

System Access Reform

Breakout session



Please scan this QR code to ask questions via Slido during our Q&A (please select System Access Reform if you'd like your question answered in this session)

Welcome! Please pick up TWO counters of the same colour and post-it notes according to your 'group' as per the table below. Keep them safe and all will be revealed soon...

Industry	Colour
Owners and Operators (Wholesale market participants, market service providers, system operators and interconnectors)	Blue
Developers (New generation/demand, new platforms, landowners, ports)	Green
Networks (Transmission Networks, Distribution Networks, Other Networks)	Yellow
Energy Commodities (Suppliers, shippers and importers who supply and bill energy)	Orange
Organisations not directly involved in the energy supply chain (Manufacturers, trade associations, statutory bodies, adjacent sectors transport, water etc.), investors, researchers, consultants, local committees etc)	Red
Other types of organisations Government, regulator, press and media and any others	White
NESO internal	Purple

By the end of this session, you should...

- ✓ understand the basics of SAR and the story so far
- ✓ have an opportunity to tell us your thoughts
- ✓ be clear on what's coming up next and how you can be involved
- ✓ not be tired of sitting down!

Agenda

1	Introduction to SAR, the case for change	10 mins
2	Programme plan, progress and what's next	10 mins
3	Over to you	10 mins
4	Q&A	10 mins
5	Closing remarks	5 mins

Starting with the basics...

SAR does NOT stand for:

- a) Snacks ~~And Refreshments~~
- b) Spreadsheet ~~Appreciation Ritual~~
- c) Schedule ~~Anxiety Rising~~
- d) System ~~Access Rethink~~

System Access Reform

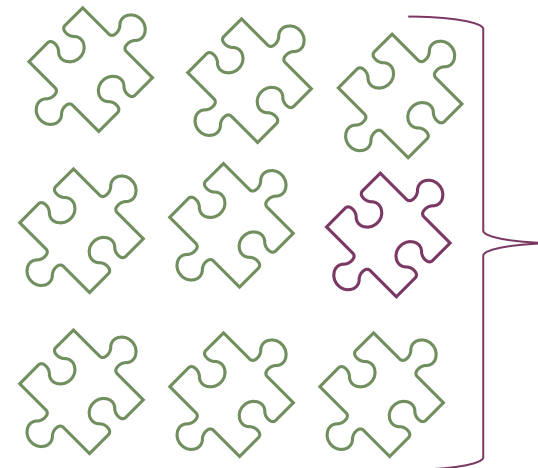
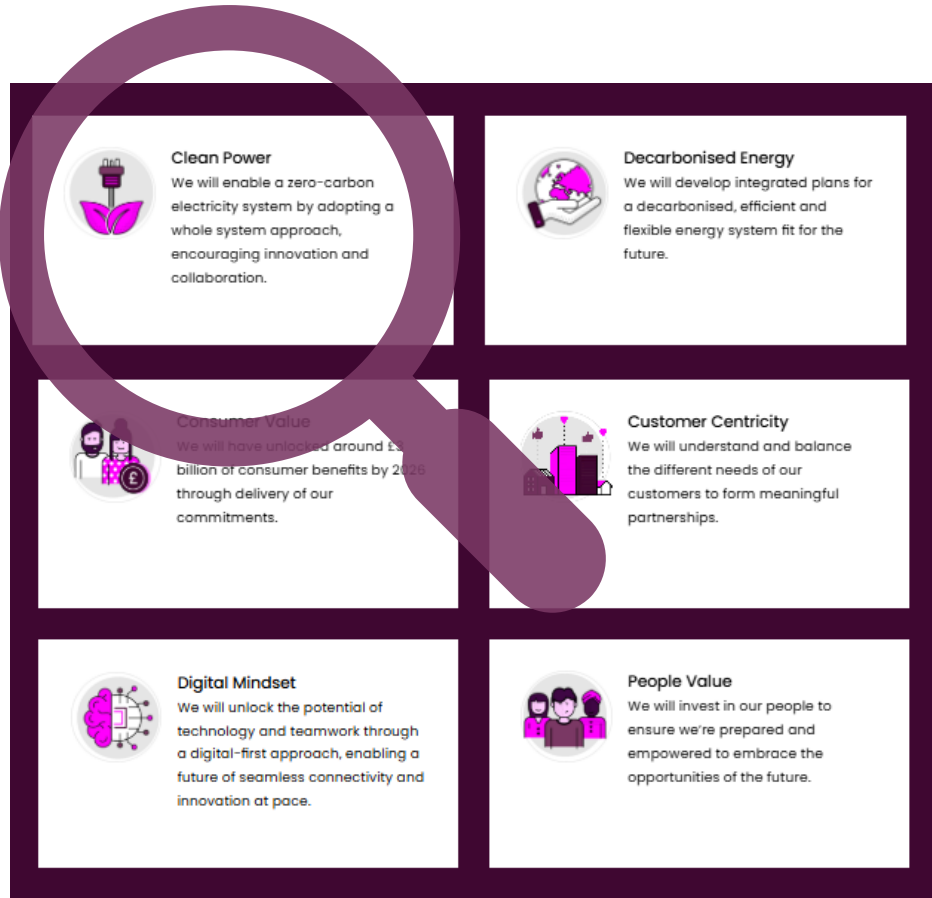


SAR Programme Vision



Transform the system access planning approach to enable the **delivery of essential electricity system development activities** required to meet the UK Government's ambitions for **Clean Power 2030, Net Zero 2050, Energy Security, and Economic Growth**, whilst **optimising risk management and cost, delivering positive consumer outcomes**, and ensuring the **system remains resilient.**

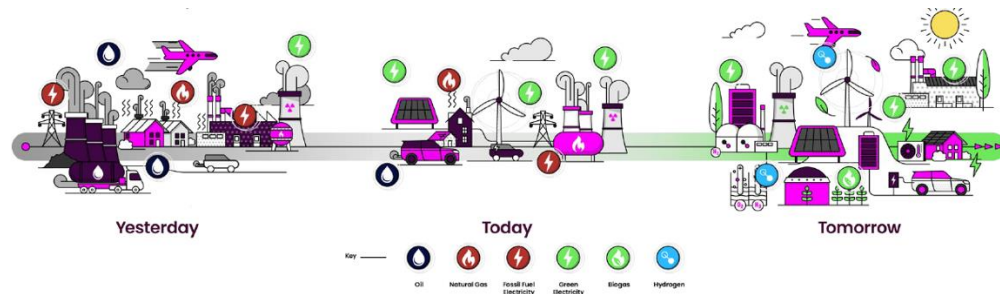
NESO strategic priorities



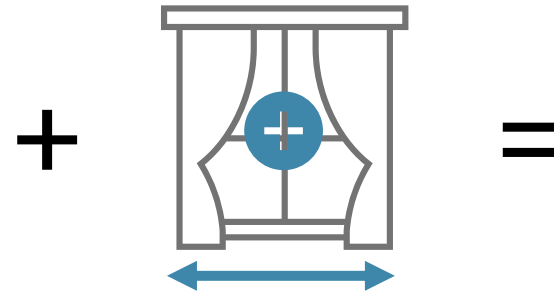
SAR is a key programme amongst a complex landscape of numerous NESO and industry-level initiatives working towards Clean Power 2030 (95% of energy generated from low-carbon sources).

[Clean Power 2030 | National Energy System Operator](#)

Case for change for outage planning (system access)



More complexity (assets and other initiatives) and tighter sequencing required for multi-year build programmes



TOs need to deliver more outages while maximising windows

TOs need: predictable access with flexibility

NESO needs: maximise volume and value of outages plus maintain system operability and manage costs



A cross-collaborative industry programme

Working in partnership



“We see a considerable opportunity to improve visibility, tackle long-standing pain points and develop a system access process that reflects the scale and pace now required. Delivering this depends on strong partnership with the transmission owners.”

Graham Stein
SAR Programme Director
NESO



“We have a major programme of build and maintenance ahead, requiring more and increasingly complex system access. As we connect strategic demand and support economic growth, maintaining network resilience remains essential.”

John Wilson
Senior Programme Lead
NGET



“Nothing is broken today – system access works well. But from where I sit, the challenge is accelerating. SAR is about getting ready for that and continuing to plan for our network growth and our connecting customers.”

Martin Cammidge
Senior Programme Lead
SPEN



TRANSMISSION



“Though remote, our region spans a quarter of the UK landmass and is a major clean-energy exporter. We’re key to Clean Power 2030, but the scale ahead means existing processes which have been successful for decades now need to evolve.”

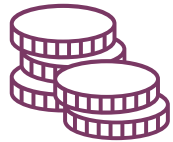
Jim Molley
Senior Programme Lead
SSEN

Time to play

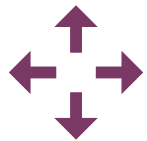
Higher or lower: please go to the left if you think lower, and right side of the room if you think higher:



Outages: The number of outages in FY2024 was 12,000.
Answer: Lower



Investment: The amount of investment TOs will make in RII0-T3 over the next 5 years is £40bn.
Answer: Higher



Change requests: There were 10,000 change requests to the FY2026 year ahead plan.
Answer: Higher

Cost of change – today and future

TODAY:

>8000

Outages delivered in FY2024



FUTURE PICTURE:

£70bn

TO investment over next 5 years



= 4x investment compared to previous periods



>20,000+

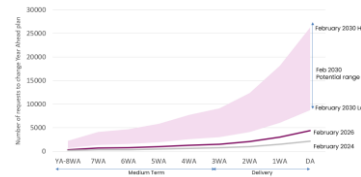
Change requests to FY26 ahead plan



2x

Change requests compared to last two years (2-3 per outage)

Case for Change in Data – the 'do nothing' scenario
We're already seeing a significant number of change requests in the Delivery Phase. All else equal, if we do nothing change requests could be 2x-4x higher in 2030 than now.

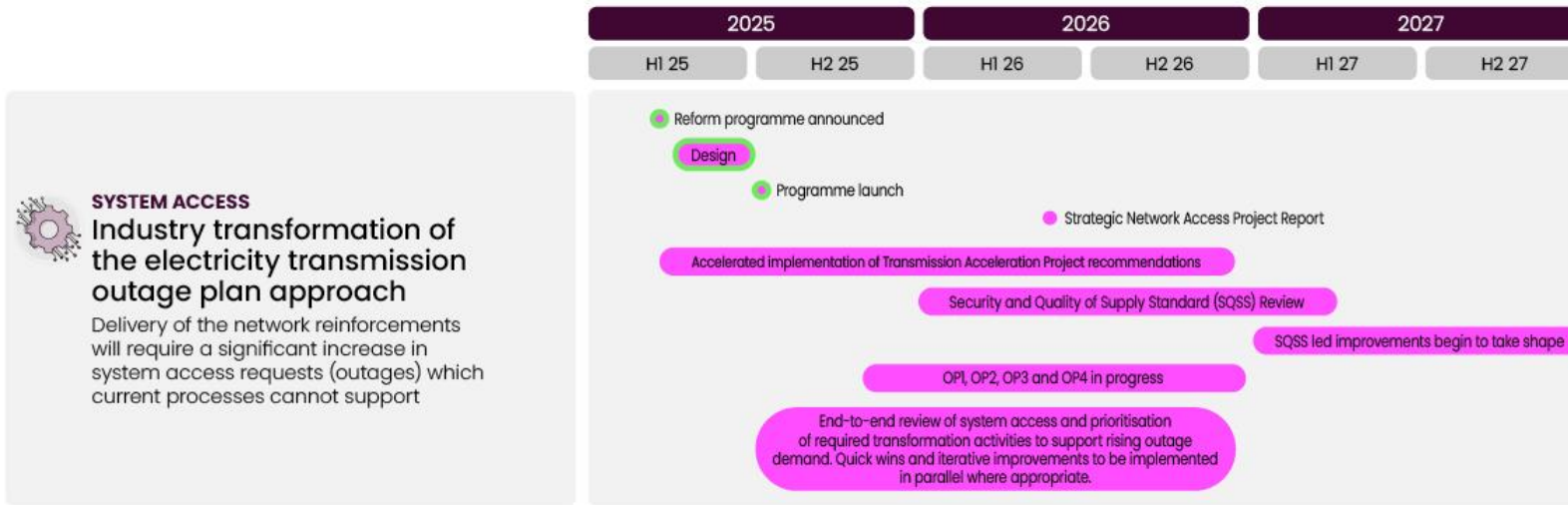


WHY IT MATTERS...

- TOs missing access **delays** network upgrades and connections
- **Slows customer connections** for DNOs and generators
- Drives up system **costs**
- Risks **undermining GB decarbonisation** progress

Increasing outage plan stability, predictability, adaptability and transparency is a critical enabler for NESO to drive progress towards the government's CP30 ambition.

Programme plan and progress



20% increase in work

More outages enabled for 2025/26 compared to the previous winter due to successful trialing of new processes across the year.



Costs included in planning

System Access costs now included in strategic planning to allow for system access to be factored into TO design work (OP3)



Readiness checks and testing

TO project readiness checks and processes well underway, and testing of outage optimisation tools in progress



Code modifications submitted

STCP-11-1 will extend winter emergency return to service times, and STCP 16-1 will request detailed forecasting of constraint costs on build phases of construction projects



Data collection and collation

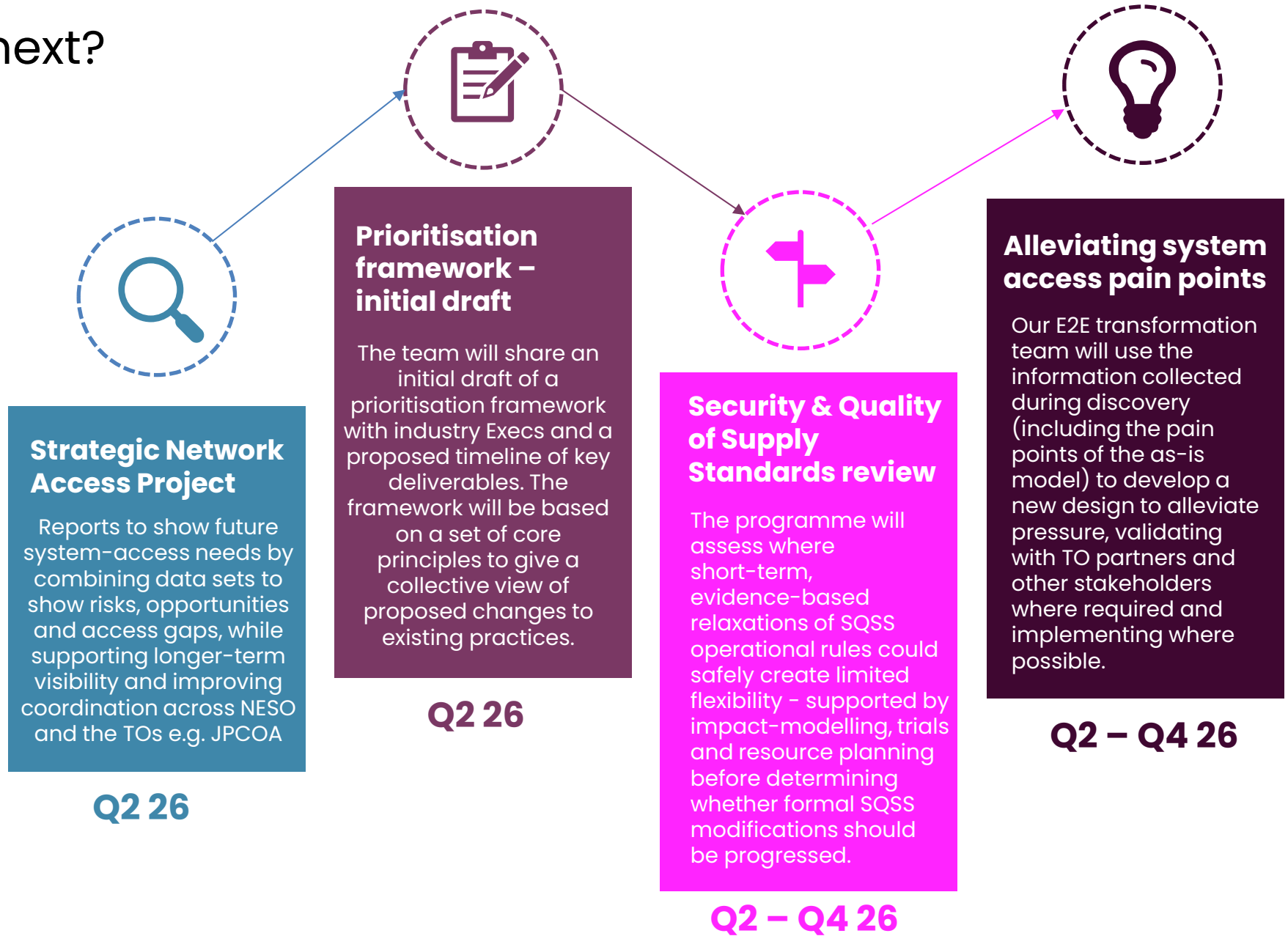
Gathering data from various sources will allow for further visibility and longer-term planning



End-to-end transformation taking off

The team is assembled and discovery is complete to understand the to-be model with the 'to-be' picture design currently in progress (target: early autumn 2026).

What's next?



OVER TO YOU...

Connecting your colour...

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You should all have 2 coloured counters and some post-it notes to keep safe until needed. Colours have been allocated according to your organisation 'group' to help us to understand your thoughts better.

“Based on what you currently know, how much of an impact do you expect System Access Reform to have on your organisation’s activities?”

Please indicate your answer by putting one of your counters in one of the labelled glasses. Options are:

- Extremely (impacted)
- Somewhat (impacted)
- Not at all (impacted)
- Not sure



Please use your coloured post-it notes to tell us the following:

Please note down:

1. What excites you about SAR (i.e. what could it bring)
2. Any worries or concerns
3. Internal or external programmes you're aware of (including emerging or early stage) that could shape future system access arrangements
4. Any further support you require from the programme team
5. Any other thoughts
6. Your email address if you'd like to hear more about SAR after today (or leave us a business card if available)



Please rate how clear you are on the problem SAR is trying to solve.

Please indicate your answer by putting one of your
counters in one of the labelled glasses.

Options are:

- Extremely (clear)
- Somewhat (clear)
- Not at all (clear)
- Not sure



Q&A



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Thank you

for listening and taking part.

- Please visit our market stall to find out more and have the chance to win a small token (last entry by 3pm)