

Melanie Barrow- Written Representation

My name is Melanie Barrow and I am a resident in Great Moulton. My home will be situated a short distance from the proposed substation.

I need to advocate for [REDACTED] who will live overlooking the substation. [REDACTED] and the auditory intrusion from construction and then low hum from the substation will entirely disrupt [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Shockingly, in the applicant's own response in section BEPSG-007 "Noise and Vibration" and EIA (APP-214) they explicitly acknowledge that neurodivergent people are significantly more uniquely sensitive to the specific effects of noise and vibration. Yet, they offer absolutely zero specific mitigation. Having identified a severe mental health and neurological impact, they simply walk away from their responsibility to remedy it.

This impact is dual phased. First, the violent, unpredictable construction noise will trigger distress and meltdowns. Secondly, the long-term operational hum will cause permanent sleep deprivation. Critically autistic people often struggle to regulate their body temperature. In the extreme heat we have just had having a window open at night was important, but if there is continuous noise this would cause an unmanageable sensory crisis. Keeping windows closed to mitigate noise will cause the property to dangerously overheat, directly impacting physical health and making our homes unliveable. If our homes become unsuitable we would of course do anything to help, but we fear with the surrounding energy infrastructure will make our homes unsellable.

Our family have not been included in the developer's Book of Reference as a Category 3 affected party. The applicant has made a flawed blanked assumption that a massive substation will not cause a physical nuisance. This omission is a total failure of diligent inquiry and for children with ASD there is a direct failure of care.

As a public body, the Planning Inspectorate is bound by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Autism meets the statutory definition of a disability. The legal principle in R (Bracking) v DWP dictates that decision-makers must exercise the Public Sector Equality Duty with rigour. If essential information on a disabled individual is missing, the decision-maker has a duty to acquire it. The applicant's environmental noise data relies entirely on neurotypical averages and fails to assess. Because of identified conditions and diagnosis of conditions such as sensory processing disorder, Autism, I ask the Examining Authority to ensure any DCO has full acoustic enclosure and a neurodivergent noise assessment is carried out specifically measuring the low-frequency tonal impact at our boundary against neurodivergent sensory limits by an independent audiologist.

The impact of this development will be catastrophic to young lives and education. To summarise the substation hum will not be a mere "amenity nuisance" but a direct threat to health, development and the ability to live in homes.

- The exactly issue is the position of the substation.
- We will be living overlooking it and the noise will affect my family enormously both from construction and when it is built.
- We specifically chose to live in this location because of the needs of [REDACTED] needs a quiet environment.
- What evidence supports my concern- in section BEPSG-007 “Noise and Vibration” and EIA (APP-214) they explicitly acknowledge that neurodivergent people are significantly more uniquely sensitive to the specific effects of noise and vibration.
- What would the impact be if the scheme went ahead?



Powerlines run over this field- extending these will also bring disruption

The substation is to be positioned here. We are very concerned about the visual impact, health risk and noise.

You can clearly see deer who live in this field. They will be driven to find new habitats.

We fear for the fate of this beautiful ancient oak. We have seen bats roosting there and we regularly watch them and owls fly over our house and the field

This is the view from my house in [REDACTED]. My home over looks where the substation will be positioned. I am extremely concerned about the positioning of the substation.

The photo shows the direct view we will have over where the substation is to be positioned.

- The location of your photo is from the houses overlooking the field in Great Moulton in Potters Crescent
- It was taken on 26.9.2026

We are especially concerned about the disruption the construction will cause to our house. We fear that there could be an increased risk of subsidence and flooding. The construction will cause dust and this will effect the air quality near our house. At least one resident [REDACTED]

This Summer was extremely hot. It was impossible to sleep without opening windows. We fear the construction dust and noise will significantly reduce our health and quality of life/ wellbeing.

Fire and Safety risks

- We are concerned about the increased risks to health, safety and life the substation and battery farm present. If there was to be a fire we have seen increased risks this year from field fires. Our home is situated overlooking the fields which will be used for construction. Evacuating a neurodiverse child would be incredibly distressing. There is no evacuation plan for Great Moulton and no risk assessment that I have seen to mitigate the risk of Frith Way being used for construction traffic and being a road that could be cut off for evacuation.
- I am extremely concerned that the risks to residents have not been given proper consideration. Energy infrastructure brings an increased risk of being targeted for terrorist disruption in a conflict situation. It would be potentially devastating if a substation was targeted if homes had to be evacuated. This brings an enormously increased risk to residents who live near it.

The nature of the environment we live in

- We have chosen to live in this area because it is quiet and peaceful.
- We knew our [REDACTED] would not tolerate a busy urban environment. An industrial landscape is being created literally next to our house. We could tolerate solar panels more, but these are going to be much higher than most solar panel heights. We particularly object to the substation. It seems entirely the wrong location.
- The view in the photo will be entirely eradicated and our lives will be changed. There will be no countryside to view but more importantly constant noise and disruption.
- If we decided to move we doubt we could sell our house, and this created limitations on our children's social mobility. House prices will fall making residents who have worked hard to pay off mortgages economically disadvantaged. All of this seems highly unfair.

A complaint about the process

- Finally, I would just like to highlight that the process of raising concerns to the planning inspectorate has felt incredibly complicated. Hearings were held at a time when people have to work.
- I was not sent a link to the hearing and had to wait on the helpline for hours. I was finally omitted into the meeting with very little time until I was called to speak.
- I do not feel that the EIA has made adequate provision for representation of vulnerable groups and people. There are people I know who will be living overlooking the substation who have Cancer, dementia and mental health conditions. They will be either reluctant to contribute their views or unable because of the complicatedness of the process. I would question how fair, transparent to interested parties this process has been and state that there has been no ease of access to represent views.