



Wayl-Ease

SIF Round 5 – Beta Phase Monitoring Kick-Off Meeting

11/05/2026

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Platinum



© 2026 UK Power Networks. All rights reserved



Agenda

01 · Introductions

02 · Project Introduction

03 · Project Governance

04 · Project Outline by Work Package

05 · Q1 aims

06 · SIF reporting & monitoring requirements (MO & IL)

07 · AOB & questions

Project Introduction

Why we are building Wayl-Ease, what stakeholders have told us and the problems the solution addresses.

Project Partners

Our multi-disciplinary team brings together the full range of technology, innovation and consumer focus to take Wayl-Ease into BAU, delivering impact for consumers, energy companies and the Great Britain as a whole.



- Ensure project meets time, costs, scope and SIF requirements
- Provide subject-matter expertise on wayleave processes and network operator requirements
- Disseminate learnings and encourage GB wide adoption of the solution



- Lead customer and community engagement, ensuring the Wayl-Ease solution reflects real customer needs, behaviours and barriers
- Lead customer recruitment and co-ordination for Beta Phase testing
- Provide specialist insight into inclusivity, accessibility and trust, particularly for vulnerable or under-represented customer groups



- Lead requirements definition, solution architecture, and design governance approvals
- Build, test, and deploy the platform across development, test, and production environments, including UAT and go-live
- Provide documentation, training, BAU* handover, and support commercialisation and investment readiness



- Report on Beta Phase customer testing, ensuring robust collection and analysis of user, operational and performance insights
- Conduct business case development and cost-benefit analysis
- Lead commercialisation and scaling research, identifying viable routes to market and GB-wide adoption across network operators

Together, our team brings the full range of technology, innovation and consumer focus needed to deliver impact for consumers, energy companies and Great Britain

The wayleave challenge at GB scale



Wayleave Agreement

A personal agreement between a landowner and network operator to host network assets on private land.

Personal – agreed with the individual, not the land.

Requires update on every change of land ownership.

Terminable – can be ended by the landowner.

~80%
 of GB DNO*
 assets are held
 on wayleaves

~18,000
 consent enquiries
 per year across
 UK Power
 Networks

**Up to
 460,000 km^[1]**
 of additional distribution
 network install or
 refurbishment required
 by 2050

Why effective wayleave management matters now



Impact of Department of Energy Security & Net Zero's Consultation on Electricity Network Infrastructure: Consents, Land Access and Rights

No new land rights under Electricity Act

Increased importance of maintaining landowner contact

Effective wayleave management

Will ensure network access for upgrades / maintenance

Relationship with landowner improves

Communication on works / outages / safety

What our stakeholders have told us

Voice of the landowner: Interview

9x one-hour qualitative interviews informed the development of Beta Phase solution:

"Is there an easier way for you to search ownership and locations of assets?"

"The only reason I knew to claim was a neighbour told me"

"Explanation of payment assessment. What qualified the payment to be at that rate."

"Details about the asset would be useful...whether high or low voltage, etc."

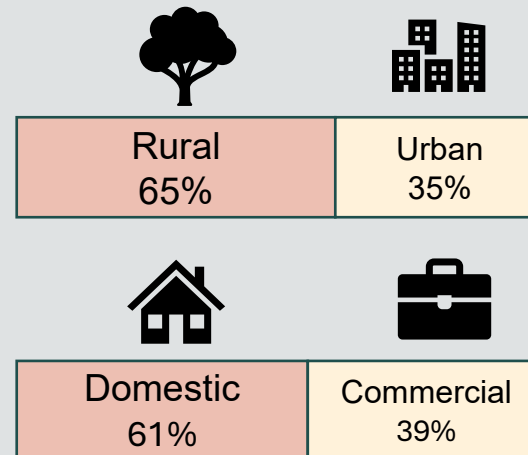
"Please make it user friendly"



Voice of the landowner: Survey

During Beta Phase scoping we heard feedback from over **50** landowners:

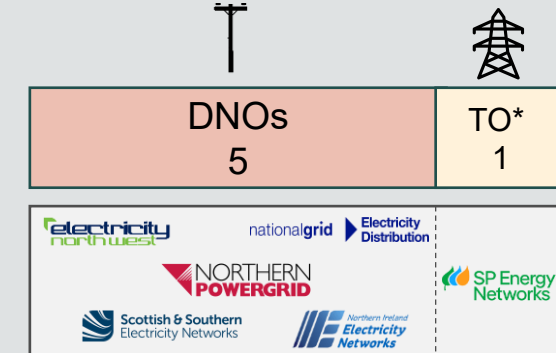
- **94%** noted the Wayl-Ease portal concept would be helpful
- Average usefulness score of **88%**
- Demographic breakdown:



Voice of the network operator:

Engagement sessions in March 2025 and November 2025 through the ENA Estates and Wayleaves Forum

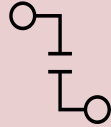
- **25%** of networks engaged use digital contracts today. **100%** of networks engaged would like to move to digital contracting
- **100%** of networks engaged agreed: *"triaging customer enquiries for new consents - such as identifying where consents are or aren't required - would be beneficial"*



The problems we are solving

Pain point

Fragmented, hard-to-access information causing delays and confusion



Our Solution

- User-friendly portal
- Centralised wayleave data
- Quick mapping tools

The Result

Simplified, accurate access to information and mapping improves transparency and confidence

Pain point

Manual wayleave handling and asset identification



Our Solution

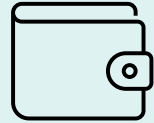
- Automated workflows
- Real-time alerts
- AI asset validation

The Result

Reduced turnaround times with security, compliance, and transparency

Pain point

Transparency and understanding of payments due



Our Solution

- Secure database
- Automated validation
- Seamless integration

The Result

Transparent costs and guaranteed payments – reducing disputes and building trust

Project Outline by Work Package

WP1 – Project Management

Context

To ensure project is delivered on time, to budget and to SIF requirements. Co-ordination between partners and leading project dissemination

Project kick-off

- Timelines and work packages (WPs) agreed
- Kick-off meeting co-ordinated
- Contract signed

Quarterly review meetings

- Review project progress and documentation
- Report on finances
- Share key insights

End of Phase & closure

- Delivery and approval of all WPs
- Governance reporting complete
- Project Specific Conditions addressed and evidenced
- Dissemination activities

Success Criteria

All deliverables delivered on time and to budget, while meeting reporting requirements and Project Specific Conditions.

WP2 – Customer and Stakeholder Engagement

Context

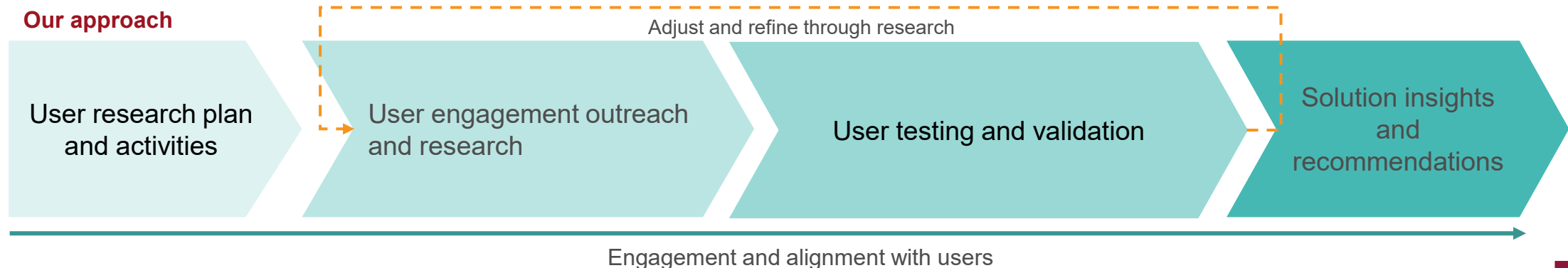
Capture input from broad range of users in solution design and iterative development, ensuring customer feedback is incorporated throughout the project period to maximise intended benefits and set a good foundation implementation beyond project period

Key Tasks

This WP key tasks:

- Set out a clear stakeholder engagement plan setting out the scope, approach, and methods
- Conduct user research refining user needs, motivations and requirement to serve as inputs to select audiences for quantitative and qualitative research
- Test the solution with real users, providing insights and data for the continuous and iterative development with TCS
- Document and share key insights, lessons learnt and recommendations; enabling future improvements to aid long-term adoption strategies for network operators

Our approach



Success Criteria

Testing shows customers can clearly understand, engage with and complete wayleave interactions through Wayl-Ease – with evidence of improved process efficiency and increased confidence between customers and network operators.

CATAPULT
Digital

COMMUNITY ENERGY
PATHWAYS

WP3 – MVP Design and Build

Context

Deliver a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) that meets the agreed business requirements, serving as a working solution that enables user engagement, feedback collection and sets the foundation for future enhancements

Key Tasks

This WP key tasks:

- **Requirement gathering & sign off**
 - Requirement workshop planning
 - Gather requirement from UK Power Networks users and friendly end customers
- **Architecture Review Board (ARB) approval**
 - Create architecture diagrams
- **MVP Build & Testing**
 - Design and Build functionalities for MVP
 - Perform unit and system integration testing
- **MVP UAT & Go-live**
 - MVP build deployment to preproduction enabling users to perform UAT
 - MVP build go-live in production environment

Success Criteria

An MVP designed, built, tested and deployed – delivering core Wayl-Ease functionality and enabling structured user testing to inform subsequent releases.



WP4 – Release 1 & 2 Design and Build

Context

Enhance the MVP through two planned development iterations. Introducing new features and improvement at each iteration and incorporating feedback from stakeholders to refine usability and functionality

Key Tasks

This WP key tasks:

- **Release 1 Build & Testing**
 - Design and Build functionalities for Release 1
 - Perform unit and system integration testing
- **Release 1 UAT & Go-live**
 - Release 1 build deployment to preproduction and enable users' access to perform UAT
 - Release 1 build go-live in production environment
- **Release 2 Build & Testing**
 - Design and Build functionalities for Release 2
 - Perform unit and system integration testing
- **Release 2 UAT & Go-live**
 - Release 2 build deployment to preproduction and enable users' access to perform UAT
 - Release 2 build go-live in production environment

Success Criteria

Release 1 and Release 2 designed, built and deployed – incorporating learning from MVP testing, with enhanced functionality, performance and readiness to support wider operational use and scale



WP5 – Route to BAU, Commercialisation & Scalability

Context

Ensure the solution is sustainable for BAU adoption, scales to other DNOs and is future-proofed with a robust business case and commercialisation plan

Key Tasks

This WP key tasks:

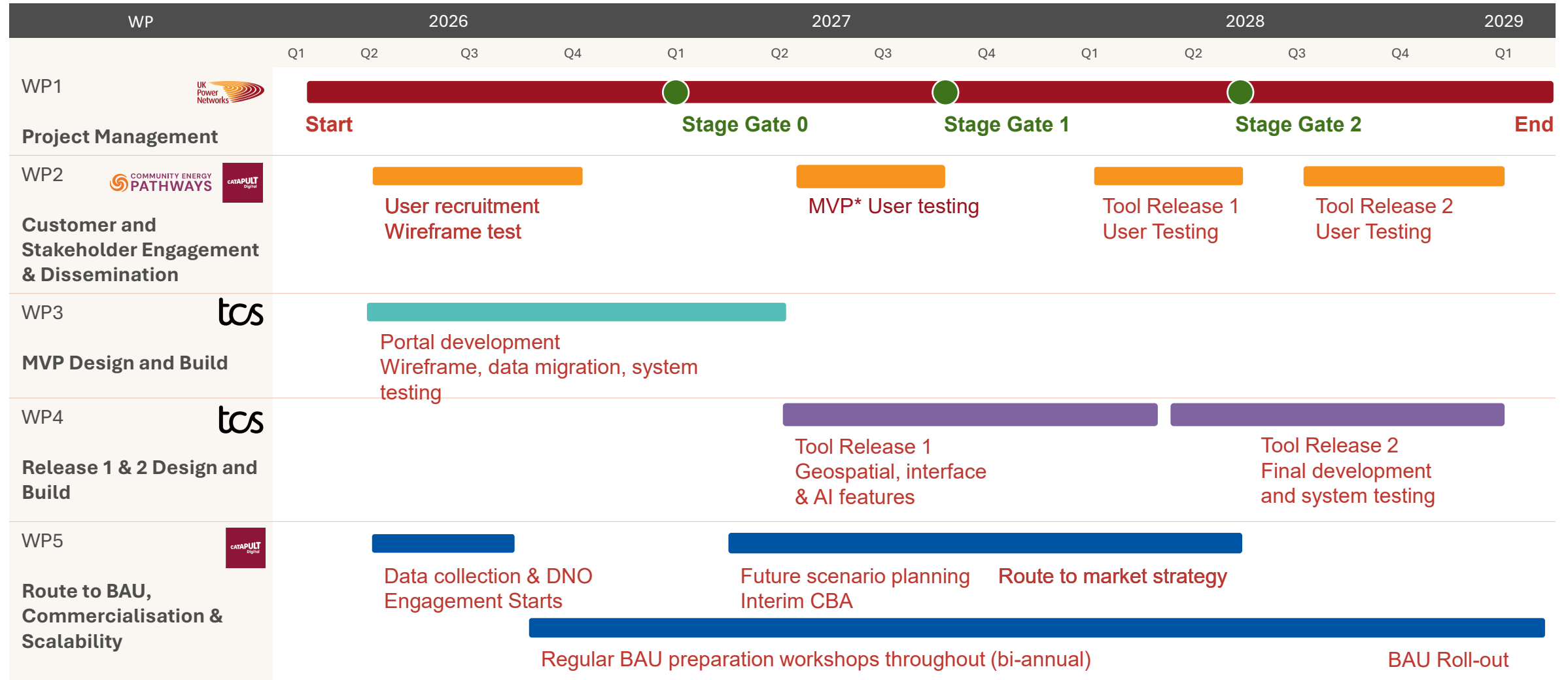
- **DNO Engagement & Validation**
 - Via ENA to build awareness, validate demand, and shape partnerships
- **Market, Value Proposition & Sector Insights**
 - Assess market, test value proposition, and incorporate sector insights to inform commercial approach
- **Route-to-Market & Business Model**
 - Define business model, pricing, and go-to-market plan for scalable rollout
- **Investment Decision & BAU Transition**
 - Deliver final investment recommendation
 - Establish BAU setup, resourcing, and rollout plan

Success Criteria

A robust evaluation of benefits and costs, supported by clear recommendations for BAU adoption and GB-wide scalability



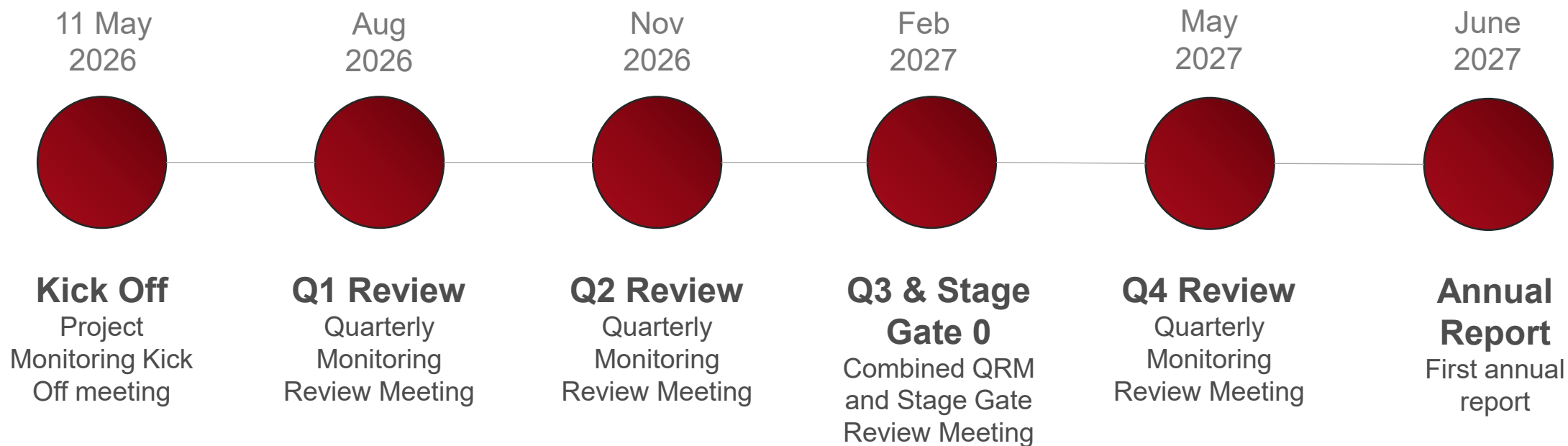
Project timeline



Project Governance

UKRI Monitoring & Reporting 2026-27

Planned key dates for 2026-27



Project Specific Conditions - status (1/2)

Specific Condition	Status	Progress
Condition 1 – The Funding Party must not spend any SIF Funding until contracts are signed with the Project Partners	Open	Contract in progress, no funding scheduled to be spent until contracts are signed
Condition 2 – Financial contribution	Open	Financial contributions will be reported
Condition 3 – Meeting arrangements	Open	UK Power Networks will attend meetings related to the Project that they are invited to by Ofgem, UKRI and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero during the Beta Phase
Condition 4 – Stage gate scoping	Open	Considerations for Stage Gate criteria being developed in preparation of Quarterly Review Meeting (QRM) 2

Project Specific Conditions (2/2)

Specific Condition	Material	Within 3 months	Within 6 months	Quarterly	Bi-Quarterly	Mid-Point	Annually	End-of-Phase
Condition 5	Project Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Plan							Yes - Report
Condition 6	SIF community forum attendance and contribution						Yes	
Condition 7	Regulatory, policy and standards barriers and any change requirements which may impact project delivery			Yes – Verbal update			Yes - Report	Yes - Report
Condition 8	Updated 60 second videos	Yes				Yes		Yes
Condition 9	Roadmap for activities post-Beta Phase		Yes		Yes			Yes
Condition 10	Commercialisation Strategy		Yes		Yes			Yes
Condition 11	Data Best Practice and Digital Strategy and Action Plan Guidance alignment	Yes					Yes – Report (Year 1)	
Condition 12	Wayl-Ease functional specification and non-functional requirements							Yes
Condition 13	Engagement with other DNOs, TOs and relevant utilities update				Yes			
Condition 14	Consumer benefits update				Yes			

Definitions: DNO = Distribution Network Operator, TO = Transmission Operator

Key risks and issues, impact on plan

Ref	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	WP	Risk Owner	Status
R3	Delays in acquiring necessary data sources causing delays in platform development putting the project behind schedule.	Medium	High	Data requests to UK Power Networks were prepared ahead of the project start, allowing sufficient lead time for data acquisition to begin at the outset of the project.	WP3	UK Power Networks	Open
R8	Unable to recruit necessary customers and stakeholders for feedback and test to improve the solution and weakening benefit realisation.	Medium	High	CEP* as customer representative partner in the programme will bring in their network of communities. Target customer and stakeholder profile, along with the engagement plan, will be agreed at the beginning of the project. Extra recruitment time built in to allow methodologies and approaches for recruitment to be adapted if necessary.	WP2	Community Energy Pathways	Open
R11	Lack of engagement and interest from other DNOs impacting scaling of the solution beyond UK Power Networks.	Medium	Medium	Standing agenda slot at ENA Estates and Wayleaves Forum. Early and regular engagement to raise awareness and interest is embedded in the project plan. The route to market work is designed to explore a wide range of options for scaling, which will be informed by the feedback and interests gathered from other DNOs through the engagement activities.	WP5	Digital Catapult	Open
R13	Possible delays during integration of Wayl-Ease with existing enterprise systems (e.g., SAP) may impact data flow and project timelines.	Medium	Medium	We will design robust architecture from the outset. Early integration testing will be conducted to identify and address potential issues as soon as possible. All interfaces will be clearly documented to ensure consistency and understanding across teams. Dedicated efforts will be allocated specifically for integration and testing activities to ensure system reliability and performance.	WP4	Tata Consultancy Services	Open

Project Updates and Changes since application

Contract

- In progress, final version near agreement
- Spend profile being finalised

Risk register

- Risks reviewed and will be continuously updated over project lifecycle

Project kick-off

- Project kick-off occurring May 2026 as planned
- Justification:
 - Partners are mobilised
 - Contract close to signature
 - Ensure no delays to project end date

Project plan

- Minimal changes to Gantt Chart
 - Primarily addition of Stage Gate 0
 - Working on updates as required to capture requirements relating to project special conditions

Project Q1

Q1 Activities by WP

WP1

- Agree project plan, governance structure, milestones, risks and dependencies
- Complete project kick-off and establish reporting cadence
- Contract signed

WP2

- Stakeholder mobilisation
 - Ways of working, KPIs communication, roles and responsibilities, alignment with project partners roles and timings
- Engagement plan co-design session
 - User research and testing plan
 - Audience mapping and outreach strategy

WP3

- Gathered, consolidated and formally approved the functional, non-functional and data requirements for the MVP.
- Completed initial stakeholder workshops and requirement definition activities to remove ambiguity ahead of build.

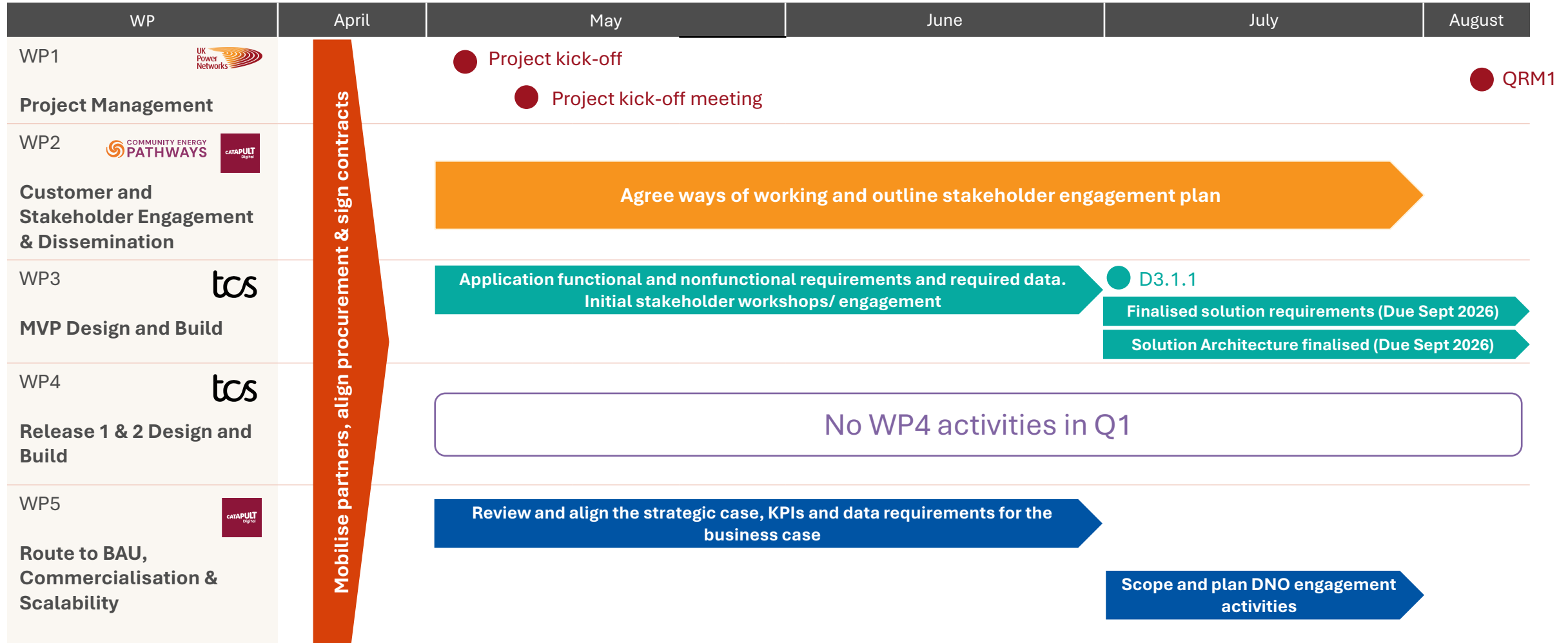
WP4

- No material WP4 delivery commenced, with the WP correctly held until MVP design and learning is available.
- Environment and data readiness planning

WP5

- Agreed strategic objectives, KPIs and data requirements for the Beta Phase business case and cost-benefit analysis.

Project timeline



AOB and Questions