

## TAKING PRIDE IN OUR HERITAGE: SSE Corporate Archive

SSE was formed in 1998 and has gone on to become one of the UK's leading energy firms supplying electricity and gas to over 9 million households and businesses. The company can trace its corporate heritage back to the 19th century, when some of the first UK electricity enterprises were being founded. The SSE archive was created to capture and preserve the records which chronicle this rich history.

Our archive was officially opened by MSP John Swinney on 21st August 2015. Located in the iconic Pitlochry dam and power station, the archive not only provides access to our historical records, but allows visitors a unique and close-up view of a working hydro power station.

The collection contains a wide variety of documents which represent a valuable and unique resource for both public researchers and staff members to learn more about the origins of SSE and the electricity industry as a whole. Our photographic collection alone comprises of tens of thousands of images, including German POW's at work digging cable trenches, engineers battling through storms in the Highlands, and the building of the Scottish hydro schemes. Some of our material has been used in the book "Master Rock" by Maria Fusco, an artistic look at the creation of Cruachan power station.

We are incredibly proud of our heritage and we want to make it as widely available as possible. The archive is open to the public by appointment, and we will be making more content available through our dedicated website. Currently we are working towards making our full catalogue available online, digitising our photographic collection, and working with staff and visitors to expand and use our collection.

Our archive will also play a huge role in creating content for SSE's new visitor centre, also located in Pitlochry. Free to visitors and open all year round, the centre will use state-of-the-art technology to showcase the role played by the engineers who brought hydro power to Scotland over 70 years ago.

It's all part of our plan to create a hydro heritage 'hub' here in Pitlochry which will bring to life the story of electricity. We also hope that the archive will grow with new deposits arriving over the coming years from a variety of employee and public sources.

"This archive charts the history of the electricity industry and SSE itself. These records represent a valuable and unique resource for both researchers and the general public to learn more about the origins of the electricity industry in the UK". Gillian O'Reilly, Head of Heritage.

[www.sseheritage.org.uk](http://www.sseheritage.org.uk)