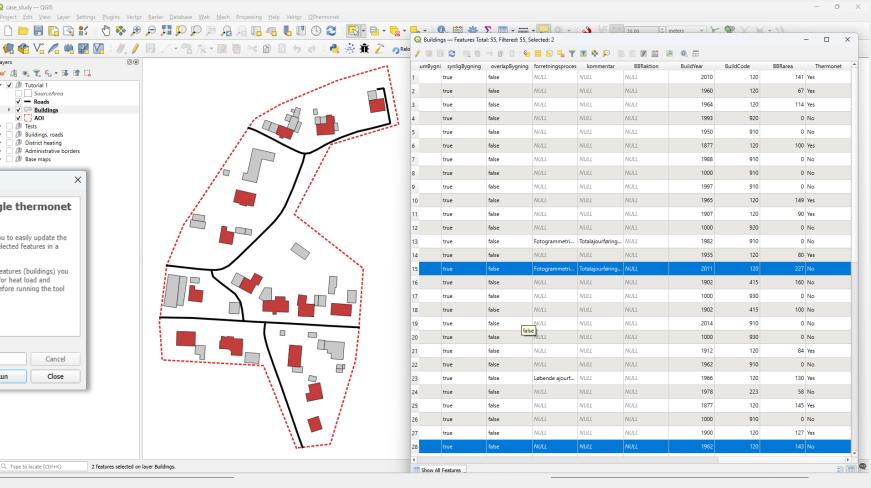
Optional: Toggle thermonet buildings

3. Run the tool to toggle off the selected buildings (sets 'Thermonet' to 'No').

directly.



Alternative: Update the attribute table Q Type to locate (Ctrl+K)



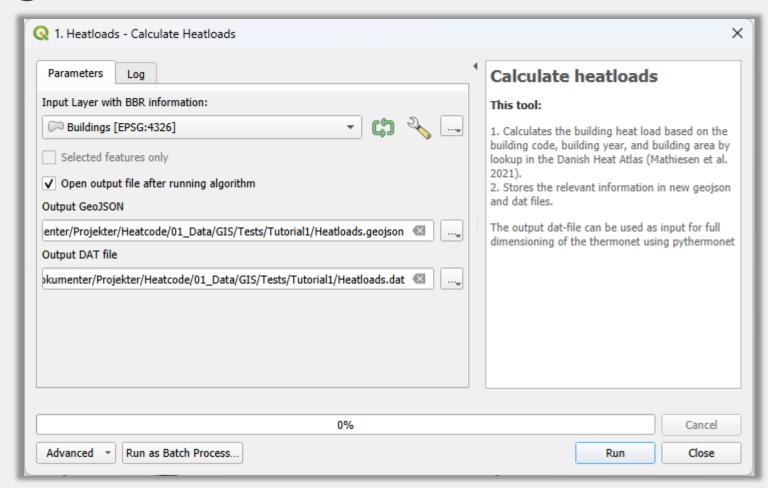
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Calculate Heatloads

This tool calculates annual, winter, and maximum daily heatload for a building based on the BBR information.

Creates the heatload input file (.dat) for running pythermonet dimensioning





Suilding Codes

Calculate Heatloads

- The tool looks up the annual heat load (kWh/m2) for each building in the thermonet based on table look-up in the Danish Heat Atlas (2019)
- Multiplies by building area to get total load.
- For now, multiplies by a fixed factor to get winter/peak daily heat load:

Multiplication factors:

Winter heat load = $1.6 \times annual heat load$

Daily heat load = $3.2 \times \text{winter heat load}$

Specifikt årligt varmeforbrug i kWh/m² for forskellige bygningsanvendelseskoder samt alderskategorier.

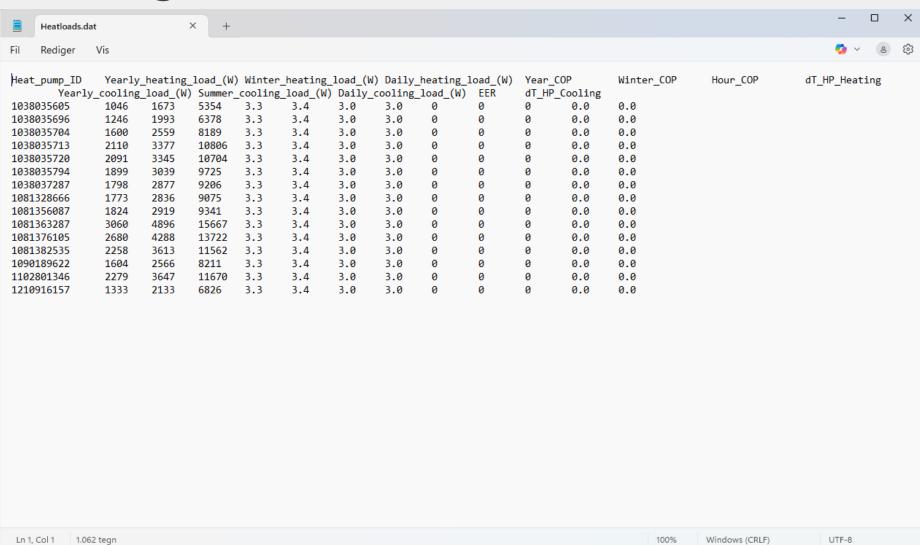
		Construction year								
Anvendelse						· · / ·				
	<1850	1850-	1931-	1951-	1961-	1973-	1979-	1999-	2007<	
		1930	1950	1960	1972	1978	1998	2006		
110	137	156	173	179	138	126	115	106	82	
120	152	185	197	163	123	110	97	82	65	
121	152	185	197	163	123	110	97	82	65	
130	170	180	192	172	130	112	80	69	67	
131	170	180	192	172	130	112	80	69	67	
132	170	180	192	172	130	112	80	69	67	
140	143	139	144	148	117	116	84	76	68	
150	182	177	164	141	128	180	122	111	86	
160	249	206	171	186	153	143	125	112	82	
185	142	172	196	155	151	131	106	74	83	
190	142	172	196	155	151	131	106	74	83	
210	215	244	235	190	198	192	157	166	148	
211	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
212	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Mathiesen, B. V., Lund, H., Nielsen, S., Sorknæs, P., Moreno, D., & Thellufsen, J. Z. (2021). *Varmeplan Danmark* 2021 - Baggrundsrapport. Aalborg Universitet.



Calculate Heatloads

Note: for now, the cooling loads are set to 0



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Define pipe network

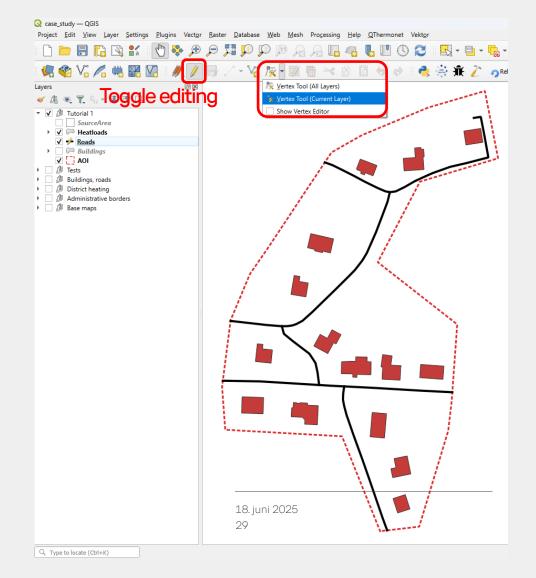
In this step we will modify the roads network retrieved from the tool "Get buildings and BBR information" to define the main pipe network for our thermonet.

Please note that the pipe network needs to have a **tree structure** (i.e. no loops) in order to work.

To modify the network click the 'Toggle editing' button in QGIS and use the 'Vertex Tool (current layer)'.

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Define pipe network

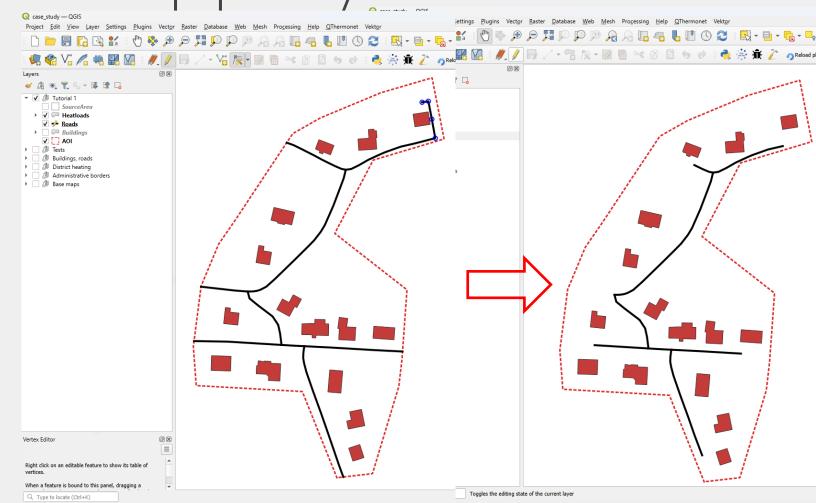
With the vertex tool selected, you can click, drag or delete vertices of the road network.

Remove unnecessary road segments to create your main pipe network.

Don't connect the houses to the network yet!

Save your edits and toggle off the layer by clicking the button again.

Note: Your pipe network does not need to follow existing road network, you can draw your own network e.g. in places where it would be cheaper to dig.



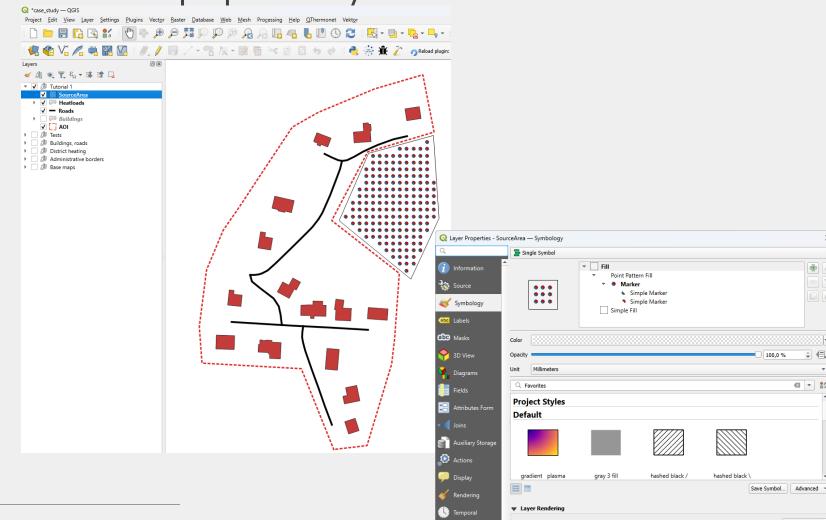


▼ Normal

Part B2 / Thermonet pipe layout 2

Pipe Hierarchy

- To define the pipes hierarchy (main/periferal pipes) you need to decide on the location of your source area (location of borefield or horizontal heat exchangers).
- Load the 'SourceArea.shp' file into QGIS using the data source manager like you did for the AOI (<u>link</u>). The source area is defined as a single polygon.
- Optional: set the style of the layer by double-clicking the layer and changing the 'symbology'.





Pipe Hierarchy

- Next, run the 'Optional: Pipe hierarchy' tool from the Qthermonet plugin menu.
- The tool creates a new output layer ('Pipes') that contains a field 'Level'
- The highest level ("0") is assigned to the main pipe closest to the sourceArea, branching pipes are assigned gradually lower levels ("+1")
- Note: Alternatively the pipe level field can be added and populated manually in the attribute table of the roads file

<u>Layer Settings Plugins Vector Raster Database Web Mesh Processing Help Vektor QThermone</u> Get buildings and BBR information Optional: Toggle thermonet buildings Q Pipes — Features Total: 4, Fil...

□ Calculate heatloads + Optional: Pipe hierarchy Shortest service pipes District heating Administrative borders III Pipe topology OUTPUT Full dimensioning Q 2. Thermonet - Optional: Pipe Hierarchy Log Optional: Pipe hierarch Select the main pipes Laver This tool: √ Roads [EPSG:4326] constructs a pipe network hierarchy f thermonet based on an input pipe layer Select the thermonet source area Layer geometry of the main pipes, and the lo the thermonet source area for the HHE SourceArea [EPSG:4326] Note that the pipe input layer needs to Selected features only tree structure (i.e. no circular loops, an touching (or within 1 m of) at least one Output GeoJSON er/Projekter/Heatcode/01_Data/GIS/Tests/Tutorial1/Pipes.geojson 🖾 📗 The source area file is a polygon that is closest to the main pipe of the networ of the source area is not important. Q. Type to locate (Ctrl+K 18. juni 2025 Cancel

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Advanced V Run as Batch Process.

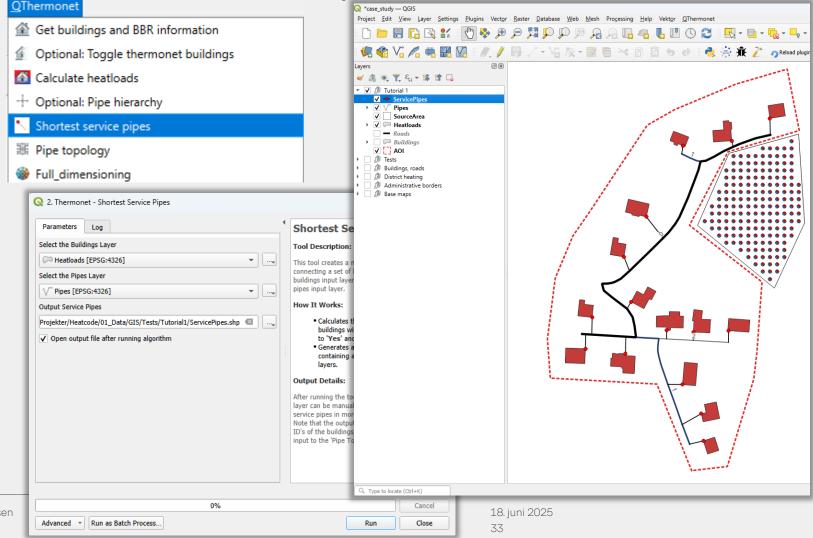
Close



Shortest service pipes

Now the main pipe network is complete, and it is time to combine the houses/ heatpumps to the network with service pipes.

- The tool 'Shortest service pipes' will create a new layer with service pipes connecting each house with the closest pipe segment.
- The output ServicePipes layer contains one line segment for each service pipe illustrated with a red dot at the location of the heatpump and a black line connecting to the main pipe network.
- Optional: The exact location of the service pipe can be refined by setting the ServicePipes layer in 'Toggle editing' mode and using the 'Vertex tool (current layer)' as was done for the main pipes layer (link)

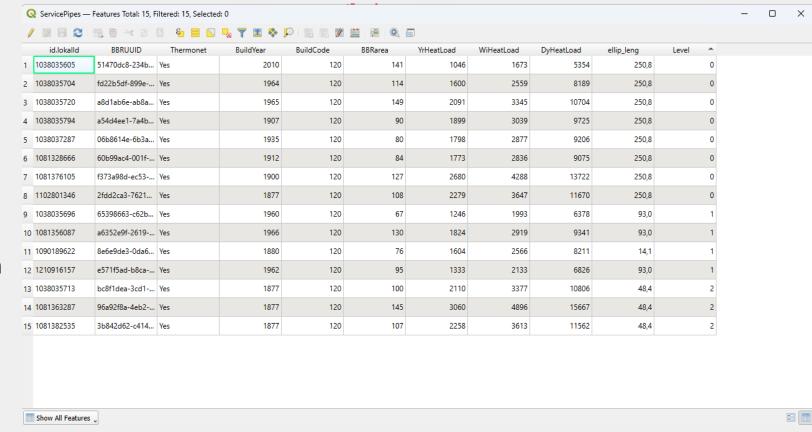




Shortest service pipes

Note that the attribute table of the shortest service pipes layer contain the information from both the heatpumps/houses (BBR, heatloads, heatpump ID (id.lokalld) and the main pipe network (Level).

They therefore tie together the information from step B1 and B2 in this tutorial and provide the link between the thermonet and the heatload.



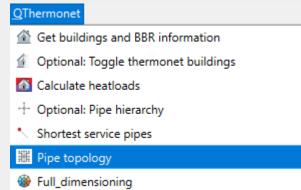
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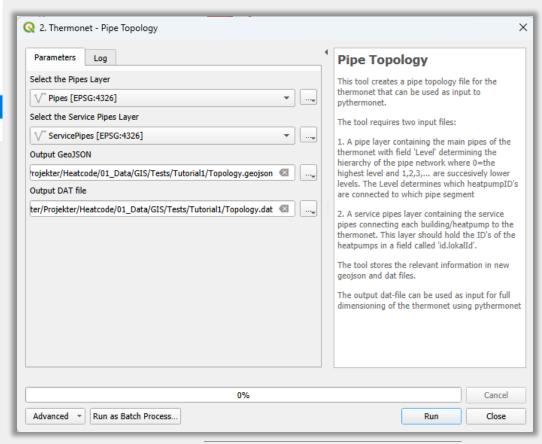


Pipe Topology

The pipe topology tool combines the pipe network and the service pipe network (that contains the handles/IDs of the heatpumps).

The tool generates the Topology.dat file which is a required input for the thermonet dimensioning.



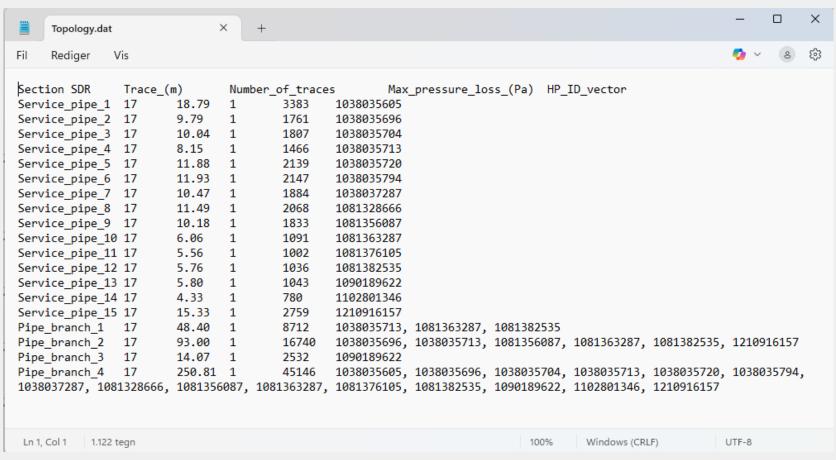




Pipe Topology

Output of the pipe topology tool.

Note: for now, the SDR is set to 17 and the pressure loss to 180*Trace_length by default.





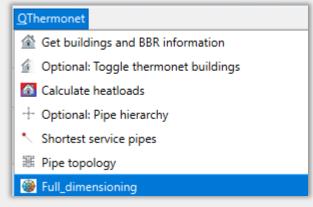
Part B3 / Full dimensioning 1

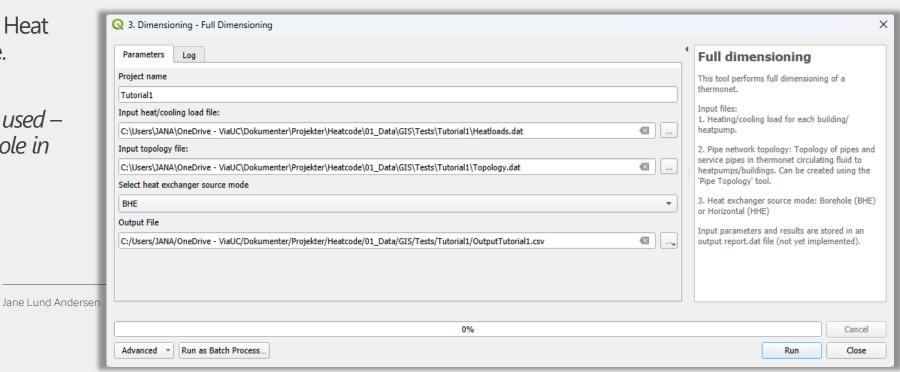
To perform thermonet dimensioning open the Full_dimensioning tool

- Input the Heatloads.dat file created in part B1, and the Topoplogy.dat file created in Part B2.
- Select either Borehole Heat Exchanger (BHE) or Horizontal Heat Exchanger (HHE) source mode.

Note: The output file is not currently used – output is written to the Python Console in QGIS.

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Part B3 / Full dimensioning 2

Manage and Install Plugins...

Python Console

DMI Open Data

Plugin Builder

Plugin Reloader

Profile Tool

QThermonet

Vector Raster Database Web Mesh

Q case_study — QGIS

After running the tool, the output is written to the Python Console in QGIS. The output contains:

- The suggested pipe dimensions for heating.
- The percent of total peak demand covered by the pipe network constituting the thermonet (without source area)
- 3. The dimensions of the thermonet source (BHE/HHE pipe length)
- 4. Average brine temperatures
- 5. Computation time

Ctrl+Alt+P · Va 灰· 翠 南 米 自 目 与 点 Python Console Layers 🍾 🕨 | 📦 | 🔦 🔃 🗐 **⋖** 🖟 🖫 🦷 🕸 🖟 📮 ▼ J Tutorial 1 Pipe Topology ✓ ◆ ServicePipes ▶ V V Pipes 16 Project: ·Tut1KattrupE ✓ SourceArea ▶ ✓ P Heatloads 19 Service_pipe_1: 040 mm · SDR · 17, · Re · = · 1929 Buildings 20 Service_pipe_2: 040 mm · SDR · 17, · Re · = · 2298 21 Service_pipe_3: 050 mm · SDR · 17, · Re ·= · 2360 ✓ AOI 22 Service pipe 4: 050 mm SDR 17, Re = 3115 Facts 23 Service pipe 5: 050 mm · SDR · 17, · Re · = · 3085 Buildings, roads 24 Service pipe 6: 050 mm · SDR · 17, · Re · = · 2803 District heating 25 Service pipe 7: 050 mm · SDR · 17, · Re = · 2654 Administrative borders 26 Service pipe 8: 050 mm SDR 17, Re = 2616 27 Service pipe 9: 050 mm · SDR · 17, · Re · = · 2692 ▶ ☐ ∰ Base maps 28 Service pipe 10: 063 mm SDR 17, Re = 3584 29 Service_pipe_11: .063 · mm · SDR · 17, · Re · = · 3139 30 Service pipe 12: 050 mm SDR 17, Re = 3333 31 Service pipe 13: 050 mm SDR 17, Re = 2367 32 Service_pipe_14: 050 mm SDR 17, Re = 3364 33 Service_pipe_15: 040 mm SDR 17, Re = 2459 34 Pipe branch 1: 075 mm SDR 17, Re = 5457 35 Pipe branch 2: 090 mm SDR 17, Re = 6629 36 Pipe branch 3: 050 mm SDR 17, Re = 2367 37 Pipe branch 4: 0110 mm SDR 17, Re = 12381 41 The thermonet supplies 29% of the peak heating demand 43 ******* Suggested length of borehole heat exchangers (BHE) ******* 44 Required length of each of the 6 BHEs = 207 m for heating 45 Maximum pressure loss in BHEs in heating mode = 495 Pa/m, Re = 6120 48 Long-term brine temperature: 0.30°C 49 Winter brine temperature: -2.39°C 50 Peak load brine temperature: -4.50°C 53 Elapsed time: 0.192899 seconds >>>

Project Edit View Layer Settings Plugins Vector Raster Database Web Mesh Processing Help

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Plugin development plans

- Write output to a file including the parameters + assumptions used in the thermonet dimensioning.
- Tailor (separate) json output to Modelica/Alessandro...
- More advanced input handling to allow setting more of the dimensioning parameters directly from QGIS.
- Optimize code (documentation, speed)
- Enable more sophisticated handling of winter/daily and total heatload calculations (EnergyPlus?)
- Easy adjustment of building parameters for individual buildings
- Coupling with GEUS database/tool for calculation of thermal resistivity (calibrated with TRT results).
- Enable multiple heat sources (e.g. waste heat / LEG-DHC), seasonal demand/supply, balancing thermonet
- Enable different configurations (Now: tree structure, single borefield)
- Link to GHEDesigner for automatic /optimized borehole locations within borefield
- Educational/display of existing thermonets

- ...

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If you need any assistance, please contact:

jana@via.dk

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QThermonet

A thermonet dimensioning tool for QGIS