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UK DATA CENTRES: THE HIDDEN INFRASTRUCTURE

SCALE, PLANS & SYSTEMIC RISKS

Date: July 2026

Classification: IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE

Sources: Planning registers, operator filings, NESO, LGA, parliamentary reports

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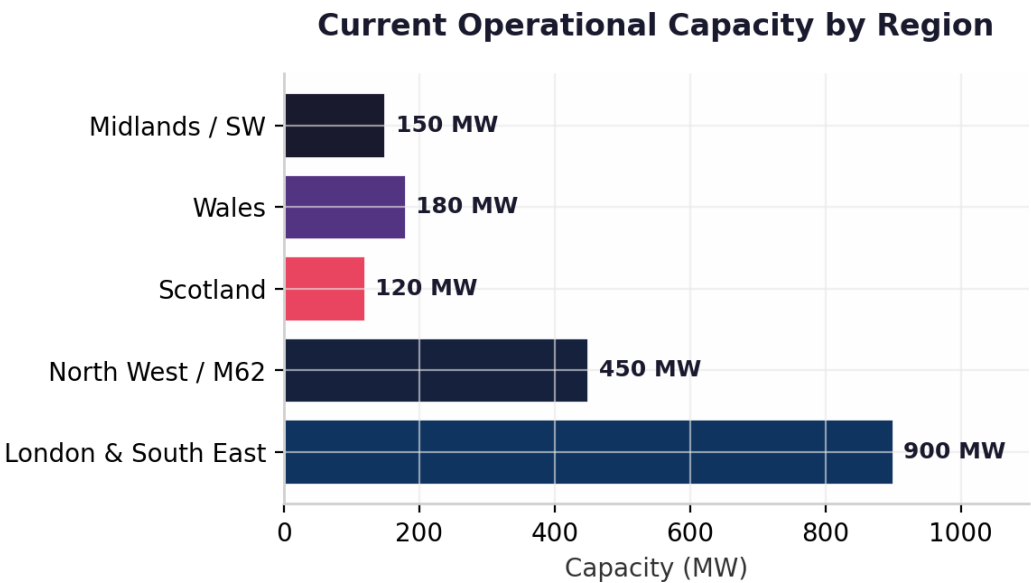
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PART 1: CURRENT STATE

OPERATIONAL & PLANNED INFRASTRUCTURE

1.1 Operational Data Centres (Verified)

Region	Key Sites / Operators	Total Capacity
London & South East	Equinix, AWS, Azure, Digital Realty, Kao Data	900 MW
North West / M62 Corridor	Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool (Pulsant, Equinix)	450 MW
SCOTLAND	Glasgow, Edinburgh, Glenrothes, Aberdeen	120 MW
Wales	Cardiff, Newport	180 MW
Midlands / South West	Birmingham, Bristol, Nottingham	150 MW
TOTAL	~320 sites	~1,800 MW

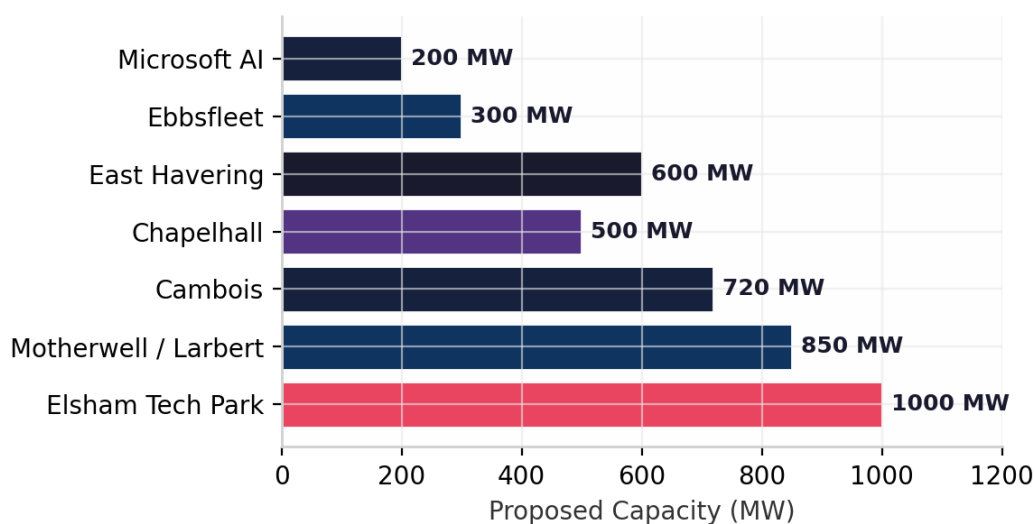


1.2 Planned / Under Construction (Major Projects)

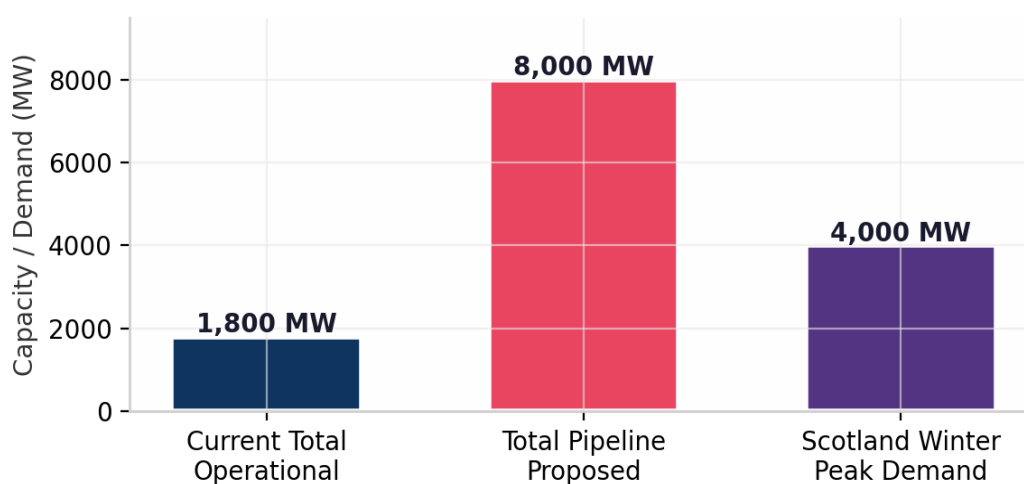
Project	Location	Capacity	Status
Microsoft AI Campus	Newport, Wales	200 MW+	Under construction
Motherwell / Larbert	North Lanarkshire	850 MW combined	Planning applied

Chapelhall	North Lanarkshire	500 MW	Contested
Cambois	Northumberland	720 MW	Approved
Elsham Tech Park	Lincolnshire	1 GW	Proposed
East Havering	East London	600 MW	Proposed
Ebbsfleet AI Campus	Kent	300 MW	NSIP process
TOTAL PIPELINE	~140 projects	~8,000 MW PROPOSED	

Major Planned / Under Construction Projects



The Scale Gap

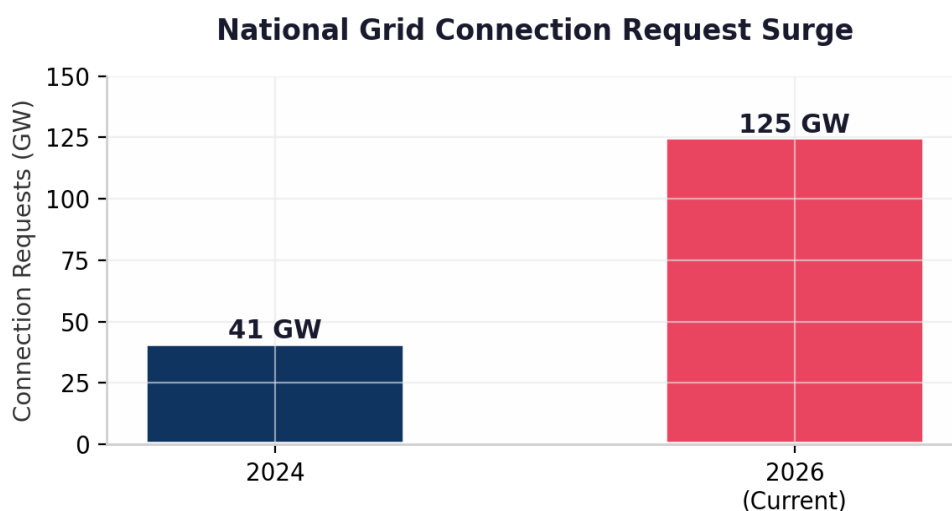


PART 2: THE DANGERS

WHAT THIS EXPANSION ACTUALLY MEANS

2.1 Energy & Grid Crisis

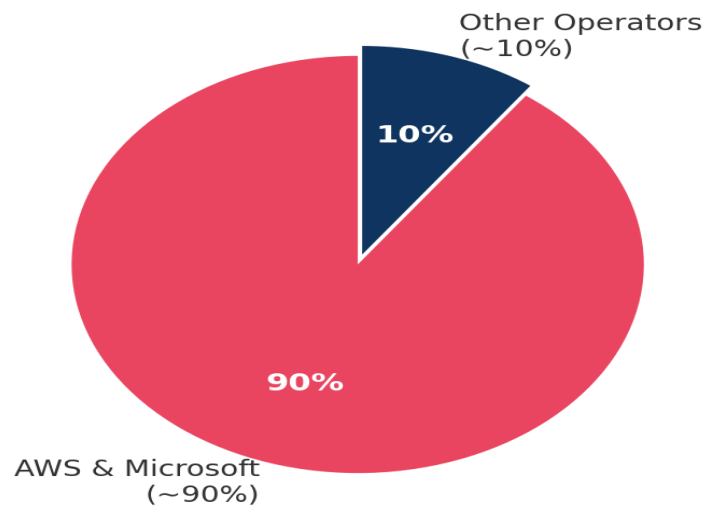
- **Scotland's Risk Alone:** All planned Scottish sites total 6.2–8.7 GW – exceeding Scotland's entire winter peak demand of ~4,000 MW.
- **National Grid Backlog:** Connection requests have surged to 125 GW (up from 41 GW in 2024), with ~50 GW linked to data centres – some waiting until 2037 for connections.
- **Cost to Public:** Grid upgrades could add £145–£225/year to household bills in affected areas – costs not disclosed in planning applications.
- **Climate Conflict:** Threatens net-zero targets; demand outpaces renewable build-out, risking greater reliance on fossil fuels.



2.2 Loss of Sovereignty & Data Control

- **Foreign Ownership:** ~90% of UK cloud infrastructure is controlled by just two US firms (AWS & Microsoft).
- **Legal Reach:** Under the US CLOUD Act, US authorities can demand data held by American companies – even when stored in the UK. The UK Government has made no formal assessment of this risk to NHS, police, or public sector data.
- **Opaque Governance:** Data may be processed outside UK jurisdiction; operators are not required to guarantee full UK-only handling.

UK Cloud Infrastructure Ownership



2.3 Democratic Deficit & Transparency Failure

- **Bypassing Local Control:** New rules allow large sites to be classed as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) – local councils cannot refuse approval, only "comment".
- **No Cumulative Impact Tests:** Authorities do not assess the combined effect of multiple sites on power, water, or communities.
- **Weak Disclosure:** Operators withhold site-specific energy, water, and emissions data; no mandatory standardised reporting.
- **Limited Consultation:** Public hearings are often rushed; communities have little say on massive local changes.

2.4 Security & Environmental Risks

- **Critical National Infrastructure:** Designated as such in 2024, yet regulation lags behind scale – creating vulnerabilities to cyber-attack, physical disruption, and supply-chain interference.
- **Water Stress:** Huge cooling needs threaten supplies in already-scarce regions; no mandatory closed-loop rules.
- **Low Local Benefit:** Sites employ only 20–50 people each despite consuming more power than towns.

PART 3: JAOC CONCLUSION & CALL FOR EXAMINATION

"The UK is sleepwalking into handing control of its digital backbone – and a large share of its energy future – to unaccountable foreign corporations, with no public debate, no proper assessment, and no guarantee that this serves British interests. The numbers alone tell the story: planned capacity is nearly five times our current total, yet nobody has explained who will pay, who will decide, and who actually benefits."

Key Questions Demanding Answers

1. Why is there no official national map or cumulative impact assessment published by government?
2. Who bears the cost of grid upgrades – developers or billpayers?
3. Can we truly call data "secure" when US law overrides UK safeguards?
4. Why are local councils stripped of power to protect their communities?

Full source links, updates, and further investigation:

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