

# Power Pulse

July 2025

A monthly snapshot of the ever-changing power outlook in the UK



*“Social value is relevant to everyone in the built environment”*

**Susan Emmett,**  
Social Value Director

**Social value.** We talk about it in relation to solar this month. But social value is relevant to everyone in the built environment. It goes beyond words—it’s about developing an evidence- and context-based approach to delivering wider benefits on projects.

These days, the industry is more aware than ever of the impact projects can have on people, places, and the planet. They can enhance health and wellbeing, air and water quality, biodiversity, wealth, jobs, and so on. It’s a broad church.

What’s key now is to inspire action and drive the most promising solutions. To share where it’s been tried before and the journey to get there. Embedding it into every decision and every action. I’ve no doubt we will see further regulation and incentives driving this in the coming years.



## Spotlight of the month

### Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan

This month, we welcomed [Chris Stark CBE](#), head of the UK’s mission for clean power by 2030, to our Glasgow office. He was confident in the country’s ability to deliver, while acknowledging the challenge: ‘What we have committed to do is right on the edge of what we think is possible.’

This perfectly sums up the government’s new [Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan](#). It aims to double clean power investment annually to over £30 billion per year by 2035. It outlines the most ambitious reforms to our energy system in a generation. And it sends a strong signal to investors and developers that the UK is serious about accelerating the energy transition. As well as meeting climate targets, it aims to drive industrial revival and create thousands of skilled jobs.

**It seeks to remove three major barriers:**

**Grid connection delays:** See Grid section.

**Planning and permitting bottlenecks:**

The new Planning & Infrastructure Bill aims to accelerate critical infrastructure delivery. Its methods include simplifying the approval process, reducing the time and cost associated with complex paperwork, and increasing investor confidence.

**Industrial energy prices:** From 2027, the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme will reduce energy costs for electricity-intensive manufacturing industries. Eligible businesses will be exempt from various charges. These include the Renewables Obligation, feed-in tariffs, and the capacity market. This brings UK industrial electricity prices closer to those in major European economies.

**Hannah Keenan, Nuclear Consultant**





## Grid

The UK government's new Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan is set to transform the electricity networks. A new Connections Accelerator Service will prioritise projects that guarantee high-quality jobs and bring the greatest economic value. Clients have been asking who will be prioritised in the new connections queue. Now, we're getting some answers. It should be in place by the end of 2025, but details are yet to be confirmed.

New powers in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill will also amend regulatory processes to speed up connections for strategically important projects.

The plan also aims to double new transmission network infrastructure by 2030; it also talks about upgrading local distribution networks. It focuses on boosting domestic production of key components like transformers and cables, which could create up to 130,000 jobs by 2050. This should all streamline the connection process and help developers to secure timely connections for their projects.

**Eleanor Wratten, Associate**

**EXPLORE THE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRIES SECTOR PLAN →**

***"The solar sector could support around 35,000 jobs by 2030"***

## Solar

The social value of a project is ever more important to define and measure. A growing body of regulation and good corporate citizenship means it can help get projects underway. Thus, it was helpful to see the social value impact of solar spelled out in the UK government's new Solar Roadmap. This details the final conclusions of its Solar Taskforce.

As well as reducing reliance on fossil fuels, it estimates that the solar sector could support around 35,000 jobs by 2030. This is particularly true around installation. That's double the number it supports today. It can also reduce energy bills—by around £500 a year for a typical home. And it can increase energy security and improve biodiversity. The details are worth a read.

**Tom Shilton, Director**

**READ THE NEW SOLAR ROADMAP →**

***"The skills and technology are available to drill deep to access geothermal heat"***

## Geothermal

In a recent session of Parliament, Perran Moon MP highlighted the huge contribution geothermal can make in the UK's transition away from fossil fuels. There was debate around whether the technologies needed are available in the market. According to records held by the North Sea Transition Authority, 60 deep onshore oil and gas wells were drilled in the last decade. This indicates that the skills and technology are there to drill deep to access geothermal heat.

Furthermore, technological advances in the US are improving the depth, speed, and efficiency of drilling, as proven by Fervo Energy. Is a decline in UK onshore drilling and a lack of awareness of technical advances risking our ability to deliver proven geothermal projects here in the UK?

**Mark Griffiths, Associate**

**FERVO ENERGY DRILLS 15,000-FT, 500°F GEOTHERMAL WELL →**







*“These announcements should inspire further private investment into SMRs”*

## Nuclear

It was great to see nuclear energy front and centre of the UK government’s Spending Review in June. Not only did Labour announce a £14.2 billion investment in Sizewell C. It selected Rolls Royce to build the country’s first small modular reactors (SMRs) using public finance. And it injected funding into the fusion programme.

But the hard work starts now. How will the supply chain upscale to meet this demand? We also shouldn’t lose sight of the need for diversity in design and innovation in SMRs. These announcements should inspire further private investment into SMRs. It is clean, reliable, and scalable technology. To realise the benefits, we need finance, supply chains, regulatory oversight and consenting, manufacturing capability, and social licence.

**Peter Sibley, Director**

**THE BENEFITS OF SMRS AND  
DIFFERENT SMR TECHNOLOGIES →**

## Hydrogen

The UK government’s new Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan outlines a clear action plan for hydrogen. This is aimed at driving investment certainty, innovation, and job creation. There is more than £400 million in private investment already committed through the Hydrogen Allocation Rounds (HARs). The plan provides long-awaited clarity on how hydrogen projects will be supported and prioritised.

The 27 shortlisted projects under HAR2 are now in due diligence. HAR3 is expected to launch in 2026 and HAR4 from 2028. The first Hydrogen Transport and Storage Allocation Rounds, and a new Hydrogen-to-Power business model, are targeted for 2026. The government is reviewing how to streamline the HAR process. The proposed price-based competitive allocation model from 2030 could speed up funding and boost investor confidence.

Recognising the importance of infrastructure, the plan aims to establish the UK’s first regional hydrogen network from 2031, backed by £500 million in government support. A revised hydrogen strategy is expected in 2025.

**Hannah Keenan, Nuclear Consultant**

**TRANSFORMING ENERGY WITH HYDROGEN SOLUTIONS →**

*“The strategy outlines over 40 actions to accelerate deployment”*

## Wind

The UK government’s onshore wind strategy was released on 4 July. It sets a target to grow capacity from 14.8 gigawatts (GW) to 27 to 29 GW by 2030. It outlines over 40 actions to help hasten deployment, including simplified planning and permitting, faster grid connections, and support for repowering existing sites. The strategy also proposes including larger projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project regime and improving coordination with aviation and defence stakeholders.

This creates opportunities for developers and landowners to capitalise on streamlined processes and contribute to the UK’s net zero and energy security objectives.

**Joseph Padbury, Associate Director**

[READ THE NEW ONSHORE WIND STRATEGY →](#)

## Battery storage

Agratas’ battery cell manufacturing facility in Somerset, **where Stantec is supporting delivery**, marked a turning point this month as the first steel frames were installed. Not only will the facility produce electric vehicle (EV) batteries and create thousands of jobs; it’s a strategic boost for the entire battery storage sector.

A robust domestic supply chain is essential for growing grid-scale storage. And local manufacturing strengthens the UK’s position in a competitive global market. It reduces costs and shortens lead times. It also enhances energy security.

Other British industrial activities are reinforcing this momentum. For example, local lithium from Cornish Lithium could feed directly into the facility. These developments signal a shift towards a fully UK-based battery ecosystem—from raw materials to deployment.

**Ben Bowler, Technical Director**

[WATCH A VIDEO UPDATE FROM AGRATAS →](#)



*“Planning for depot charging is now a strategic priority for fleet operators”*

## eMobility

We see a strong shift toward environmental sustainability in fleet management. The latest Fleet and Mobility Barometer from Arval Mobility Observatory gives us some highlights. Eighty-five percent of companies have implemented or plan to implement an electric vehicle (EV) charging policy. Sixty-nine percent of companies with fleets that include passenger cars are using or considering using alternative-energy vehicles.

However, only 9 percent use electric light commercial vehicles; just 12 percent are considering them. This suggests that practical challenges still influence decisions.

As fleets electrify, depot charging becomes critical to operational efficiency. It enables scheduled, overnight charging of vehicles and readiness for daily routes. Of course, the power requirements can be substantial. This often requires large grid upgrades, on-site energy management systems, and potentially battery storage or on-site renewables. Planning for depot charging is now a strategic priority for fleet operators aiming to scale electrification without impacting reliability.

**Ben Bowler, Technical Director**

[READ ARVAL'S FLEET AND MOBILITY BAROMETER →](#)

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