

Reduction and Avoidance of Bird Strikes

ID: EIP148

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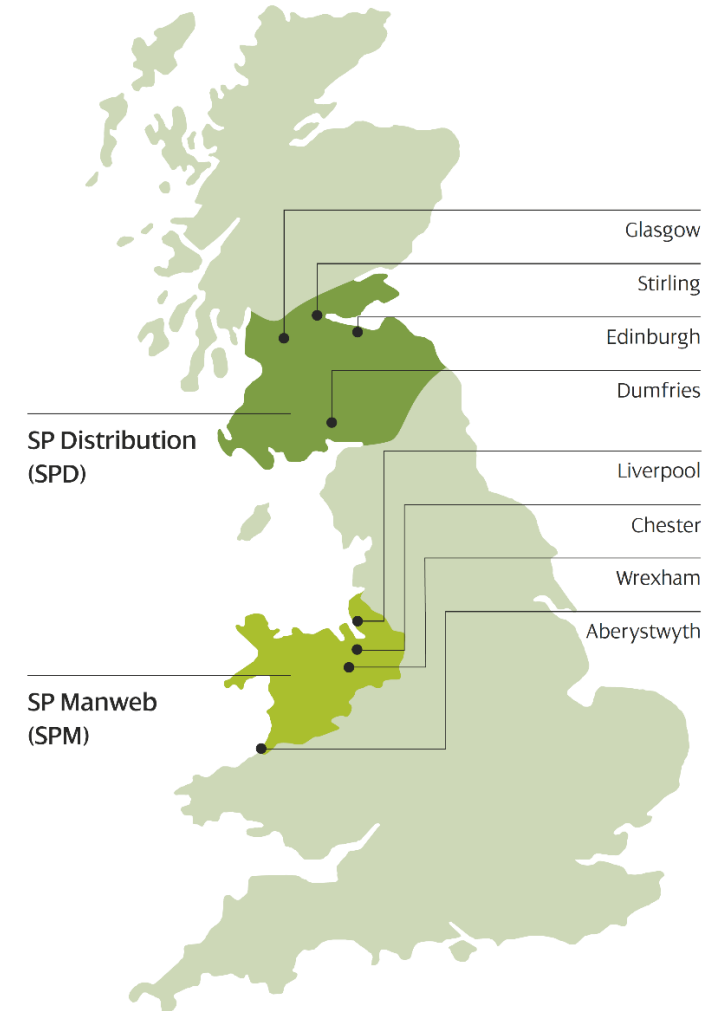
SPEN Sustainability Specialist – Biodiversity

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We own and operate two regulated distribution networks, SP Distribution plc (SPD) and SP Manweb plc (SPM). We are the only DNO group to operate across all three nations of GB – Scotland, England and Wales. We also own and operate one transmission network in Central and Southern Scotland, SP Transmission plc (SPT)

Our business is crucial to the delivery of the UK's Net Zero target and the transition to a more sustainable future.

We are committed to making this happen and placing our customers and stakeholders at the heart of this journey.



SPEN Action Plan for Nature – Published 2024

SPEN recognise that there is an urgent need to act decisively to address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change together.

Key Targets

2028 – No Net Loss of biodiversity across our activities

2030 – Nature Positive for direct impacts

SDG:

With links to:



Follow this Link/QR code to our [Action Plan for Nature](#)

SCAN ME

SPEN has committed to be 'nature positive for direct impacts by 2030'

Bird strikes on overhead lines can cause power outages, damage to equipment, and harm to avian populations.

Understanding of the scale of the issue in the UK is limited so there is a need to develop and implement effective strategies to monitor, record, and prevent bird strikes on OHL infrastructure.

Key Challenges

Detection and Monitoring

- reliable sensors and monitoring systems that can accurately identify bird presence and behaviour near power lines are needed
- At the moment, the business is reliant on physically seeing a strike or the presence of a dead bird at the location of a fault

Data Recording and Analysis

- Besides regular patrols, operational staff will only be sent to investigate a specific event if it triggers a permanent fault on the network. This is a challenge given bird strikes can represent transient faults (i.e. multi-shot fuses), and as a result it is considered the number of recorded bird strikes can be significantly higher than the reported values.
- robust data recording and analysis and risk assessment tools are essential for understanding the frequency, timing, and locations of bird strikes

Preventive Measures

innovative solutions are required to deter birds from flying into power lines without causing harm to the birds or disrupting power transmission

The objective is to improve our process of monitoring, recording, and prevention of bird strikes by identifying and implementing solutions for existing OHL infrastructure

We want to explore integrating advanced technologies and design modifications to create a safer environment for birds while ensuring the reliability and efficiency of power transmission

Advanced Sensor Integration

Monitor avian behaviour around assets through the innovative use of sensors

Automated Data Recording

Identifying strikes when they occur and species impacted

Innovative Deterrents

Reduce incidents of bird strikes without harming birds, such as imitation predators

Key Stakeholders



Target market

UK Context

We would expect this study to be tailored to the UK context in which SPEN operates, taking consideration of the different bird species across SPEN’s operational areas and their differing characteristics

