



STANDING CHARGES CASE STUDY

Capacity vs Reality: Revealing Hidden
Overspending in Standing Charges

At a Glance

01 **29.95 kVA**
Average Apparent Power

02 **97.05 kVA**
Max Load Recorded

03 **140 kVA**
Contracted Capacity

04 **Up to £1,456**
In Avoidable Charges

05 **Only 5 Spikes**
above 80 kVA all year

Issue:

In 2024, a Hertfordshire consultancy firm was paying standing charges on a 140 kVA supply capacity—yet its meters never drew close to that limit, resulting in unnecessary annual fees.

The Root Cause:

Their contracted capacity had been set too high based on legacy assumptions, and went unreviewed against real consumption patterns, so they continually overpaid for unused headroom.

What the data showed:

Over the past 12 months, the site's meters recorded an average apparent power of only 29.95 kVA, with a single peak at 97.05 kVA; usage exceeded 80 kVA on just five occasions, and never once rose above 100 kVA—clear evidence that their 140 kVA tariff tier was far beyond their real needs.

The Solution

OAK recommended reducing the agreed capacity to 80 kVA—comfortably above their historic peak. This adjustment cuts their standing-charge bill by approximately £1,456 per year, with zero impact on operations, freeing budget for further energy-efficiency projects.

 [Learn More here](#)

Issue

30.7 %

excess contract capacity over actual peak load, resulting in £1,456 in avoidable annual charges.

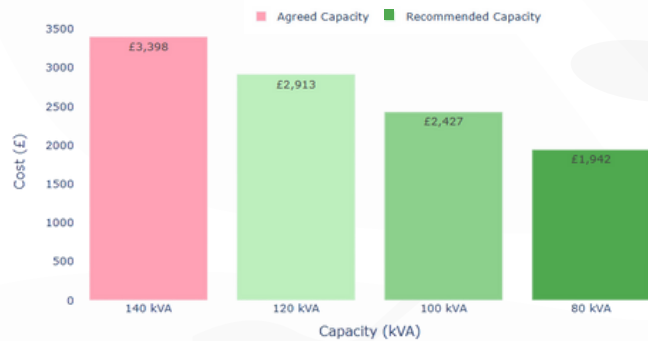


The Root Cause

UK energy contracts often include capacity charges — a daily fee based on the agreed supply limit. If the agreed limit is set too high, businesses unknowingly overpay month after month.

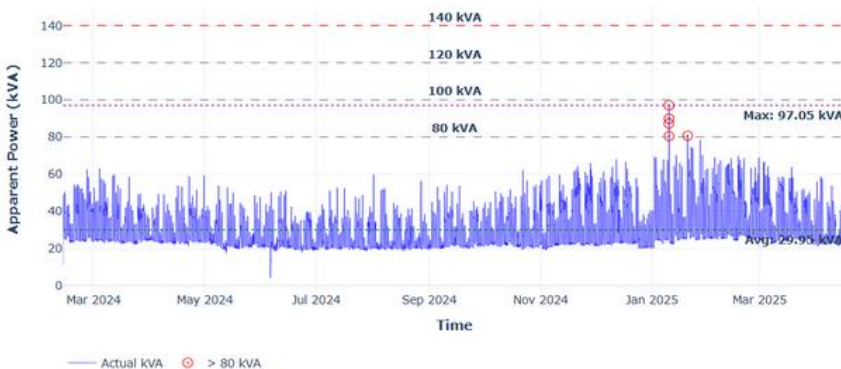
OAK performed a detailed analysis of the site's apparent power (kVA) over the past 12 months. We compared the real usage data against the agreed capacity level and found a clear mismatch.

Annual Cost by Agreed vs Recommended Capacity



What the Data Showed

Apparent Power (kVA) Over Time vs Contracted Capacity



! The site consistently operated well below its contractual threshold.

🔍 There were only 5 brief instances all year where usage exceeded 80 kVA, and never above 100 kVA.

The Solution

On OAK's recommendation, the firm successfully reduced their agreed capacity to 80 kVA — a move backed by real usage data and risk analysis.

This adjustment is now delivering over **£1,450 in annual savings**, with no impact on operations. What was once an overlooked inefficiency is now a smart cost-saving strategy — enabled by data.

www.oak-network.com



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hello@oak-network.com



+44 736 158 8061