

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of a substation in immediate proximity to our home. The physical location of this industrial infrastructure — directly opposite our property — poses serious, long-term risks to our health, environment, and quality of life. I wish to highlight the following major concerns:

1. Health Risks from Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)

Substations generate electromagnetic fields (EMFs), and although levels vary, close proximity to such infrastructure raises serious health concerns — especially for long-term exposure.

Numerous studies have raised concerns about increased risks of childhood leukaemia, neurological effects, and other chronic illnesses in those living near high-voltage substations or power lines.

The World Health Organisation has classified extremely low-frequency EMFs as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2B), based on epidemiological studies.

Long-term exposure to EMFs — even at low levels — can cause chronic stress, insomnia, and headaches, and may exacerbate anxiety disorders and cognitive fatigue.

Given these concerns, it is wholly inappropriate to site a substation immediately in front of family homes, especially without long-term environmental and public health impact assessments and full resident consultation.

2. Mental Health and Wellbeing

The psychological toll of living next to a construction site — and then a permanent industrial structure — is already taking effect. Both myself and my husband are suffering from heightened anxiety, stress, and sleeplessness. The visual intrusion and looming presence of a substation will irreversibly damage the sense of peace and safety we have worked our entire lives to build.

This is not simply about aesthetics; it is about mental health, dignity, and respect for human life.

3. Environmental Impact: Noise, Dust, and Disruption

The construction and operation of a substation will also cause significant and prolonged environmental disruption, including:

Noise pollution from heavy machinery, pile-driving, and transport vehicles

Air pollution and dust particles, which can worsen respiratory conditions, especially for the elderly or those with asthma

Damage to biodiversity, including local wildlife, plant life, and green spaces, which will be irreversibly affected

Construction traffic and congestion, impacting road safety and access in a residential area

There is no acceptable justification for placing such an environmentally damaging development in a peaceful, residential setting. The very concept contradicts current planning policy priorities for environmental sustainability and resident wellbeing.

4. Property Devaluation and Loss of Amenity

The presence of a substation will inevitably lead to a sharp decline in property value, impacting not only our financial security but also that of our neighbours. It will compromise our right to peaceful enjoyment of our property, as protected by Article 8 of the Human Rights Act.

The aesthetic, acoustic, and psychological intrusion this proposal brings is not compatible with residential life and sets a damaging precedent for future developments.

5. Inadequate Consultation and Community Impact

We believe the consultation process has been inadequate, with limited transparency and little effort made to genuinely engage or listen to residents' concerns. No one has explained why alternative locations were not considered or ruled out — locations that do not border residential homes.

In Summary

We strongly urge the planning authority and responsible parties to reconsider this location and halt this proposal. There are significant and well-founded concerns relating to:

Public health and EMF exposure

Noise, dust, and environmental damage

Mental wellbeing and psychological harm

Property devaluation

Human rights and community impact

This proposal, if allowed to proceed, will cause irreversible harm to our home, our health, and our lives.

We respectfully request that this objection be formally recorded, and that a written response is provided addressing the concerns outlined above. We will continue to escalate this through all legal, media, and public platforms available to ensure our voices are heard.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Barlow