

Modelling the future GB power system

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List of Abbreviations

- AC Alternating Current
- CCGT Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
- **DC** Direct Current
- DCOPF Direct Current Optimal Power Flow
- **ED** Economic Dispatch
- ESO / NGESO / NESO National Energy System Operator (formerly National Grid Electricity System Operator)
- **ETAP** Electrical Transient Analyzer Program
- ETYS Electricity Ten Year Statement
- **FES** Future Energy Scenarios
- **GW** Gigawatt
- **kV** Kilovolt
- LLM Large Language Model
- LCOE Levelised Cost of Electricity
- MATPOWER MATLAB Power System Simulation Package
- **MW** Megawatt
- MVA Megavolt-Ampere
- N-1 Security criterion meaning the system can withstand the loss of one element (e.g., line, generator, or transformer) without loss of supply
- NGET National Grid Electricity Transmission (England & Wales Transmission Owner)
- OFTO Offshore Transmission Owner
- **OPF** Optimal Power Flow
- pp / pandapower Python package for power system modelling and analysis
- **PSS**®**E** Power System Simulator for Engineering (Siemens PTI)
- **PU** Per Unit (normalized value system for power systems)
- **SHET** Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (Transmission Owner in northern Scotland)
- SPT Scottish Power Transmission (Transmission Owner in southern Scotland)

Abstract

The transition to a low-carbon electricity system is reshaping the Great Britain (GB) transmission network, with growing renewable capacity, changing demand patterns, and increased power transfers across the country. To study these developments, this dissertation develops an automated modelling framework that builds a detailed bus-level representation of the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) system directly from public datasets. The model is implemented in Python using pandapower and incorporates a DC Optimal Power Flow (DC OPF) with cost functions based on the Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE) for different generation technologies.

The framework is validated against trusted reference data and then applied to representative studies. Results show that the model reproduces realistic dispatch patterns and captures key operational constraints such as congestion on the north—south transfer boundaries. Additional scenarios demonstrate how changes in renewable generation and interconnector flows alter network stress, highlighting the usefulness of the approach for exploring future operating conditions.

This work provides a reproducible and extensible platform for analysing the GB transmission system. By linking open data with automated modelling, it creates a tool that can support research, scenario analysis, and long-term planning in the evolving electricity sector.

Declaration of originality

I hereby confirm that this dissertation is my own original work unless referenced clearly to the contrary, and that no portion of the work referred to in the dissertation has been submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university or other institute of learning.

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1 Introduction

This chapter introduces the background, context, and purpose of the project, highlighting the challenges facing the Great Britain (GB) power system during the energy transition. Rapid changes in generation and demand, alongside continuous investment in transmission and distribution, mean the system is constantly evolving. Against this backdrop, the chapter outlines the motivation for an automated, adaptable modelling approach, presents the project's aim and objectives, and defines its scope and intended outcomes, providing the foundation for the methodology and analysis in later chapters.

1.1 Background

The Great Britain (GB) electricity transmission network is the backbone of the national power system. It carries electricity from large power stations and renewable generation sites to the regional distribution networks that supply homes and businesses. The onshore network is managed by three Transmission Owners (TOs): National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) in England and Wales, SP Transmission (SPT) in southern Scotland, and Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) in northern Scotland. Since 2019, overall coordination has been carried out by the National Energy System Operator (NESO), which is responsible for balancing supply and demand and keeping the system secure [1]. Offshore Transmission Owners (OFTOs) also play an important role by connecting offshore renewable generation, especially wind farms, to the onshore grid.

In recent years, the GB power system has been changing quickly. The retirement of coal plants has almost completely removed coal from electricity generation [2]. At the same time, renewable energy sources such as offshore wind and solar power have grown strongly. For example, renewables supplied around 44% of the UK's electricity in 2023 compared with only 7% in 2010 [3]. These changes have created new challenges, including more variable generation, new patterns of power flows, and the need for greater flexibility in the system [4].

To support this transition, there has been very high investment in the transmission network. One example is a £58 billion programme to expand capacity and build new high-voltage routes that will carry electricity from areas of high renewable generation in Scotland to centres of demand in England [5]. The energy regulator, Ofgem, has also approved £4 billion of investment to speed up grid upgrades and help meet the

government's clean energy targets for 2030 [6]. These investments show that the GB network is not static but is constantly developing in response to new requirements.

This shows that the GB power system is undergoing continuous change, shaped by decarbonisation, decentralised generation, and large levels of network investment. Because of this, there is a clear need for approaches that can represent the system in a way that captures both its current state and how it is evolving. Such approaches provide the basis for future energy scenario analysis and long-term planning.

1.2 Motivation

The Future Energy Scenarios (FES), published annually by NESO, outline possible pathways for how the GB power system may evolve under different policies, technologies, and consumer behaviours [7]. They are not forecasts but structured scenarios that are widely used in policy, planning, and academic work to explore long-term challenges [8], [9]. The datasets include projections of generation capacity, regional demand, and electrification, making them a valuable foundation for testing future system conditions. To make effective use of these scenarios, detailed and adaptable models are needed that can capture power flows, identify bottlenecks, and evaluate system behaviour under varying assumptions. As highlighted in the FES reports [7], the increasing complexity of the GB system means modelling approaches must be capable of testing multiple scenarios efficiently. This study is motivated by that need and aims to develop an automated and reproducible transmission model that links directly to public datasets and provides a framework for scenario analysis and security assessment.

1.3 Need for Automated GB Transmission Modelling

While there is extensive literature on power system modelling, very few studies focus on the automation of model creation for the Great Britain (GB) transmission network. Existing research on GB often relies on proprietary models or reduced-order representations. For example, Lyden *et al.* [8], [10] introduced PyPSA-GB, which provides a 29-bus and zonal representation for scenario studies. Such models are valuable for high-level planning and policy analysis but do not capture the full network detail of the GB transmission system. This leaves a gap for automated, high-resolution modelling that can link directly to large datasets. Synthetic test systems such as those developed by Birchfield et al. [11] demonstrate how large, openly available transmission models can be constructed for research and

benchmarking purposes. However, these are generic in design and do not reflect the specific characteristics of the GB system. Other studies use Future Energy Scenarios (FES) data to explore flexibility or renewable integration [12], but these rely on energy flow models that assume the network can always deliver power, representing only boundary constraints, rather than automating public datasets into detailed transmission models.

Although data and modelling tools for the GB transmission system exist, building a detailed and reproducible model remains challenging. Most available approaches are either proprietary, manually constructed, or simplified, which limits their adaptability and scalability. What is missing is a framework that can automatically translate large public datasets into a consistent, detailed model suitable for scenario analysis.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study was to develop and validate an automated model of the Great Britain transmission network using an open-source tools and public data, to enable scenario analysis and network security assessment.

The main objectives of this study were:

- 1. To review and select a suitable modelling approach and tool for power flow and transmission network studies.
- 2. To collect, extract, and process transmission network data, including lines, transformers, generation, and demand.
- 3. To construct and automate the creation of a GB transmission system model using the selected tool.
- 4. To validate the model against published system characteristics or reference data.
- 5. To use the model to identify transmission line constraints, assess Future Energy Scenario (FES) and conditions where N-1 security is not maintained.
- 6. To produce documentation that ensures the model can be reused, reproduced, and extended in future work.

1.5 Contributions

All core objectives were achieved: a suitable modelling approach was selected, NESO datasets were processed into consistent network elements, and an automated workflow was developed to construct the NGET model. The model was

validated against reference data, showing accurate replication of dispatch patterns and boundary constraints, and was applied to scenario analysis and an N-1 study.

The only partial objective was the application to Future Energy Scenarios: while a simplified scenario was considered to demonstrate applicability, a full, extensive FES study was beyond the scope of this work.

1.6 Scope and Limitations

This study focuses developing an automated model of the Great Britain transmission network using an appropriate power flow approach. The work is limited to steady-state analysis and does not include detailed voltage behaviour, dynamic system responses, or integration with real-time control systems.

1.7 Thesis structure

This thesis is comprised of five main body chapters.

Chapter 1 introduces the study. It explains why modelling the GB transmission network is important, outlines the aim and objectives, and defines the scope and limitations. The structure of the thesis is also presented.

Chapter 2 reviews and evaluates different modelling approaches and tools for automating the GB transmission network. It considers their strengths and limitations, before identifying the most suitable option. The chapter also discusses existing studies that have applied transmission system models and scenario-based analysis to the GB network.

Chapter 3 sets out the methodology. It explains how the modelling framework was developed, including the use of public datasets, the automated creation of the network, and the steps taken to reproduce and validate the model. The procedures for scenario exploration and basic security studies are also outlined.

Chapter 4 presents the results. The emphasis is on validation, showing that the model accurately reproduces network behaviour, with selected analyses included to demonstrate its capability for scenario-based studies when required.

Chapter 5 concludes the thesis. It summarises the key findings, reflects on the effectiveness and limitations of the modelling framework, and places the work in the wider context of energy system research. The chapter also outlines directions for future extensions and opportunities for collaboration with industry and academia.

2 Background Research

This chapter reviews the literature relevant to automating the creation of a model of the GB transmission network. It introduces key concepts in power system modelling, compares different approaches and tools, and considers their strengths and limitations. The chapter also discusses previous studies on transmission system modelling and scenario analysis, highlighting how they inform the approach taken in this study.

2.1 The Great Britain Transmission System

The Great Britain (GB) transmission network is among the most extensive and technically demanding in Europe. It spans long geographical distances, interconnecting diverse regional demand centres with major generation hubs. Much of the system is characterised by strong regional imbalances: renewable generation, particularly offshore wind, is concentrated in Scotland and along the east coast, while the highest demand is centred in the Midlands and South of England. This creates substantial north—south power transfers across the system [13].

The rapid expansion of renewable generation has amplified these flows, adding variability and uncertainty to system operation. Offshore wind, now the largest single source of new capacity, can fluctuate significantly over short timescales, while solar power introduces its own diurnal and seasonal patterns. These resources are often located far from demand centres, placing additional strain on transmission corridors. As a result, congestion has become a recurring feature of GB system operation, leading to redispatch actions and high curtailment costs [14]. In 2024, the UK incurred over £1 billion annually in wasted wind generation due to grid constraints [15]. Additionally, the system operator's balancing costs rose by 10% in FY2024/25, reaching £2.7 billion, with £1.7 billion attributed specifically to thermal constraint management [16].

Alongside congestion, the reduction in synchronous generation poses new operational challenges. With coal plants retired and gas generation operating more flexibly, system inertia has fallen, making the network more sensitive to disturbances. Maintaining stability and security of supply in this context requires careful planning and a clear understanding of how the system will evolve [17].

Robust modelling of the GB transmission system is essential for assessing adequacy, understanding the impacts of new generation, and exploring future scenarios. It plays a central role in long-term planning and in meeting GB's decarbonisation and security goals.

2.2 Power System Modelling Approaches

Power system modelling covers a range of timescales, but at steady state, power flow analysis is the fundamental method for understanding grid behaviour and supporting planning and operation.

2.2.1 Power Flow Analysis

Power flow analysis is a central tool in power system studies because it describes how electricity moves across the network under steady-state conditions. By solving the network equations that govern bus voltages, phase angles, and line flows, it provides a snapshot of how generation and demand interact across the grid [18], [19]. This makes it indispensable in identifying congested transmission corridors and evaluating how renewable generation is integrated into the system. When generation in one region cannot be fully transmitted to demand centres, power flow analysis highlights the constraints that lead to redispatch actions and renewable curtailment, both of which are increasingly important in the GB system as renewable penetration rises.

2.2.2 AC and DC Power Flow

Two main formulations are widely applied: AC and DC power flow. AC power flow solves the full set of nonlinear equations for active and reactive power, capturing voltage magnitudes, reactive power behaviour, and losses. This makes it essential for detailed studies of voltage stability and reactive support. However, solving these nonlinear equations for large systems such as GB is computationally intensive and can be difficult to scale.

DC power flow, by contrast, applies simplifying assumptions: voltages are fixed near 1.0 pu, resistances are neglected, and angle differences are assumed small [20]. This reduces the problem to a linear set of equations that approximate active power transfers [21]. While DC power flow cannot capture voltage behaviour or losses, it is efficient and scalable, making it well suited for large-scale scenario analysis, congestion studies, and renewable integration assessments. Since this study is

concerned primarily with transmission constraints rather than voltage management, DC power flow is therefore selected as the more appropriate method, as it captures the active power flows of the network while requiring far less computation, making it suitable for large interconnected systems.

2.2.3 Optimisation-based Approach

The drawback of standard power flow methods is that they depend on a slack bus to absorb mismatches and ignore operating constraints such as generator limits and thermal line ratings, meaning they do not fully capture real-world conditions [19]. To overcome these shortcomings, optimisation-based approaches extend the power flow framework to include both physical limits and operational objectives.

The simplest of these approaches is Economic Dispatch (ED), which determines the least-cost generator outputs required to meet demand. ED considers generator cost functions and operating limits but does not account for the physics of the transmission network. As a result, a solution that appears economical in theory may be infeasible in practice, since power cannot always be delivered across congested or capacity-limited lines [21].

Optimal Power Flow (OPF) extends standard power flow by incorporating both network physics and economic objectives, producing dispatch schedules that are feasible as well as least-cost [22], [23]. Two main variants are commonly applied. AC OPF captures the full nonlinear behaviour of the system, but it is computationally intensive and can struggle with convergence in large or stressed networks [24]. DC OPF, by contrast, simplifies the problem to a linear form, solvable as a convex optimisation problem, which is suitable for large-scale studies [20].

2.3 Power System Modelling Tools

Power system studies rely on specialised software to apply power flow and optimisation methods to real networks. These tools implement the numerical solvers, handle system data, and provide the framework for analysing network behaviour. Choosing the right tool is therefore essential to ensure that the modelling approach matches the objectives of the study.

2.3.1 General Modelling Environments

A wide range of software platforms exist for power system studies, supporting applications from steady-state analysis to dynamic and transient simulations. Widely used examples include PSS®E, which has long been applied to transmission planning and power flow studies using Newton–Raphson and fast-decoupled solvers [25]. DIgSILENT PowerFactory extends beyond power flow into dynamic and stability analysis, with modules for protection coordination and electromagnetic transients [26]. ETAP integrates generation, industrial, and monitoring capabilities within a single environment, while PSCAD/EMTDC specialises in electromagnetic transient studies at very short timescales [27].

Most commercial platforms implement both AC and DC power flow, and many also provide optimal power flow (OPF) functions. These implementations are primarily designed for operational decision support, typically emphasising AC OPF with limited flexibility to modify formulations. While reliable for routine analysis, they are less suited to research applications where repeated OPF runs and customised formulations are required.

For this study, a critical requirement is the ability to automate network creation and analysis. Commercial platforms often rely on graphical interfaces and manual input of network data, which becomes inefficient and error-prone when scaling to large datasets or many scenarios. Scripting-based environments that support automated model generation and batch processing are therefore more suitable, as they allow networks to be constructed and solved consistently across hundreds of scenarios.

2.3.2 Tools for Optimal Power Flow

Given the need for automation and repeated evaluations, tools developed in research contexts are particularly relevant for optimal power flow studies. Among these, MATPOWER and pandapower are the most widely used and form the basis of much current academic and applied work.

MATPOWER is a MATLAB-based package developed specifically for steady-state operations, planning, and OPF research [28]. It implements AC and DC OPF formulations using Newton-based solvers for nonlinear problems and linear programming for DC cases. Its strength lies in being transparent and extensible, making it a benchmark platform for testing new OPF algorithms. However, its

dependence on MATLAB, a proprietary environment, limits scalability and integration with modern data handling workflows. Running large numbers of scenarios or coupling OPF with external optimisation routines can become cumbersome, especially when compared with modern scripting environments.

Pandapower was developed to address these limitations by providing a Python-based framework for power system analysis [29]. Like MATPOWER, it supports AC and DC OPF, but its design emphasises automation and integration with data science tools. Networks can be created directly from tabular datasets using the Pandas data structure, which is particularly valuable when handling large interconnected systems. The framework supports repeated OPF evaluations with minimal manual intervention, enabling efficient large-scale scenario analysis. Pandapower also integrates with widely used optimisation solvers: linear programming solvers for DC OPF, and nonlinear solvers such as IPOPT (Interior Point OPTimizer) for AC OPF, giving it both flexibility and scalability [29].

In summary, MATPOWER remains a reference platform for OPF research but is constrained by its reliance on MATLAB. Pandapower extends the same philosophy into Python, offering a modern, data-driven framework that supports automated model creation, scripting, and large-scale analysis. These features make it particularly suitable for studies such as this.

2.3.3 Selection of Modelling Tool and Approach

This study adopts DC OPF implemented in pandapower. DC OPF is chosen because its linear formulation allows fast, stable solutions for large interconnected systems, making it well suited to analysing power transfers and congestion in the GB transmission network. Pandapower is selected as the tool because it enables automated model creation directly from datasets, integrates smoothly with Python for data handling, and supports consistent scenario-based analysis.

2.4 Critical Comparison of Previous Work on GB Modelling

Although power system modelling has a long history, relatively few studies have focused on openly available, high-resolution modelling of the Great Britain (GB) transmission system. Existing work tends to fall into three broad categories: simplified zonal models, detailed but proprietary models, and synthetic test systems.

One of the most notable open-source contributions is PyPSA-GB, developed by Lyden et al. [8], [30] which provides a 29-bus zonal representation of the GB system. Its strength lies in accessibility and ease of use for policy and scenario studies, but its zonal structure inevitably masks detailed network constraints, such as congestion on specific transmission corridors. The model is therefore more appropriate for long-term strategic planning than for operationally relevant analysis.

Imperial College London and other academic institutions have developed zonal models of GB transmission for specific studies, often focusing on renewable integration and stability [31]. These models typically use data from the National Grid ESO (NGESO) and employ AC power flow or OPF methods [31]. However, they are usually developed for one-off studies, remain proprietary, and are not released in a form that can be reproduced or automated by others [32].

The NGESO itself maintains proprietary planning and operational models, which are the most detailed representations of the GB system [33], [34]. While these form the basis of network planning decisions, they are not openly available and require commercial licences to access [35]. As such, they cannot serve as a basis for reproducible academic research.

A third category is represented by synthetic systems, such as those of Birchfield et al. [36]-[44], which construct large test networks with realistic statistical properties. These are openly available and valuable for benchmarking algorithms, but they are generic in design and do not reflect the specific characteristics of the GB system, such as strong north–south flows or the rapid expansion of offshore wind.

Table 2.1: High-level comparison of representative GB models:

| Model / Source | Resolution | Openness & Data Basis | Reproducibility | FES Scenario Use |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| PyPSA-GB [8] | Zonal | Open-source, | Reproducible, | Good for policy, not |
| PyroA-GB [0] | (29-bus) | ESO/FES public | manual updates | detailed flows |
| Imperial models | Zonal | Proprietary, | Limited, one-off | Scenario-focused, |
| [31] | Zoriai | ESO data | Limited, One-On | not repeatable |
| NGESO tools | Full bus-level | Proprietary, | Not reproducible | Official planning, not |
| [35] | i uli bus-level | internal ESO | Not reproducible | research |
| Synthetic | Bus-level | Open-source, | Fully | Benchmarking only, |
| systems[36]-[44] | (generic) | synthetic | reproducible | not GB-specific |
| This study | Bus-level | Open-source, | Automated, fully | GB-specific, high- |
| i ilis study | (GB-specific) | ESO appendices | reproducible | resolution analysis |

As shown in Table 2.1, each existing approach to GB transmission modelling has strengths but also clear limitations. PyPSA-GB is open and reproducible but

restricted to a 29-bus zonal representation, limiting detailed flow analysis. Imperial College models use ESO data but remain proprietary, developed for one-off studies that cannot be repeated or extended. NGESO's internal tools are the most accurate bus-level models but are inaccessible outside the operator. Synthetic systems are openly available and reproducible but generic, lacking GB-specific characteristics.

This study addresses that gap by developing a bus-level GB model directly from ESO's public datasets. Like PyPSA-GB, it is open and reproducible, but unlike zonal or synthetic systems it captures detailed GB flows, while avoiding the inaccessibility of proprietary models. The novelty lies in combining automation with high resolution, enabling repeated, consistent scenario analysis.

2.5 Summary

This chapter reviewed the literature on GB transmission system modelling and the case for automation. It highlighted the system's main challenges, including regional imbalances driving north—south transfers, increasing congestion and curtailment from renewable growth. Different modelling approaches were considered, from power flow methods to OPF, with DC OPF identified as the most appropriate formulation for this study. Among available tools, pandapower was selected for its ability to automate network creation and support reproducible scenario analysis. In doing so, the chapter fulfils Objective 1: to review and select a suitable modelling approach and tool for power flow and transmission network studies.

3 Methodology

This chapter presents the methodology for developing a reproducible, high-resolution model of the Great Britain (GB) transmission network using Python and pandapower. The approach is code-based rather than graphical, with snippets and pseudo-code illustrating the workflow. Additional libraries, notably pandas, support data handling. Snippets shown are simplified; the full implementation is documented separately..

3.1 Methodological Framework

The purpose of this methodology is to produce an automated model of the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) portion of the GB transmission system, which can later be scaled to cover the full network. At a high level, the framework:

- Takes structured datasets as inputs.
- Produces a pandapower network object as output.
- Is modular and adaptable for updates or scenario variations.
- Demonstrates reproducibility: model can be recreated from the source files.

The outputs of this chapter are:

- 1. A functioning bus-level model of the NGET transmission system.
- 2. A clear strategy for validation.
- 3. A framework that demonstrates applicability to scenario exploration.

3.2 Methodological Workflow

This section describes the process of data preparation, cleaning, network model creation, and validation. It provides a structured overview of the steps undertaken to ensure an accurate and reliable network model.

3.2.1 Data-Driven DC OPF Modelling

The primary data source is the NESO Data Portal, particularly the ETYS appendices, which provide generation, demand, and network data. Table 3.1 summarises the relevant appendices and their contents.

Table 3.1: ETYS Appendices and Data Used

| Appendix Content | | Key Data Provided |
|------------------|--|---|
| В | Substation codes, transmission circuits (lines, cables, series | |
| В | Network Data | devices), transformers (shunts ignored for DC studies) |
| F | Generation | Connection sites, project names, installed capacity (MW), project |
| - | Data | status (built/unbuilt), plant type |
| G | Demand Data | Node identifiers (bus IDs) and corresponding MW demand values |

To represent interconnections, the NESO Interconnector Register [45] is also used, as these assets are essential for validation of cross-border flows. Together, these datasets provide the necessary foundation for constructing a bus-level model of the GB transmission network.

3.2.2 Data Preparation

The ETYS appendices provide the core datasets for this study. Since the methodology is programming-based, the structure of each appendix is important, as column headings determine how data are extracted in pandas (data extraction tool).

ETYS Appendix B – Network Data

Includes substations, transmission circuits, and transformers data sheets (shunt data ignored as not relevant for DC). Examples are provided in Tables 3.2 to 3.4.

Table 3.2: Transmission Circuit Data

| Node 1 | Node 2 | OHL (km) | Cable (km) | Circuit Type | X (% on 100 MVA) | Winter Rating (MVA) | Summer Rating (MVA) |
|--------|--------|-------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| ABHA4A | EXET41 | 48.785 | 0.000 | OHL | 0.9831 | 2078 | 2078 |
| WTHU4C | WTHU4E | 0.000 | 0.000 | Series Reactor | 1.0000 | 2400 | 2400 |
| BIRK21 | LISD2A | 0.000 | 12.891 | Cable | 0.2978 | 817 | 817 |

Table 3.3: Transformer Data

| Node 1 | Node 2 | X (% on 100MVA) | Rating (MVA) |
|--------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| ABHA4A | ABHA11 | 8.4025 | 275 |

Table 3.4: Substation Data

| Site Code | Site Name | Voltage (kV) |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| ABBA | ABERDEEN BAY WINDFARM | 132 |

ETYS Appendix G – Load Data

Contains a single sheet listing bus IDs and their demand values in MW, with an example shown below in table 3.5.

Table 3.5: Load Data

| Node | 24/25 MW |
|--------|----------|
| ABHA4A | 41 |

ETYS Appendix F – Generation Data

Provides generator connection information, including site, capacity, project status, and plant type (important for cost and scenario analysis). An example is given with table 3.6.

Table 3.6: Generation Data

| Project Name | Connection Site | MW Connected | Project Status | HOST TO | Plant Type |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| | Tealing 275/33kV Substation | | Scoping | SHET | Energy Storage System |
| A'Chruach Wind Farm | A'Chruach Wind Farm 275kV Substation | 43.00 | Built | SHET | Wind Onshore |
| Abedare | Upperboat 132kV Substation | 10.00 | Built | NGET | CCGT |

All data must be structured this way for automated modelling.

3.2.3 Data Cleaning and Extraction

Once the datasets are identified and structured, the next stage is to prepare them for use in pandapower. This involves extracting the relevant sheets, cleaning the data, and handling missing data to ensure consistency across files.

3.2.3.1 Extraction with pandas

Using pandas, Excel and CSV files can be imported directly into Python as dataframes, as shown in Figure 3.2 where a transformer rating is extracted.

```
# Import the pandas library
import pandas as pd

# Define the file and sheet to be read
document_name = "ETYS_B.xlsx"
sheet_name = "Transformers"

# Read the selected sheet into a dataframe
df_trafo = pd.read_excel(document_name, sheet_name)

# Columns can be accessed directly, e.g., transformer ratings:
df_trafo["Rating"]
>>> 400  # transformer rating = 400 MVA
```

Figure 3.1: Loading Transformer Rating from Excel with Pandas

3.2.3.2 Standard Cleaning Functions

Helper functions are used to harmonise units and prepare data for OPF analysis. All values are converted to a 100 MVA, 400 kV system base.

As pandapower requires line ratings in kA but ETYS provides them in MVA, a conversion function is applied. Figure 3.3 illustrates the conversion applied.

```
# This function converts MVA ratings to kA.
def convert_mva_to_ka(mva_rating):
    ka_rating = (mva_rating * 1000) / (math.sqrt(3) * 400)
    return ka_rating
# Example
convert_mva_to_ka(500)
>>> 721.69  # equivalent line rating in kA
```

Figure 3.2: Conversion of Line Ratings from MVA to kA

Similarly, a helper function converts reactances from p.u. to ohm/km for use in pandapower as shown in figure 3.4.

```
# Convert reactance from p.u. to ohm/km
def convert_x_from_pu_to_ohm_per_km(x_pu, length_km):
    z_base = (400e3 ** 2) / 100e6  # base impedance at 400 kV,
100 MVA
    x_ohm = (x_pu / 100) * z_base  # convert from percent to
ohms
    return x_ohm / length_km

# Example
convert_x_from_pu_to_ohm_per_km(3.7, 100)
>>> 0.562  # reactance in Ω/km
```

Figure 3.3: Conversion of Reactance from p.u. to Ω/km

Plant types are grouped into broader LCOE categories to ensure consistent cost modelling; the example shown in figure 3.5 is not exhaustive.

```
# mapping plant types for LCOE category
def map_to_lcoe_category(plant_type):
    if plant_type in ["Onshore Wind", "Offshore Wind"]:
        return "Wind"
    elif plant_type == "Solar PV":
        return "Solar"
    else:
        return "Other"

# Example
map_to_lcoe_category("Onshore Wind")
>>> 'Wind'
```

Figure 3.4: Mapping Plant Types to LCOE Categories

3.2.3.3 Handling Missing Nodes

Not all values are directly available in the raw appendices.

For load allocation, if demand is only given at the regional or substation level, it is distributed evenly across the associated buses. This ensures each bus receives a share of the total demand. The code snippet in figure 3.6 illustrates this process.

```
# Distribute regional/substation load evenly across buses
for substation, total_load in regional_load:
    number_of_buses = len(substation.buses)
    load_per_bus = total_load / number_of_buses

for bus in substation.buses:
    pp.create load(net, bus, p mw=load per bus)
```

Figure 3.5: Distribute regional/substation load evenly across buses

Generator nodes are more complex to allocate. In cases where generator buses are not explicitly listed, connection sites are matched against substation names using fuzzy matching, requiring at least an 80% match. Once the substation is identified,

the generator capacity is divided evenly among its buses. The pseudo-code below in figure 3.7 illustrates this process.

```
# Match generator connection sites to substations using fuzzy
matching
for generator in generators:
    substation = fuzzy_match(generator.site_name,
substation_names, threshold=80)

if substation:
    number_of_buses = len(substation.buses)
    gen_per_bus = generator_capacity / number_of_buses

for bus in buses:
    pp.create_gen(net, bus, p_mw=gen_per_bus)
```

Figure 3.6: Match generator connection sites to substations using fuzzy matching

This ensures that generators without explicit bus IDs are mapped to the most likely connection site, preserving network integrity.

3.2.4 Applying the Network Model

The model is designed to be modular, meaning changes such as adding new generators or updating line ratings can be made without altering the workflow. This modularity mirrors the dataset structure, where generation, demand, and network assets are provided in separate files. An example is illustrated in Figure 3.7 where the user loads the network, demand, and generator files along with their respective element sheets.

```
# --- User Inputs ---
network_file = "network_data.xlsx"
demand_file = "demand_data.xlsx"
generator_file = "gen_data.xlsx"

substation_sheet = "substations"
transformer_sheet = "transformers"
line_sheet = "lines"
load_sheet = "loads"
gen_sheet = "generators"
```

Figure 3.7: User Input files and element sheets

To build this network model, a dedicated script (network.py) was created. The script initialises an empty pandapower network and populates it with buses, lines, transformers, loads, and generators based on user-provided datasets. Once the inputs are defined, the script automates the creation of the full network model, which can then be analysed, as illustrated in Figure 3.8.

```
# --- Create Empty Network ---
net = pp.create_empty_network()
# --- Build Network Elements ---
```

```
create_buses(net, network_file, substation_sheet)
create_lines(net, network_file, line_sheet)
create_transformers(net, network_file, transformer_sheet)
create_loads(net, demand_file, load_sheet)
create_gens(net, generator_file, gen_sheet, substation_sheet)

# --- Export Results ---
pp.to_excel(net, "results/network_results.xlsx") # network res
pp.to_excel(net, "results/dc_opf_results.xlsx") # dc opf res
```

Figure 3.8: Network creation and export of results using the network.py script

Running the network.py script executes the full workflow.

The results are exported to Excel files: a network file (network_results.xlsx) and a DC OPF file (dc_opf_results.xlsx), which can then be used for further studies and analysis. The stepwise construction process is reflected in the following subsections, where each function is introduced in detail.

3.2.5 Creation of Network Elements

This section explains how each element of the network is created from the input datasets.

3.2.5.1 Buses

The *create_buses* function reads the substation table (codes, names, and nominal voltages), creates pandapower bus nodes, and stores a lookup (bus \rightarrow id) for later use, as shown in Figure 3.9.

```
# create_buses(net, network_file, substation_sheet)
def create_buses(net, xlsx_path, sheet):
    v_base = 400_000
    df_sub = pd.read_excel(xlsx_path, sheet_name=sheet)
    bus_lookup = {}
    for _, bus in df_sub.iterrows():
        # Create buses
        bus_id = pp.create_bus(net, v_base, bus_name)
        bus_lookup["bus_substation_code"] = bus_id
    return bus_lookup
```

Figure 3.9: create_buses function

3.2.5.2 Lines

The *create_lines* function adds transmission circuits using electrical parameters and end-points. It converts ratings to kA where required, assigns X parameters, and preserves zero-length connections by using a small length, as shown in Figure 3.10.

```
def create_lines(net, file, sheet, bus_lookup):
    df_lines = pd.read_excel(file, sheet_name=sheet)

for _, line in df_lines():
    from_bus = bus_lookup.get(line["from_bus"])
    to_bus = bus_lookup.get(line["to_bus"])
```

```
length = line["Length_km"] or 0.01 # Handle zero length
x = convert_x_pu_to_ohm_per_km(x_pu, length_km)
ka_rating = convert_mva_to_ka(line["mva_rating"])

# Add line to pandapower
pp.create_line_from_parameters(net, from_bus, to_bus,
length, x, ka_rating)
```

Figure 3.10: create lines function

3.2.5.3 Transformers

The *create_transformers* function models transformers between buses using impedance elements, as shown in Figure 3.11.

```
# create_transformers(net, network_file, transformer_sheet)
def create_transformers(net, xlsx_path, sheet, bus_lookup):
    df_trafos = pd.read_excel(xlsx_path, sheet_name=sheet)

for trafo in df_trafos:
    x_pu = trafo["x"] / 100
    mva_rating = trafo["rating_mva"]

# Add transformer as impedance element
    pp.create_impedance(net, from_bus, to_bus, x_pu,
mva_rating)
```

Figure 3.11: create transformers function

3.2.5.4 Loads

The *create_loads* function assigns demand to buses by reading bus-level demand in MW or distributing substation totals across buses, as shown in Figure 3.12.

Figure 3.12: create loads function

3.2.5.5 Generators

The *create_gens* function allocates generation by connection site and plant type. It matches sites to substations using fuzzy matching, splits capacity across buses at the matched substation, creates generator elements for DC OPF active power, and

assigns each generator a cost function based on its LCOE category, as shown in Figure 3.13.

```
# create_gens(net, generator_file, gen_sheet, substation_sheet)
def create_gens(net, xlsx_path, sheet):
    df_gens = pd.read_excel(xlsx_path, sheet_name=sheet)
    for gen in df_gens ():
        # Substation identified via fuzzy matching (see earlier section)
        # Map plant type to LCOE category (done earlier)

        for bus in buses:
            pp.create_gen(net, bus, p_mw, slack=False)
        # Assign linear cost function to generator
            pp.create_poly_cost(net, element=gen,
cp1_eur_per_mw=gen_cost)
```

Figure 3.13: create gens function

To represent generation costs within the OPF, this study adopts the Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE), a widely used metric that expresses the average lifetime cost of electricity per unit of output, using capital, operational, and fuel costs [46], [47].

3.3 Validation

The model is validated to ensure it produces plausible results and to demonstrate that it can be applied to FES analysis, generating outputs that can support research and decision-making. The outcomes of this validation are presented and discussed in the Results and Discussion chapter of this dissertation

3.3.1 Validation Requirements

Validation requires a set of reference points against which the model outputs can be assessed. The requirements applied are:

- Results Review: Assess network and DC OPF outputs for plausibility.
- Using Reference Data: Compare dispatch and boundary flows with published values under comparable loading.
- Scenario Applicability: Demonstrate the model in base cases (e.g., winter/summer loading) and standard security studies (N-1).
- High Resolution: Use bus-level detail to identify fully loaded lines.

3.3.2 Implementation of Validation

To implement the validation strategy, two additional elements are introduced:

Interconnectors: Based on the NESO Interconnector Register [45], key links (e.g., IFA, Nemo, BritNed, NSL, EWIC) are modelled as short lines with ratings to capture transfer capacity. Their operating mode is set manually and excluded from DC OPF optimisation.

Scottish Power Transmission (SPT) Assets: A reduced Scottish network is represented by aggregating demand and generation into single loads and equivalent generators by plant type. These participate in the DC OPF, enabling comparison with published boundary flow data while keeping the focus on the NGET network. The validation workflow proceeds as follows:

3.3.2.1 Reference Data Comparison

The system load is scaled to match published operating conditions, ensuring that the test cases represent realistic system states.

The base cases correspond to summer and winter loading. Once the load adjustments are complete, the DC OPF is executed using *pp.rundcopp* to produce generator dispatch and line flow results. The resulting outputs from res_gen are then collated and compared with reference generation patterns from Grid Templar to confirm that the model produces plausible dispatch.

Boundary transfers were aggregated from the exported <code>res_line</code> results (<code>dcopf_results.xlsx</code>) and compared with ESO's published data, providing a system-level benchmark. Individual line loadings were then assessed, with lines reaching 100% thermal limits used to identify critical transmission corridors and the conditions under which they become binding.

3.3.2.2 Scenario Analysis

In the scenario analysis, the load is increased by +10% to represent increased electrification. This is applied to both winter cases, with equivalent line constraints set to reflect the seasonal thermal limits. Renewables are also increased by +10% to represent higher renewable energy penetration as shown in figure 3.3.

```
net.gen.loc[net.gen["name"].str.contains("Wind|Solar"), "p_mw"]
*= 1.10
```

Figure 3.14: Implementation of Renewable Growth Scenario (+10%)

The DC OPF is then executed, and the resulting dispatch and flows are compared against the winter base cases.

3.3.2.3 N-1 Security

For the N-1 analysis, the winter base case is used as reference. System load is increased in small steps; after each increment, an N-1 screen is run by opening one line at a time and re-solving the power flow. The case is deemed insecure once the contingency evaluation returns False, i.e., any post-contingency element reaches or exceeds its limit. When the check returns False, the system has reached its maximum secure demand for this test case. The implementation is shown below in figure 3.4.

```
step = 0.02  # +2% per step
while True:
    scale += step
    net.load["p_mw"] *= (1 + step)  # increment load
    res = pp.run_contingency(net, nminus1_cases)
    if not res["is_secure"].all():  # check security success
        break
```

Figure 3.15: Implementation of N-1 Security Criterion

This chapter demonstrates the applicability of the framework using selected scenarios based on FES-style inputs. A comprehensive exploration of all possible scenarios is beyond the current scope and is reserved for future work.

3.4 Summary

This chapter has developed a reproducible, high-resolution model of the GB transmission system using Python and pandapower. Structured datasets from NESO's ETYS appendices were collected, processed, and integrated to automate the creation of a bus-level NGET model, with transformers represented as impedances and generators assigned LCOE-based cost functions. The model was validated against published reference generation patterns and boundary flows to ensure plausibility. Scenario analysis was implemented by scaling winter base case to reflect demand growth and renewable penetration, while N-1 contingency analysis was used to identify maximum secure demand.

In doing so, the chapter has fulfilled the study's objectives:

- 2. Collecting and processing network data.
- 3. Constructing and automating the model.
- 6. Producing a documented workflow that is reusable and extendable for future applications.

4 Results and discussion

This section presents results for the GB transmission system, focusing on NGET. Scotland and offshore systems are simplified as aggregated loads, generators, and interconnectors to capture wider interactions while analysing the England–Wales backbone. For the model to be considered successful, it must:

- Accurately parse and generate network elements from the dataset.
- Assemble a network model from the parsed elements, capable of DCOPF.
- Run analyses and scenarios reliably, and
- Produce results that align with reference data.

Failure to meet any of these criteria would indicate that the model cannot be relied upon for system studies.

4.1 The Network Model

The network model was generated from the parsed NESO dataset, comprising buses, generators, loads, lines, and transformers.

4.1.1 Base Network Parameters

To verify the integrity of the dataset, the exported network parameters were compared directly with the original NESO appendix data. The aim was to confirm that all network components were correctly parsed.

The NESO appendix provides the reference values for network equipment, as shown in *Table 4.1* for a sample of transformers. For example, a 400 kV transformer rated at 275 MVA connects bus ABHA4A to bus ABHA11, with reactance given as 8.4025% on a 100 MVA base. A second transformer links ABHA4B to ABHA12, rated at 264 MVA with the same reactance value.

Table 4.1: NESO Appendix Transformer Data

| Node 1 | Node 2 | R (% on 100MVA) | X (% on 100MVA) | Rating (MVA) |
|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ABHA4A | ABHA11 | 0.1658 | 8.4025 | 275 |
| ABHA4B | ABHA12 | 0.1658 | 8.4025 | 264 |

The corresponding transformer dataset exported from the model is presented in *Table 4.2*. Here, the *from_bus* and *to_bus* IDs are correctly assigned, the MVA ratings are preserved, and the reactance values (originally in %X) are accurately converted into per unit (p.u.).

Table 4.2: Parsed Transformer Data from Model

| | from_bus | to_bus | xft_pu | xtf_pu | sn_mva | in_service |
|---|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|------------|
| 0 | 3 | 495 | 0.084025 | 0.084025 | 275 | TRUE |
| 1 | 6 | 496 | 0.084025 | 0.084025 | 264 | TRUE |

A similar validation was carried out for the bus dataset. The model export, shown in *Table 4.3*, lists the bus IDs and voltage levels, confirming that the correct nodal structure of the transmission system has been reproduced.

Table 4.3: Parsed Bus Data from Model

| bus_ID | name | vn_kv | in_service | geo |
|--------|--------|-------|------------|------|
| 3 | ABHA4A | 400 | TRUE | null |
| 6 | ABHA4B | 400 | TRUE | null |
| 495 | ABHA11 | 400 | TRUE | null |
| 496 | ABHA12 | 400 | TRUE | null |

Validating these datasets is vital, as errors such as misallocated transformers or bus IDs can distort flows, while consistency with NESO data ensures the DC OPF and scenario analyses can be trusted to reflect realistic system behaviour.

4.1.2 Model Representation

Running the program to generate the model and plotting the network topology produced the interconnected system shown in *Figure 4.1*. In this representation, loads are depicted in red, generators in blue, and transmission lines in grey. The plot does not use actual ETYS coordinates or line lengths but a force-directed layout, drawing connected buses closer and unconnected ones apart. Strongly connected areas cluster, and some lines curve to reduce overlap and improve clarity.

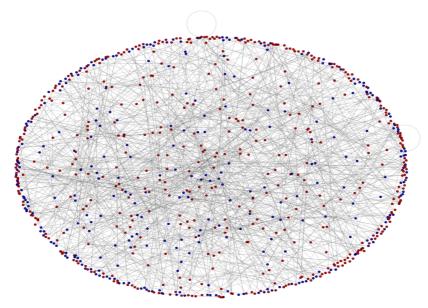


Figure 4.1: Topological Representation of the NGET Transmission Network (Individual Nodes Not Identifiable at this Scale)

While the individual bus nodes cannot be distinguished at this scale, the figure demonstrates that the system is highly interconnected and meshed, consistent with expectations for a national transmission network. Such meshed connectivity is vital for system redundancy and operational flexibility, ensuring that power flows can be re-routed during contingencies.

4.1.3 DCOPF Under Different Injections

In the base network model with 784 buses, the overall bus voltage angle spread is 45.0°, consistent with a meshed transmission system where power flows are shared across parallel paths, limiting large regional separations.

When Scotland and offshore generation (12.5 GW total, including 8.15 GW wind and 1.27 GW nuclear) and interconnectors (9.8 GW total, with 8.8 GW import and 1.0 GW export) are introduced, the spread rises to 69.2°. These concentrated injections and withdrawals alter flow distribution, making the system behave more like a radial network. Instead of dispersing evenly, bulk transfers are channelled through a limited number of north—south corridors, particularly across the Harker—Moffat boundary.

This reflects a known operational feature of the GB system: wind generation from Scotland and the North is often constrained by southward transfer capacity, leading to curtailment during periods of high output. The wider angle spread in the DC OPF results therefore captures both the mathematical effect of concentrated sources/sinks and a key real-world limitation in accommodating northern wind under current transmission capacity.

4.2 Reference Case Studies

To assess the validity of the model, results were benchmarked against Grid Templar reference data [48].

4.2.1 Generation dispatch

System loading was adjusted for seasonal conditions, with interconnector contributions fixed to match the reference dataset. Three cases were examined:

4.2.1.1 Case 1: Winter Base Case (Normal Availability)

Figure 4.2 compares the generation mix from the Grid Templar dataset and the modelled dispatch, both under winter peak loading. Each is normalised to the same system demand of ~36 GW.

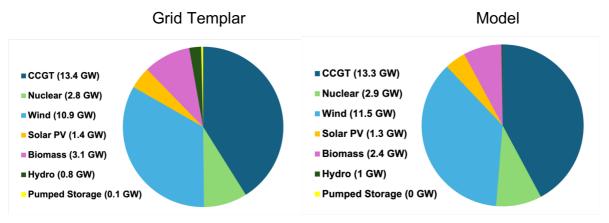


Figure 4.2: Grid Templar vs Model (Normal Availability)

Both the dataset and the model show a generation mix dominated by CCGT (37–38%), wind (30–32%), and nuclear (~8%), with solar at ~4%. Minor deviations occur in smaller categories: biomass (8.6% vs 6.7%) and hydro plus pumped storage (0.2% vs ~2.5%). Despite these, total generation matches demand, and the main technology shares align closely, confirming that the model accurately represents winter operation and that the DC OPF and dataset parsing are functioning correctly.

4.2.1.2 Case 2: Winter Case (No Solar Availability)

Figure 4.3 compares the generation mix from the Grid Templar dataset with the model dispatch under winter loading. In reality, solar is unavailable in this case, and the grid templar dataset records 0 GW from solar. The model, however, still dispatches around 1.3 GW, treating it as fully available. This limitation is not unique to solar; it also applies to wind, which the model dispatches whenever capacity exists, regardless of whether weather conditions allow it.

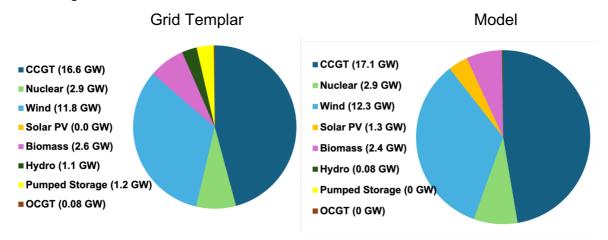


Figure 4.3: Grid Templar vs Model (No Solar Availability)

The overall generation mix is otherwise very similar. CCGT contributes 45.8% versus 47.3% while wind contributes 32.6% percent versus 34%, and nuclear 7.85% versus 8.12%. The close match for the main technologies shows that the model captures

broad system behaviour under winter conditions. However, the inclusion of solar when none is available highlights a structural weakness: generation is dispatched by installed capacity rather than availability, overstating renewable penetration and masking the true role of hydro plants.

4.2.1.3 Case 3: Summer Case (High Solar Availability)

Figure 4.4 compares the generation mix from the Grid Templar dataset with the model dispatch under summer conditions. The model dataset reports only 1.3 GW capacity of solar, and this is exactly what the model dispatches. In reality, solar availability in summer is much higher (over 10 GW recorded by Grid Templar on the same day), meaning model underestimates solar output. Similarly, the ETYS appendix dataset reports no pumped storage contribution, which also carries through to the model.

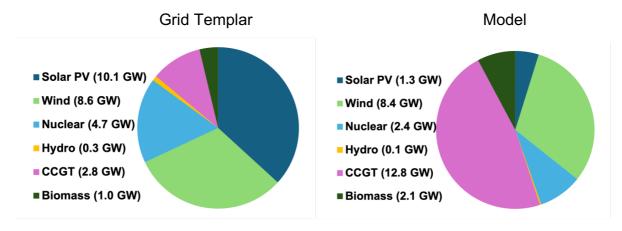


Figure 4.4: Grid Templar vs Model (High Solar Availability)

Other technologies are more consistent. For example, wind is 8.6 GW in the grid templar dataset compared with 8.4 GW in the model. Nuclear differs more noticeably, with 4.7 GW in the dataset versus 2.4 GW in the model, while biomass is slightly overstated by the model (1.0 GW vs 2.1 GW). CCGT, however, is severely overstated, with 12.8 GW in the model compared to only 2.8 GW in the dataset. This case demonstrates that the accuracy of the model is fundamentally limited by the dataset it is built on. Since the ETYS dataset only reports 1.3 GW of solar, the model cannot reproduce the true scale of solar generation in summer, even though more than 10 GW was actually available. The same applies to pumped storage, which is entirely absent from the dataset and therefore missing from the model output. These omissions result in a distorted generation mix where nuclear and solar are understated and other sources such as CCGT and biomass are overstated to make up the balance. In practice, this highlights that while the model reflects the

dataset reliably, it cannot capture real system behaviour when the dataset is incomplete.

4.2.2 Boundary flow

Across all test cases, the Harker–Moffat 400 kV line was observed to operate close to or at its maximum thermal rating. In the winter base case, the line was consistently saturated, with one circuit reaching 100% of its thermal limit and the second circuit operating at 98% loading, as shown in table 4.4. This behaviour is consistent with NESO reports, which state that the north–south B6 boundary capability is limited to 6.7 GW due to thermal constraints on this corridor [49]. The results therefore confirm that the model correctly identifies the Harker–Moffat line as the critical constraint on the B6 boundary, aligning with real system behaviour where north–south transfers are structurally bottlenecked by this corridor.

Table 4.4: Winter Case - Harker-Moffat Line Loading

| | from_bus | to_bus | loading(%) |
|-----|----------|--------|------------|
| 358 | SPT | HARK41 | 100 |
| 357 | SPT | HARK41 | 98.05694 |

In contrast, the summer case presented a different outcome. With 1,400 MW imported from Norway through the Blyth station (North Sea Link), the dominant congestion shifted southwards. The Hartlepool–Tod Point–Lackenby corridor emerged as the critical bottleneck, with loadings of 98% and 90% recorded on its circuits, while Harker–Moffat reduced to around 84–83%. This result highlights how interconnector flows can significantly alter the stress distribution on the NGET network, transferring the binding constraint from the B6 boundary towards the B7 region.

Table 4.5: Summer Case - Key Line Loadings

| | from_bus | to_bus | loading(%) |
|-----|----------|-------------|------------|
| 380 | HATL21 | TODP21 | 98.3 |
| 457 | LACK21 | TODP21 | 90.2 |
| 358 | SPT | HARK41 | 84.9 |
| 357 | SPT | HARK41 83.2 | |

The location of this constraint within NGET, between the B6 and B7 boundaries, is illustrated in Figure 4.5, which was adapted from Elexon boundary diagrams. It shows how the Blyth interconnector connects into Hartlepool and flows south through Tod Point to Lackenby, reinforcing the modelled outcome that this corridor becomes critical under high interconnector imports.

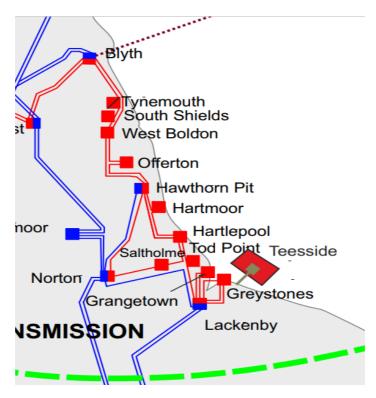


Figure 4.5: B6–B7 Boundary Constraint: Blyth to Hartlepool–Lackenby (adapted from Elexon [50])
Further analysis of this boundary would require access to more detailed operational data, including reinforcement plans, dynamic ratings, and curtailment records, which were not available within the scope of this study. Nevertheless, these findings demonstrate that the model captures key operational constraints observed in practice and provides a reliable basis for subsequent congestion and renewable integration studies.

4.3 Scenario Analysis: Increased Renewables and Loading (+10%)

Wind output rises from 12,250.6 MW to 13,475.6 MW, while solar increases from 1324.5 MW to 1456.9 MW. Other generation categories remain unchanged.

The DCOPF results also show that the overall network angle spread increases from 76 degrees in the base case to 79 degrees in the scenario, a change of about 3 degrees, when compared to the winter base case.

The extra 1.35 GW of renewable generation is absorbed into the system without displacing thermal units, but the wider angle spread indicates greater stress on interarea transfers. In particular, the Harker–Moffat corridor remains binding at its 6.7 GW thermal limit, confirming it as the critical boundary in both cases.

The 3-degree increase in overall angle separation is modest in absolute terms but important in context. It shows that additional renewable injections amplify north—

south transfer requirements, reinforcing existing congestion and widening the angle difference between exporting and importing areas. In practical terms, this means that even relatively small increases in renewable penetration can exacerbate bottlenecks that are already binding, increasing congestion costs and reducing operational flexibility.

4.4 N-1 Security Assessment

The N-1 assessment for the winter case yields a maximum supported load of 8,754.91 MW, specific to the NGET system (England and Wales).

At first glance, the result is implausibly low, since a winter GB system should normally support several tens of gigawatts of demand. However, when considering that parallel circuits in the dataset are represented as single lines, the outcome becomes more understandable. The aggregation of parallel paths into a single equivalent line significantly reduces apparent transfer capability and therefore constrains the N-1 secure load.

That said, the result may also be influenced by dataset inconsistencies or data errors, such as misapplied thermal ratings or transformer parameters. While the figure of 8.75 GW can be rationalised in terms of the simplified representation of parallel lines, it ultimately does not reflect the true behaviour or secure capacity of the GB transmission system. Instead, it highlights the limitations of the dataset and modelling assumptions used in this study.

4.5 Limitations and Challenges of the Approach

From this chapter, several key points emerge about the model and its application:

- The model dispatches renewables as if they are readily available, rather than
 reflecting real weather conditions. When the right conditions are set in the
 dataset, it can be applied to scenario studies that provide credible insights into
 congestion and dispatch.
- The model is only as good as the dataset it relies on. Incomplete or constrained datasets lead directly to unrealistic outputs.
- Scenario analysis demonstrates that the framework can be used to test the
 effects of increased load or renewable penetration, but the outcomes remain
 tied to the quality and realism of the input data.

 Economic representation is limited. Results reflect market behaviour only in the sense of least-cost dispatch, and the use of LCOE-based cost functions captures long-term averages but ignores short-term bidding strategies, ancillary services, and operational constraints.

In summary, the model is useful for analysing active power flows, identifying congestion points, and exploring scenarios, but its validity is constrained by the underlying dataset and by the simplifications of the DC OPF approach.

4.6 Summary

The model was required to meet the following criteria:

- Correctly parse the dataset and generate accurate network elements.
- Assemble a functioning transmission model capable of DCOPF.
- Run analyses and scenarios reliably.
- Produce results that align with reference data.

Since all of these criteria were satisfied, the model can be considered successful.

Nonetheless, some limitations were observed. Renewable technologies were dispatched as if they were always fully available, meaning seasonal and weather-driven effects were not reflected. The accuracy of the results was also tied directly to the completeness of the dataset: where inputs such as solar or pumped storage were under-represented, the model output could not capture real system behaviour.

The objectives of the study were also addressed:

- 4. Validate the model against reference sources completed successfully.
- Apply the model to scenarios, constraint identification, and N-1 studies –
 demonstrated through selected examples. However, only illustrative scenarios
 were analysed, and a full Future Energy Scenarios study was beyond the
 scope of this work.

In summary, this chapter has shown that the model provides a reliable and tractable framework for representing the GB transmission system. It has been validated against trusted sources and shown to reproduce key operational constraints. The framework is therefore well suited for exploring congestion and testing scenarios, though its reliance on dataset completeness and simplified treatment of renewable availability means its outputs must be interpreted with caution.

5 Conclusions and future work

This chapter brings together the main findings of the study, assessing how well the stated objectives were achieved and outlining potential directions for future research and development.

5.1 Conclusions

This dissertation set out to develop and validate an automated model of the GB transmission system, with a focus on the NGET network. The central objectives were to select an appropriate modelling framework, process large public datasets, construct and automate a reproducible model, validate it against reference sources, and apply it to representative scenarios including congestion and N-1 security assessments.

Each of these objectives was addressed. An open-source framework based on Python and pandapower was selected and justified as the most suitable tool for automated DCOPF modelling. The NESO ETYS appendices were processed to create buses, lines, transformers, loads, and generators in a consistent, reproducible manner. The parsing procedures successfully retained technical attributes such as line reactances and transformer ratings, and the automated scripts were able to regenerate the model directly from raw datasets. Validation against Grid Templar reference data and NESO boundary reports confirmed that the model captured key features of real system behaviour, including generation dispatch patterns and congestion on the B6 boundary. In this sense, the framework satisfied the pass–fail criteria set at the outset and can be considered a successful representation of the NGET transmission network.

However, some gaps remain. Validation was limited by the quality and completeness of available datasets: solar and pumped storage were understated, reducing their apparent contribution, and parallel circuits were aggregated into single lines, constraining transfer capability and distorting N-1 results. Validation also relied solely on dispatch data, as no published line flow or related information was available. Renewables were dispatched as if always available, meaning weather-driven availability was not represented. Addressing these limitations would require additional datasets and validation against time-series data rather than static snapshots.

The study also aimed to apply the model to scenarios, constraint identification, and N-1 assessments. These were demonstrated successfully: congestion points were identified at the line level, the impact of additional renewable penetration was explored, and N-1 limits were tested. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that only selected scenarios were analysed to illustrate the model's potential. A full exploration of the Future Energy Scenarios was not carried out, but the work has shown that the framework is capable of such studies when extended further.

Taken together, the work has achieved its core objectives. It has demonstrated that an automated, reproducible transmission model can be built directly from public datasets and validated against trusted sources. While its fidelity is bounded by simplifications and data completeness, the framework establishes a sound foundation for future extensions and applications.

5.2 Future work

Looking ahead, there are several extensions that could enhance both the fidelity and applicability of this modelling framework. These can be approached in increasing levels of ambition, and each builds naturally on the foundations established here:

Automated preprocessing of generator data using Al methods

Generator allocation was a significant bottleneck in this study, relying on fuzzy matching between project names and substation identifiers. An extension would be to train or apply large language models (LLMs) to pre-process generator connection data, automatically matching ambiguous entries to their correct substations. This aligns with emerging work in applying machine learning for dataset cleaning and asset mapping in energy systems. For this project, such a method would improve the reproducibility and accuracy of generator placement, producing cleaner, more reliable inputs for OPF studies.

Scenario expansion and probabilistic analysis

The present study demonstrated the framework using selected scenarios but did not undertake a full Future Energy Scenarios (FES) exploration. By automating scenario scaling and embedding probabilistic sampling of demand and renewable conditions, this framework could be extended to run hundreds of cases efficiently. The expected output would be not just single-point studies, but distributions of outcomes, allowing insight into the likelihood of congestion events, boundary violations, or N-1 insecurities.

Higher-resolution inclusion of Scotland and offshore systems

In this study, Scotland and offshore wind were represented as aggregated injections. Extending the model to include the SP Transmission and SHE Transmission networks at bus-level, and modelling offshore transmission nodes explicitly, would bring the representation closer to the operational models maintained by NGESO. The expected output would be a unified GB-wide model capable of resolving north—south transfer constraints and offshore integration challenges more precisely.

Extension to AC OPF and voltage/stability analysis

The current DCOPF approach prioritises scalability and speed but omits reactive power and voltage behaviour. Moving towards AC OPF would enable inclusion of voltage magnitudes, losses, and reactive flows. This would significantly increase computational complexity, but would extend the framework's scope to cover voltage security, reactive margins, and stability constraints. The expected output would be a model applicable not just to active power flows and congestion studies, but also to operational planning and reinforcement assessments.

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Appendicies

Appendix A - Project outline

Introduction

This document provides a project outline for a dissertation focused on modelling the future of GB power using a script-based approach. It outlines the motivation, scope, aims, objectives, and a brief project plan. The goal is to automate the creation of a validated network model from public datasets, with potential applications in future energy scenario analysis.

Motivation

The UK electricity network is undergoing a significant transformation due to increasing integration of low-carbon technologies, decentralised generation, and electrification of demand, particularly through electric vehicles (EVs) and heat pumps. As a result, transmission network modelling is becoming increasingly complex and essential for maintaining grid stability and planning future infrastructure investments. Traditional modelling methods are time-consuming and manually intensive, making it challenging to iterate and evaluate multiple long-term energy scenarios efficiently.

Automating the modelling of the Great Britain (GB) transmission network using publicly available datasets can enable rapid scenario analysis, support future energy planning, and contribute to better understanding of the operational and investment implications under varying assumptions. This dissertation contributes to this area by developing a reusable and extensible modelling script, facilitating integration with power system analysis tools and future scenario projections.

Project Scope

The project focuses on the development of a script, written in a suitable language such as Python or MATLAB, capable of:

- Extracting and processing GB transmission network data from publicly available sources (e.g., NESO appendices, ETYS).
- Creating a network model that captures key electrical characteristics (such as busbars, generators, transformers, interconnectors, overhead lines, underground cables, and loads).
- Validating the generated network model against existing system benchmarks or simplified reference models.

- Performing DC Optimal Power Flow (DC OPF) analysis using the generated model to assess power flows under defined operating conditions.
- Providing a flexible framework that can be extended to simulate Future Energy Scenarios (FES) by National Grid ESO or user-defined scenarios.

Exclusions from Scope:

- Real-time data modelling.
- Full integration with operational SCADA or Energy Management Systems.

Aim

To develop a DC Optimal Power Flow (DC-OPF) model of the Great Britain (GB) transmission network using a suitable programming language and publicly available power system data.

Objectives

- 1. To extract and process relevant network data (branch, generation data, etc)
- 2. To develop a representative model of the GB transmission network.
- 3. To implement the DC-OPF model using a suitable programmable environment.
- 4. To validate the model's performance by comparing results with known system characteristics or published data.
- 5. To explore the impact of changes in system parameters or generation patterns on optimal power flow and network reliability.
- 6. To provide documentation to support reuse, reproducibility, and future work.

Methodology Overview:

- 1. Collect and process publicly available data from NESO's Electricity Ten Year Statement (ETYS), including bus, branch, and generator information.
- 2. Construct a simplified DC model of the GB transmission network using Python or MATLAB.
- 3. Formulate and solve the DC Optimal Power Flow (DC-OPF) to determine optimal generator dispatch under network constraints.
- 4. Validate the model by comparing its output with known system characteristics or published benchmarks.
- 5. Perform scenario analysis to assess the impact of changes in network parameters or generation patterns on power flow and system reliability.

Brief Project Plan

- Week 1–2: Literature Review
 Review relevant studies on DC-OPF, GB power system structure, and NESO data sources.
- Week 3–4: Data Collection and Processing
 Extract and clean transmission network data from NESO ETYS.

• Week 5-6: Model Construction

Build a simplified DC representation of the GB network in Python.

Week 7: OPF Implementation

Formulate and solve the DC-OPF using an appropriate solver or optimization library.

Week 8: Model Validation

Compare model results with known benchmarks or system characteristics.

• Week 9: Scenario Analysis

Simulate the impact of different generation patterns or network changes.

• Week 10-12: Writing and Finalization

Compile findings, complete the dissertation report, and conduct proofreading.

Expected Deliverables

- A well-documented script for GB network modelling.
- A validated power system model of the GB transmission network.
- Scenario simulation results and discussion.
- A dissertation summarising methodology, outcomes, limitations, and recommendations for future work.

Appendix B - Risk assessment

Risk Assessment Statement for Dissertation Project (Coding-Based Work)

This risk assessment covers general office-related risks associated with the completion of my dissertation, which involves primarily computer-based tasks such as programming, data analysis, and documentation.

Nature of Work:

The project involves prolonged use of a computer for coding, data processing, report writing, and documentation, carried out in a standard office or home office setting.

Identified Risks and Control Measures:

| Hazard | Risk | Persons at Risk | Control Measures |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Prolonged computer use | Eye strain, repetitive strain injury (RSI), fatigue | Self | Follow 20-20-20 rule.Take regular breaks.Adjust screen brightness.Use ergonomic setup. |
| Poor posture or seating | Back, neck, or shoulder pain | Self | Use an adjustable chair.Maintain good posture.Ensure screen is at eye level. |
| Electrical equipment | Shock or fire risk | Self | Ensure all equipment is PAT tested (if required). Do not overload sockets. Keep liquids away from electronics. |
| Slips, trips, and falls | Physical injury | Self and others in the room | Keep cables tidy and out of walkways. Ensure floor area is clear |
| Mental stress or overwork | Fatigue, reduced productivity | Self | Maintain a work-life balance. Set realistic goals and schedules. Seek support if needed. |

Conclusion:

With the outlined control measures in place, the risks associated with this project are minimal and manageable. The working environment will be kept safe through routine awareness and adherence to standard office health and safety practices.

Appendix C - Python Implementation (Pandapower Framework)

C.1 network.py

```
import pandapower as pp
import warnings
from user input import network file, demand file,
generator file, bus sheet, substation sheet,
transformer sheet, line sheet, load sheet, gen sheet
from elements.buses import create buses
from elements.lines import create lines
from elements.transformers import create transformers
from elements.loads import create loads,
group bus by substation
from elements.generators import create gens
from validation elements.interconnectors import
create interconnectors
from validation elements.spt import create spt assets
from utilities.run dc import run dcopf
from utilities.plotting import plot network
from tests.security import n1 security
from tests.generation summary import generation summary
from tests.get results import get_results
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
# --- Create Empty Network ---
net = pp.create empty network()
```

```
SHE BUS, SPT BUS, OFTO BUS, NGET bus lookup =
create buses(net, network file, bus sheet)
create lines (net, NGET bus lookup, SHE BUS, SPT BUS, OFTO BUS,
network file, line sheet)
create transformers (net, NGET bus lookup, SHE BUS, SPT BUS,
OFTO BUS, network file, transformer sheet)
substation group = group bus by substation(NGET bus lookup)
total SHE load, total SPT load = create loads (net,
NGET bus lookup, substation group, demand file, load sheet)
create gens (net, NGET bus lookup, substation group,
generator file, gen sheet, network file, substation sheet)
# For validation
create interconnectors(net, NGET bus lookup, mode="import")
create spt assets (net, SPT BUS, total SHE load,
total SPT load)
EXT GRID = pp.create ext grid(net, SPT BUS, vm pu=1, name="SPT
BUS")
net.ext grid.at[EXT GRID, "max p mw"] = 0 # max import
net.ext grid.at[EXT GRID, "min p mw"] = 0
# Apply load scaling
net.load.loc[:, 'p mw'] *= 1.1
# Apply renewables scaling
net.gen.loc[net.gen["name"].str.contains("Wind|Solar PV"),
"p mw"] *= 1.1
# Run DCOPF and get network results with DCOPF results
run dcopf(net)
get results(net)
```

--- Create Elements ---

```
# # Generation summary
generation_summary(net)

# N-1 Security on network
secure_scale, violations = n1_security(net, step=0.01,
max_scale=2.0, include_impedances=True)

print(f"Maximum secure load multiplier: {secure_scale:.2f}x
base")
if not violations.empty:
    print("Violations at failure step:")
    print(violations.sort_values("max_loading_percent",
ascending=False).head(10))

# Network topology plot
plot network(net)
```

C.2 buses.py

```
import pandapower as pp
import pandas as pd
from elements.substations import NGET SUBSTATIONS
# === Bus Creation Function ===
def create buses (net, network file, bus sheet):
    def NGET buses():
        bus names = []
        sheet names = bus sheet
        for sheet name in sheet names:
            df = pd.read excel(network file,
sheet_name=sheet name, skiprows=1)
            for idx in df.index:
                bus names.append(df.at[idx, "Node 1"])
                bus names.append(df.at[idx, "Node 2"])
        buses = list(dict.fromkeys(bus names))
        return buses
    # Creating (slack) Buses for other sub networks
    SHE BUS = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="SHE BUS")
    SPT_BUS = pp.create_bus(net, vn_kv=400, name="SPT BUS")
    OFTO BUS = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="OFTO BUS")
   buses = NGET buses()
    NGET bus lookup = {}
    # create bus
```

```
for bus in buses:
    if bus[:4] in NGET_SUBSTATIONS:
        bus_idx = pp.create_bus(net, vn_kv=400, name=bus)
        NGET_bus_lookup[bus] = bus_idx # Store in lookup
table

print("Bus creation complete.")
return SHE BUS, SPT BUS, OFTO BUS, NGET bus lookup
```

C.3 substations.py

```
import pandas as pd
from user input import network file, substation sheet
# Initialize empty sets for each operator's substations (sets
prevent duplicates)
NGET SUBSTATIONS = set()
SHE SUBSTATIONS = set()
SPT SUBSTATIONS = set()
OFTO SUBSTATIONS = set()
# Define each operator with their respective sheet name and
substation set reference
operators = [
    {
        "name": "NGET",
        "sheet name": substation sheet[2],
        "substations": NGET SUBSTATIONS
    },
    {
        "name": "SHE",
        "sheet name": substation sheet[0],
        "substations": SHE SUBSTATIONS
    },
    {
        "name": "SPT",
        "sheet name": substation sheet[1],
        "substations": SPT SUBSTATIONS
    },
    {
        "name": "OFTO",
        "sheet name": substation sheet[3],
        "substations": OFTO SUBSTATIONS
    },
]
```

```
# Read substation data from each operator's sheet and populate
the corresponding set
for operator in operators:
    df = pd.read_excel(network_file,
sheet_name=operator["sheet_name"], skiprows=1)
    for idx in df.index:
        site_code = df.at[idx, "Site Code"]
        operator["substations"].add(site code)
```

C.4 transformers.py

```
import pandapower as pp
import pandas as pd
from elements.substations import NGET SUBSTATIONS,
SHE SUBSTATIONS, SPT SUBSTATIONS, OFTO SUBSTATIONS
# === Transformer Creation Function ===
def create transformers (net, NGET bus lookup, SHE BUS,
SPT BUS, OFTO BUS, network file, transformer sheet):
    df = pd.read excel(network file,
sheet name=transformer sheet, skiprows=1)
    for idx in df.index:
        from bus name = df.at[idx, "Node 1"]
        to bus name = df.at[idx, "Node 2"]
        x pu = df.at[idx, "X (" + '%' + " on 100MVA)"]/100
        mva rating = df.at[idx, "Rating (MVA)"]
        # Assign bus indices
        if from bus name[:4] in NGET SUBSTATIONS:
            from bus = NGET bus lookup[from bus name]
        elif from bus name[:4] in SHE SUBSTATIONS:
            from bus = SHE BUS
        elif from bus name[:4] in SPT SUBSTATIONS:
            from bus = SPT BUS
        elif from bus name[:4] in OFTO SUBSTATIONS:
            from bus = OFTO BUS
        else:
            print("Unhandled from bus:", from bus name)
            continue
        if to bus name[:4] in NGET SUBSTATIONS:
            to bus = NGET bus lookup[to bus name]
        elif to bus name[:4] in SHE SUBSTATIONS:
            to bus = SHE BUS
```

```
elif to bus name[:4] in SPT SUBSTATIONS:
            to bus = SPT BUS
        elif to bus name[:4] in OFTO SUBSTATIONS:
            to bus = OFTO BUS
        else:
            print("Unhandled to bus:", to bus name)
            continue
        # Create transformer in the form of an impedance
element
        pp.create impedance(net,
            from bus=from bus,
            to bus=to bus,
            rft pu=0,
            xft pu=x pu,
            sn mva=mva rating
        )
    print("Transformer creation complete.")
```

C.5 loads.py

```
import pandapower as pp
import pandas as pd
from collections import defaultdict
from elements.substations import NGET SUBSTATIONS,
SHE SUBSTATIONS, SPT SUBSTATIONS, OFTO SUBSTATIONS
# === Utility Functions ===
def group bus by substation (NGET bus lookup):
    substation group = defaultdict(list)
    for bus name, bus idx in NGET bus lookup.items():
        substation name = bus name[:4]
        if substation name in NGET SUBSTATIONS:
            substation group[substation name].append(bus name)
    substation group = dict(substation group)
    return substation group
# === Load Creation Function ===
def create loads (net, NGET bus lookup, substation group,
demand file, load sheet):
    # === Initialize accumulators and containers ===
    load per substation = {substation: 0 for substation in
NGET SUBSTATIONS }
    NGET LOAD BUS NOT EXISTING = set()
    # extras
    SHE LOAD BUS = {}
    SPT LOAD BUS = {}
    OFTO LOAD BUS = {}
```

```
NONEXISTENT LOAD BUS = {}
    total_NGET_load not connected = 0
    total SHE load = 0
    total SPT load = 0
    total OFTO load = 0
    df = pd.read excel(demand file, sheet name=load sheet,
skiprows=9)
    for idx in df.index:
        bus = df.at[idx, "Node"]
        substation = bus[:4]
        p mw = df.at[idx, "24/25 MW"]
        if substation in NGET SUBSTATIONS:
            if bus in NGET bus lookup:
                pp.create load(net, NGET bus lookup[bus],
p mw, controllable=False)
            elif substation in load per substation:
                load per substation[substation] += p mw
            else:
                NGET LOAD BUS NOT EXISTING.add(bus)
                # extras
                total NGET load not connected += p mw
        elif bus[:4] in SHE SUBSTATIONS:
            SHE LOAD BUS[bus] = p mw
            total SHE load += p mw
        elif bus[:4] in SPT SUBSTATIONS:
            SPT LOAD BUS[bus] = p_mw
            total SPT load += p mw
```

```
elif bus[:4] in OFTO SUBSTATIONS:
            OFTO LOAD BUS[bus] = p mw
            total OFTO load += p mw
        else:
            NONEXISTENT LOAD BUS[bus] = p mw
            total load missing += p mw
    # Distirbuting load evenly among buses
    for substation, total load in load per substation.items():
        buses = substation group.get(substation, [])
        if not buses:
            # print("Buses not found for substation",
substation)
            continue
        load per bus = total load/len(buses)
        for bus name in buses:
            bus idx = NGET bus lookup[bus name]
            if bus idx is not None:
                pp.create load(net, bus idx,
p mw=load per bus, controllable=False)
            else:
                # print(f"Bus {bus name} not found in
NGET bus lookup")
                continue
    print("Load creation complete.")
    return total SHE load, total_SPT_load
```

C.6 lines.py

```
import pandapower as pp
import pandas as pd
import math
from elements.substations import NGET SUBSTATIONS,
SHE SUBSTATIONS, SPT SUBSTATIONS, OFTO SUBSTATIONS
# === Utility Functions ===
def convert_x_from_pu_to_ohm_per_km(x pu, length km):
    s base = 100 000 000 # 100 MVA
    v base = 400 000 # 400 kV
    z base = (v base**2) / s base
    x \text{ ohm} = (x \text{ pu}/100) * z \text{ base}
    return x ohm / length km
def convert mva to ka (mva rating):
    return ((mva rating * 1 000 000) / (math.sqrt(3) *
400 000)) / 1000
# === Line Creation Function ===
def create lines (net, NGET bus lookup, SHE BUS, SPT BUS,
OFTO BUS, network file, line sheet):
    df = pd.read excel(network file, sheet name=line sheet,
skiprows=1)
    for idx in df.index:
        from bus name = df.at[idx, "Node 1"]
        to bus name = df.at[idx, "Node 2"]
        x pu = df.at[idx, "X (" + '%' + " on 100 MVA)"]
        ka rating = convert mva to ka(df.at[idx, "Winter
Rating (MVA)"])
        x ohm per km=0
```

```
circuit type = df.at[idx, "Circuit Type"]
       # Determine line length based on circuit type
        if circuit type in ["OHL", "parallel OHL"]:
            length km = df.at[idx, "OHL Length (km)"]
        elif circuit type == "Cable":
            length_km = df.at[idx, "Cable Length (km)"]
            if length km == 0:
                length km = 0.01
        elif circuit type in ["Zero Length", "Series Reactor",
"Series Capacitor", "SSSC"]:
            length km = 0.01
        elif circuit type in ["Composite", "parallel
Composite"]:
            length km = df.at[idx, "OHL Length (km)"] +
df.at[idx, "Cable Length (km)"]
        else:
            print("Unhandled circuit type:", circuit type)
            continue
        # Calculate reactance
        if x pu == 0 or length km == 0:
            x ohm per km = 0.01 # prevent zero reactance
        else:
            x ohm per km =
convert x from pu to ohm per km(x pu, length km)
        # Assign bus indices
        if from bus name[:4] in SPT_SUBSTATIONS:
            from bus = SPT BUS
            # ka rating = 1e10 # remove line rating
        elif from bus name[:4] in NGET SUBSTATIONS:
            from bus = NGET bus lookup[from bus name]
```

```
elif from bus name[:4] in SHE SUBSTATIONS:
    from bus = SHE BUS
elif from bus name[:4] in OFTO SUBSTATIONS:
    from bus = OFTO BUS
else:
    print("Unhandled from bus:", from bus name)
    continue
if to bus name[:4] in SPT SUBSTATIONS:
   to bus = SPT BUS
elif to bus name[:4] in NGET SUBSTATIONS:
    to bus = NGET bus lookup[to bus name]
    # ka rating = 1e10 # remove line rating
elif to bus name[:4] in SHE SUBSTATIONS:
    to bus = SHE BUS
elif to bus name[:4] in OFTO SUBSTATIONS:
    to bus = OFTO BUS
else:
    print("Unhandled to bus:", to bus name)
   continue
# Create line
pp.create line from parameters (
    net,
    from bus=from bus,
    to bus=to bus,
    length km=length km,
    r ohm per km=0.0,
    x ohm per km=x ohm per km,
    c nf per km=0.0,
   max i ka=ka rating,
    max loading percent=100
```

```
print("Line creation complete.")
```

C.7 generators.py

```
import pandapower as pp
import pandas as pd
from rapidfuzz import process, fuzz
import re
# -----
# Helper Functions
# -----
def clean name(name):
   if not isinstance(name, str):
       return ""
   blacklist = [
        "substation", "offshore", "onshore", "station",
"grid",
        "400kv", "275kv", "132kv", "132/33kv",
        "north", "south", "east",
        "wind", "farm", "hydro", "solar"
    1
   name = name.lower()
    for word in blacklist:
       name = name.replace(word, "")
    name = re.sub(r"[^a-z0-9\s]", "", name)
   name = re.sub(r"\s+", " ", name).strip()
    return name.upper()
def map to lcoe category (plant type str):
    if not isinstance(plant type str, str):
       return "Other"
   pt = plant type str.lower()
    if "coal" in pt:
       return "Coal"
   elif "wind" in pt:
```

```
return "Wind"
    elif "pv array" in pt or "solar" in pt:
        return "Solar PV"
    elif "nuclear" in pt:
        return "Nuclear"
    elif "hydro" in pt:
        return "Hydro"
    elif "pump storage" in pt or "pumped storage" in pt:
        return "Pumped Storage"
    elif "ccgt" in pt:
        return "CCGT"
    elif "ocgt" in pt:
       return "OCGT"
    elif "chp" in pt:
        return "CHP"
    elif "oil" in pt:
        return "Oil"
    elif "biomass" in pt or "thermal" in pt:
        return "Biomass"
    elif "energy storage" in pt or "battery storage" in pt or
"storage" in pt:
       return "Battery Storage"
    else:
       return "Other"
def get best match(name, site names clean):
   match = process.extractOne(name, site names clean,
scorer=fuzz.WRatio)
    if match:
        return match[0], match[1]
    return None, 0
# -----
# Main Generator Creation
```

```
def create gens (net, NGET bus lookup, substation group,
gen file, gen sheet, network file, substation sheet):
    def load substations():
        substations = []
        for sheet in substation sheet:
            sub df = pd.read excel(network file,
sheet name=sheet, skiprows=1)
            sub df = sub df.dropna(subset=["Site Name", "Site
Code"]).copy()
            sub df["Cleaned Site"] = sub df["Site
Name"].apply(clean name)
            substations.append(sub df[["Site Name", "Site
Code", "Cleaned Site"]])
        sub df = pd.concat(substations, ignore index=True)
        sub df = sub df.drop duplicates(subset=["Cleaned")
Site"])
        return sub df
    # Load TEC Register
    gen df = pd.read excel(gen file, sheet name=gen sheet,
skiprows=1)
   gen df = gen df.dropna(subset=["Project Status", "HOST
TO"1)
    gen df["Project Status"] = gen df["Project
Status"].str.strip().str.lower()
    gen df["HOST TO"] = gen df["HOST
TO"].str.strip().str.upper()
    # Filter only built NGET generators
    gen df = gen df[
        (gen df["Project Status"] == "built") &
        (gen df["HOST TO"] == "NGET")
    ].copy()
```

```
# Clean names and map categories
    gen df["Cleaned Site"] = gen df["Connection
Site"].apply(clean name)
    gen df["LCOE Category"] = gen df["Plant
Type"].apply(map to lcoe category)
    # Load substations and match
    sub df = load substations()
    site names clean = sub df["Cleaned Site"].tolist()
    gen_df["Matched Site"], gen_df["Match Score"] =
zip(*gen df["Cleaned Site"].map(
        lambda x: get best match(x, site names clean)
    ) )
    # Merge generators with substations
    matched df = pd.merge(
        gen df,
        sub df,
        left on="Matched Site",
        right on="Cleaned Site",
        how="left",
        suffixes=("", " sub")
    )
    # Keep only needed columns - each row is ONE generator
    final matched = matched df[[
        "Connection Site", "Site Code", "Site Name",
        "MW Connected", "Match Score", "LCOE Category"
    ]].copy()
    # Fixed costs €/MWh
    fixed costs = {
        "Wind": 10,
        "Solar PV": 15,
```

```
"Nuclear": 20,
        "Hydro": 40,
        "Pumped Storage": 65,
        "CCGT": 50,
        "OCGT": 60,
        "CHP": 90,
        "Oil": 55,
        "Biomass": 35,
        "Other": 70,
        "Coal": 80,
        "Battery Storage": 65
    }
    final matched["Fixed Cost"] = final matched["LCOE
Category"].map(fixed costs).fillna(1000)
    # Clear old poly cost
    if not net.poly cost.empty:
        net.poly cost.drop(net.poly cost.index, inplace=True)
    # Loop through each generator row
    for , row in final matched.iterrows():
        site code = row["Site Code"]
        total mw = row["MW Connected"]
        fixed cost = row["Fixed Cost"]
        gen type = row["LCOE Category"]
        if site code not in substation group:
            continue
        buses = substation group[site code]
        if not buses:
            continue
        mw per bus = total mw / len(buses)
```

```
for bus name in buses:
            if bus name in NGET bus lookup:
                bus idx = NGET bus lookup[bus name]
                # Create generator
                pp.create_gen(
                    net, bus=bus idx, p mw=0.0, min p mw=0.0,
                    max p mw=mw per bus, name=gen type,
controllable=True
                # Add cost
                gen idx = net.gen.index[-1]
                pp.create_poly_cost(
                    net, element=gen idx, et='gen',
                    cp0 eur=0.0,
                    cp1 eur per mw=fixed cost,
                    cp2 eur per mw2=0.0
                )
    print("Generator creation complete.")
```

C.8 run_dc.py

```
import pandapower.topology as ppt
import pandapower as pp
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
def run dcopf(net):
    # Reduce the generation of Nuclear generators by half
    nuclear gens =
net.gen[net.gen['name'].str.contains('Nuclear',
case=False)].index
    net.gen.loc[nuclear gens, 'max p mw'] *= 0.5
    # Create the networkx graph
    graph = ppt.create nxgraph(net)
    # Find all islands (connected components)
    islands = list(ppt.connected components(graph))
    if not islands:
        raise ValueError("No islands found in the network.")
    # Find the largest island by bus count
    largest island = max(islands, key=len)
    # Buses to drop = all except the largest island
    buses to drop = list(set(net.bus.index) -
set(largest island))
    if buses to drop:
        pp.drop buses (net, buses to drop)
    # Ensure we still have a slack or generators
```

```
if net.ext_grid.empty and net.gen.empty:
    raise ValueError("No slack/ext_grid or generator in
the largest island; cannot run power flow.")

# --- Run DC Power Flow ---
pp.rundcpp(net)
print('DCPF converged:', net.converged)

# --- Run DC Optimal Power Flow ---
try:
    pp.rundcopp(net)
    print('DCOPF converged:', net.OPF_converged)
except Exception as e:
    print('DCOPF failed to converge')
    print('Error:', e)
```

return net

C.9 plotting.py

```
import pandapower.topology as top
import networkx as nx
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import os
def plot network(net):
    # Network topology
    # Create the graph from the pandapower network
    G = top.create nxgraph(net, respect switches=True)
    # Use spring layout with tuned spacing (k increases
spacing between nodes)
    pos = nx.spring layout(G, k=4.0, iterations=300, seed=42)
    # Color nodes by type: green = generator, orange = load,
lightblue = regular bus
    node colors = []
    for node in G.nodes:
        if node in net.gen.bus.values:
            node colors.append("navy")
                                             # generators →
dark navy blue
        elif node in net.load.bus.values:
            node colors.append("darkred")  # loads → dark red
        elif node in net.ext grid.bus.values:
            node colors.append("black")
                                          # external grid
→ black
        else:
            node colors.append("lightblue")
    # Optional: Label a few key buses (e.g., ext grid or
largest gen)
    labels = {}
```

```
for node in G.nodes:
        if node in net.ext grid.bus.values or node in
net.gen.bus.value counts().head(5).index:
            labels[node] = f"Bus {node}"
    # Plotting
    plt.figure(figsize=(24, 20)) # Large canvas
    nx.draw networkx nodes(G, pos,
                        node color=node colors,
                        node size=80,
                        alpha=0.9)
    nx.draw networkx edges(G, pos,
                        edge color="gray",
                        alpha=0.5,
                        width=1)
    nx.draw networkx labels (G, pos, labels,
                            font size=8,
                            font color="black")
   plt.title("PandaPower Network Topology (Well-Spaced, High
Detail)", fontsize=18)
   plt.axis("off")
   plt.tight layout()
    # Get path to results folder (one level above "utility")
    results dir = os.path.join(os.path.dirname( file ),
"...", "results")
    os.makedirs(results dir, exist ok=True)
    # Save high-resolution image inside results
    plt.savefig(os.path.join(results dir,
"grid topology.png"), dpi=400)
   plt.show()
```

C.10 generation_summary.py

```
# gen summary.py
def generation summary(net):
    gen types = [
    "Wind",
    "Solar PV",
    "Nuclear",
    "Hydro",
    "Pumped Storage",
    "CCGT",
    "OCGT",
    "CHP",
    "Biomass",
    "Other",
    "Coal",
    "Battery Storage",
    "BritNed",
    "East-West",
    "Nemo Link",
    "IFA-2",
    "IFA",
    "North Sea Link",
    "ElecLink",
    "Viking Link",
    "Greenlink"
    external grid mw = net.res ext grid["p mw"].sum()
    total generation mw = net.res gen['p mw'].sum() +
external grid mw
    total load mw = net.res load["p mw"].sum()
    generation by type = {gen type: 0.0 for gen type in
gen types}
    generation_by_type['Unknown'] = 0.0
```

```
for idx, gen in net.gen.iterrows():
        gen name = gen['name']
        gen output = net.res gen.at[idx, 'p mw']
       matched type = None
        for gen type in gen types:
            if gen type.lower() in gen name.lower():
                matched type = gen type
                break
        if matched type:
            generation by type[matched type] += gen output
        else:
            generation by type['Unknown'] += gen output
   print(f"Total load in network: {total load mw:.2f} MW")
   print(f"Total generation in network:
{total generation mw:.2f} MW")
   print("Generation by type:")
   print(f" EXT GRID: {external grid mw:.2f} MW" )
    for gen type, total in generation by type.items():
       print(f" {gen_type}: {total:.2f} MW")
```

C.11 user_input.py

```
# --- User Inputs ---
network_file = "ETYS_documents/ETYS_B.xlsx"
demand_file = "ETYS_documents/ETYS_G.xlsx"
generator_file = "ETYS_documents/ETYS_F.xlsx"

bus_sheet = ["B-2-1c", "B-3-1c"]
substation_sheet = ["B-1-1a", "B-1-1b", "B-1-1c", "B-1-1d"]
transformer_sheet = "B-3-1c"
line_sheet = "B-2-1c"
load_sheet = "demand data 2023"
gen sheet = "TEC Register"
```

C.12 spt.py

```
import pandapower as pp
def create spt assets(net, SPT BUS, total SHE load,
total_SPT_load):
    SPT LOAD = total_SHE_load + total_SPT_load
    OFTO GEN = 4388.4
    SPT_GEN = {
    "CCGT": 1200,
    "CHP": 120,
    "Battery Storage": 97.95,
    "Hydro": 951.4,
    "Nuclear": 1270,
    "Pumped Storage": 740,
    "Wind": 8154.6
    }
    fixed costs = {
        "Wind": 10,
        "Solar PV": 15,
        "Nuclear": 20,
        "Hydro": 40,
        "Pumped Storage": 65,
        "CCGT": 50,
        "OCGT": 60,
        "CHP": 90,
        "Oil": 55,
        "Biomass": 35,
        "Other": 70,
        "Coal": 80,
        "Battery Storage": 65
    }
```

```
# Slack Bus
    EXT GRID = pp.create ext grid(net, SPT BUS, vm pu=1,
name="SPT BUS")
    net.ext grid.at[EXT GRID, "max p mw"] = 0 # max import
    net.ext grid.at[EXT GRID, "min p mw"] = 0
    # SPT load creation
    pp.create load(net, SPT BUS, p mw=SPT LOAD,
controllable=False)
    # offshore wind generation
    OFTO = pp.create gen(net, SPT BUS, p mw=OFTO GEN,
min p mw=0.0, max p mw=OFTO GEN, name="Wind",
controllable=False)
    pp.create poly cost(net, element=OFTO, et="gen",
cp1 eur per mw=10)
    for gen type, capacity mw in SPT GEN.items():
        pp.create gen(
            net,
            SPT BUS,
            p mw=0,
            min p mw=0,
            max p mw=capacity mw,
            vm pu=1.0,
            name=gen type,
           controllable=True
        )
        # Add cost to OPF
        pp.create poly cost(
            net,
```

```
element=len(net.gen) - 1,
    et="gen",
        cp1_eur_per_mw=fixed_costs[gen_type]
)
print(SPT_LOAD, "SPT_LOAD")
```

C.13 interconnectors.py

```
import pandapower as pp
import math
def convert mva to ka(mva rating):
    return ((mva rating * 1 000 000) / ( math.sqrt(3) *
400 000)) / 1000
# add scaling factor for the function.
def create interconnectors (net, NGET bus lookup,
mode="import"):
    # Define buses
    france 1 = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="France")
    france 2 = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="France")
    france 3 = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="France")
    netherlands = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400,
name="Netherlands")
    belgium = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="Belgium")
    norway = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="Norway")
    denmark = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="Denmark")
    ireland 1 = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="Ireland")
    ireland 2 = pp.create bus(net, vn kv=400, name="Ireland")
    interconnectors = {
    "IFA": {
        "capacity mw": 2000,
        "from bus": "SELL",
        "to bus": france 1,
        "length km": 73,
        "mode": "import",
        "mw flow": 1504
    },
    "BritNed": {
        "capacity mw": 1000,
```

```
"from bus": "GRAI",
    "to bus": netherlands,
    "length km": 260,
    "mode": "import",
    "mw_flow": 783
},
"East-West": {
    "capacity_mw": 500,
    "from bus": "FLIB",
    "to bus": ireland 1,
    "length km": 261,
    "mode": "export",
    "mw flow": 500
} ,
"Nemo Link": {
    "capacity mw": 1000,
    "from bus": "RICH",
    "to bus": belgium,
    "length km": 140,
    "mode": "import",
    "mw flow": 23
},
"IFA-2": {
    "capacity mw": 1000,
    "from bus": "CHIL",
    "to bus": france_2,
    "length km": 204,
    "mode": "import",
    "mw flow": 992
} ,
"North Sea Link": {
    "capacity mw": 1400,
    "from bus": "BLYT",
    "to bus": norway,
    "length km": 720,
```

```
"mode": "import",
    "mw flow": 1399
},
"ElecLink": {
    "capacity mw": 1000,
    "from bus": "SELL",
    "to bus": france 3,
    "length km": 51,
    "mode": "import",
    "mw flow": 996
},
"Viking Link": {
    "capacity mw": 1400,
    "from bus": "BICF",
    "to bus": denmark,
    "length km": 765,
    "mode": "import",
    "mw flow": 368
} ,
"Greenlink": {
    "capacity mw": 500,
    "from bus": "PEMB",
    "to bus": ireland 2,
    "length km": 190,
    "mode": "export",
    "mw flow": 452
},
}
for name, data in interconnectors.items():
    bus name = data["to bus"]
    max p mw = data["capacity mw"]
    if mode == "import":
        # Interconnector acts as a generator importing
```

```
power to your network
            pp.create gen(net, bus=bus name, p mw=0.0,
min p mw=0.0,
                    max p mw=max p mw, vm pu=1, name=name,
controllable=True)
            pp.create poly cost(
                    net, element=bus name, et='gen',
                    cp0 eur=0.0,
                    cp1 eur per mw=30,
                    cp2 eur per mw2=0.0
            )
        elif mode == "export":
            # Interconnector acts as a load exporting power
from your network
            pp.create load(net, bus=bus name, p mw=max p mw,
name=name)
        elif mode == "manual":
            ic mode = data["mode"]
            p mw = data["mw flow"]
            if ic mode == "import":
                # Interconnector acts as a generator importing
power to your network
                pp.create gen(net, bus=bus name, p mw=p mw,
min p mw=0.0,
                        max p mw=max p mw, vm pu=1, name=name,
controllable=False)
                pp.create poly cost(
                        net, element=bus name, et='gen',
                        cp0 eur=0.0,
                        cp1 eur per mw=30,
                        cp2 eur per mw2=0.0
            elif ic mode == "export":
```

```
# Interconnector acts as a load exporting
power from your network
                pp.create load(net, bus=bus name,
p mw=max p mw, name=name)
        else:
            raise ValueError("Invalid mode. Use 'import' or
'export'.")
    for name, data in interconnectors.items():
        sub prefix = data["from bus"].lower()
        matching bus = None
        for key, value in NGET bus lookup.items():
            if key.lower().startswith(sub prefix):
                matching bus = value
                break
        if matching bus is None:
            raise KeyError(f"No matching bus found for prefix
{sub_prefix}")
        from bus = matching bus
        to bus = data["to bus"]
        length km = data["length km"]
        capacity mw = data["capacity mw"]
        ka_rating = convert_mva_to ka(capacity mw)
        pp.create std type(
            net,
            {
                "c nf per km": 0,
                "r ohm per km": 0,
```

```
"x ohm per km": 0.05,
            "max_i_ka": ka_rating,
            "g us per km": 0,
            "type": "cs"
        },
        name=f"std_{name}",
        element="line"
    )
    pp.create_line(
        net,
        from_bus=from_bus,
        to_bus=to_bus,
        length_km=length_km,
        std_type=f"std_{name}",  # Custom standard type
       name="Interconnector",
       max loading percent=100
    )
print("Interconnector creation complete.")
```

C.14 security.py

```
# security.py
import pandas as pd
import pandapower as pp
def n1 security(net, step=0.01, max scale=2.0,
include impedances=True, loading limit=100.0):
    11 11 11
    Incrementally increase load and run N-1 security screening
using DC OPF (pp.rundcopp).
    Stops at the first step where the system becomes insecure.
    Parameters
    _____
    net : pandapowerNet
        Your pandapower network.
    step : float
        Load increment per step (e.g., 0.01 = +1\%).
    max scale : float
        Max multiplier to try (safety cap).
    include impedances : bool
        If True, also test outages of impedance elements
(e.g., trafos modelled as impedance).
    loading limit : float
        Loading percent threshold treated as a violation
(default 100%).
    Returns
    _____
    secure scale : float
        Last multiplier at which all N-1 contingencies
remained secure.
    violations df : pandas.DataFrame
        Violations at the first insecure step. Columns:
element type, element index, max loading percent.
```

```
Empty DataFrame if no violations up to max scale.
    11 11 11
    # Cache base load so scaling is absolute each step (not
compounding)
    base load = net.load["p mw"].copy()
    # Build contingency list: lines (and optionally
impedances)
    contingencies = [("line", i) for i in net.line.index]
    if include impedances and hasattr(net, "impedance") and
len(net.impedance):
        contingencies += [("impedance", i) for i in
net.impedance.index]
    scale = 1.0
    secure scale = 1.0
    while scale + step <= max scale + 1e-12:
        scale = round(scale + step, 8) # avoid float creep
        # Absolute scaling from base profile
        net.load["p mw"] = base load * scale
        # Track violations at this scale across all
contingencies
        violations = []
        for etype, idx in contingencies:
            # Toggle the element out
            if etype == "line":
                old state = net.line.at[idx, "in service"]
                net.line.at[idx, "in service"] = False
            elif etype == "impedance":
                old state = net.impedance.at[idx,
"in service"]
                net.impedance.at[idx, "in service"] = False
```

```
else:
                continue # unknown type (shouldn't happen)
            try:
                # Run DC OPF
                pp.rundcopp(net)
                # Evaluate line loadings (post-contingency)
                if hasattr(net, "res line") and
len(net.res line):
                    max loading =
float(net.res line["loading percent"].max())
                else:
                    # If results missing, consider it a
failure
                    max_loading = float("inf")
                if max loading >= loading limit:
                    violations.append({
                        "element type": etype,
                        "element index": idx,
                        "max loading percent": max loading
                    })
            except Exception as e:
                # Any solver failure is treated as insecurity
                violations.append({
                    "element type": etype,
                    "element index": idx,
                    "max loading percent": float("inf"),
                    "error": str(e)
                })
            finally:
                # Restore the element
```

C.15 get results.py

```
import pandas as pd
import pandapower as pp
import os
def get results(net):
    # Ensure the results folder exists
    os.makedirs("results", exist ok=True)
    # Save Network for reference
    pp.to excel(net, os.path.join("results", "network.xlsx"))
    # --- Save Results ---
    with pd.ExcelWriter(os.path.join("results",
"dc opf results winter scenario.xlsx")) as writer:
        net.res bus.to excel(writer, sheet name="Bus Results")
        net.res line.to excel(writer, sheet name="Line
Results")
        net.res gen.to excel(writer, sheet name="Generator
Results")
        net.res load.to excel(writer, sheet name="Load
Results")
        net.res ext grid.to excel(writer, sheet name="External
Grid Results")
```

C.16 Folder Structure

```
project root/
    - ETYS documents/
                                # Input datasets from NESO ETYS appendix
       ETYS_B.xlsx
                                # Appendix B - Network data
     — ETYS F.xlsx
                                # Appendix F – Generation data
     — ETYS G.xlsx
                                # Appendix G – Demand data
    network.py
                         # Main script that builds and runs the transmission model
     user input.py
                         # Defines user inputs (file paths, sheet names, etc.)
                        # Network element creation modules
    - elements/
      buses.py
                         # Functions to create buses from substation data
      substations.py
                          # Substation definitions and lookup
       transformers.py
                           # Transformer creation and impedance modelling
       loads.py
                        # Load allocation and bus grouping
       – lines.py
                       # Transmission line creation and parameter conversion
       - generators.py
                          # Generator allocation and cost assignment
   – validation elements/
                            # Components for model validation
       interconnectors.py # Creates interconnectors (IFA, BritNed, NSL, etc.)
       - spt.py
                       # Reduced Scottish Power Transmission representation
    utilities/
                     # Helper modules for running and analysing studies
       -run dc.py
                         # DC Optimal Power Flow execution
                        # Functions for network plotting/visualisation
     — plotting.py

    generation summary.py # Summarises generation dispatch results

       - security.py
                        # N-1 security assessment functions
       - get_results.py # Exports and processes OPF/network results
```