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Dear Planning Inspectorate

Writtle Parish Council writes to alert you to serious legal deficiencies in National Grid's consultation process for their Development Consent Order (DCO).

The consultation conducted by National Grid has failed to meet the standards set out in the Gunning principles. These principles—requiring that consultation is undertaken at a formative stage, that sufficient information is provided, that adequate time is allowed, and that responses are conscientiously considered—are incorporated within the “inadequacy of consultation” test under the Planning Act 2008.

It is therefore wrong in law to treat the Gunning principles and the Planning Act test as separate matters. They are part of the same standard. We urge you to take these deficiencies fully into account before proceeding. Acceptance of the application in its current form would undermine both statutory requirements and the fundamental principles of fair public participation in the planning process.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Chair
Writtle Parish Council