# Residents remain sceptical as Isle of Axholme power cuts persist despite Northern Powergrid repairs



Residents in the Isle of Axholme are increasingly expressing their frustration over persistent power cuts that have plagued their community since December. The outages, some lasting for several hours, have transformed daily routines into a struggle, prompting comparisons to "1970s-style" blackouts. Maggie Wootten, a West Butterwick resident of 34 years, described her anxiety, saying that the power disruptions frequently left her scrambling for camping lanterns to maintain some semblance of normalcy. Gary Cawkwell from Althorpe echoed this sentiment, labelling the situation "ridiculous" and underscoring how residents felt the need to "get the candles out" as the outages continued unabated.

Northern Powergrid has confirmed that it has addressed a significant fault in Northern Lincolnshire, yet residents remain sceptical about the reliability of the company's assurances. While the company claims repairs have been completed, many locals are apprehensive, anticipating further outages. "We're paying a lot of money for something but we're not getting the service," Wootten remarked, capturing a sentiment felt by many within the community who have found little comfort in the proposed £30 compensation for their difficulties. Christine Kennedy, another local resident, expressed her disbelief at the explanations provided for the outages, which included claims that birds and vegetation were to blame. "Are they really different here compared to anywhere else?" she questioned, reflecting a wider scepticism in the community regarding the reasons behind these disruptions.

The ongoing power cuts prompted Lee Pitcher, MP for Doncaster East and the Isle of Axholme, to organise public meetings in May 2025. These gatherings aimed to allow residents the opportunity to engage directly with Northern Powergrid representatives and voice their concerns. Pitcher stressed the importance of accountability regarding the repeated outages and the need for effective solutions. Such public forums represent a critical chance for community members to seek clarity and assert their rights.

Previously, power cuts in other areas have seen communities calling for more substantial compensation and improved communication from Northern Powergrid. In Sheffield's S6 district, residents endured multiple power interruptions, some lasting several days, leading to significant disruptions in both homes and local businesses. Calls for compensation echoed throughout the community as frustrations mounted regarding response times from the network operator.

As residents continue to navigate these disruptions, it's important to note the established regulations regarding compensation for prolonged power cuts. According to consumer rights guidelines, individuals can receive £95 for outages lasting 12 hours, with additional payments available for longer interruptions. This system is designed to ensure that customers receive some form of remuneration for disruptions, but residents have voiced concerns about the effectiveness of the claim process, especially given the mounting frustration around the reliability of Northern Powergrid's services.

Despite Northern Powergrid's assurances of resolution, many in the Isle of Axholme remain on edge, bracing for the next interruption while questioning the measures being taken to prevent such occurrences in the future.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvgnvgz6367o), [[2]](https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/politics/mp-calls-meetings-to-discuss-repeated-power-cuts-across-doncaster-constituency-5115422)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvgnvgz6367o), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/money/article/2024/jul/22/dont-get-left-in-the-dark-over-payouts-if-your-power-is-cut-off)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/politics/mp-calls-meetings-to-discuss-repeated-power-cuts-across-doncaster-constituency-5115422), [[3]](https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/demand-northern-powergrid-compensation-after-23249709)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/demand-northern-powergrid-compensation-after-23249709), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/money/article/2024/jul/22/dont-get-left-in-the-dark-over-payouts-if-your-power-is-cut-off)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/money/article/2024/jul/22/dont-get-left-in-the-dark-over-payouts-if-your-power-is-cut-off), [[5]](https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/19779101.northern-powergrid-explains-storm-arwen-compensation-plan/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvgnvgz6367o> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/politics/mp-calls-meetings-to-discuss-repeated-power-cuts-across-doncaster-constituency-5115422> - In May 2025, Doncaster East and Isle of Axholme MP Lee Pitcher organised public meetings to address repeated power cuts in the Isle of Axholme. Residents were invited to meet with Northern Powergrid representatives to discuss the issues and seek solutions. The meetings aimed to provide a platform for residents to voice their concerns and hold the company accountable for the disruptions. ([doncasterfreepress.co.uk](https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/politics/mp-calls-meetings-to-discuss-repeated-power-cuts-across-doncaster-constituency-5115422?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/demand-northern-powergrid-compensation-after-23249709> - Residents and businesses in Sheffield's S6 area experienced multiple power cuts, some lasting several days. Affected individuals, including local shop owners, reported significant disruptions to their daily operations. The community called for compensation from Northern Powergrid, expressing dissatisfaction with the company's response time and communication regarding the outages. ([examinerlive.co.uk](https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/demand-northern-powergrid-compensation-after-23249709?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/money/article/2024/jul/22/dont-get-left-in-the-dark-over-payouts-if-your-power-is-cut-off> - An article from July 2024 discusses the rights of consumers to compensation when experiencing power cuts. It outlines the compensation structure based on the duration of the outage and the cause, highlighting that customers can claim £95 for a 12-hour outage, with additional payments for longer disruptions. The piece also advises consumers on how to claim compensation and what to do if their network operator fails to provide it. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/money/article/2024/jul/22/dont-get-left-in-the-dark-over-payouts-if-your-power-is-cut-off?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/19779101.northern-powergrid-explains-storm-arwen-compensation-plan/> - Following Storm Arwen in November 2021, Northern Powergrid detailed its compensation plan for customers affected by power outages. The company stated that compensation amounts are tailored based on the length of the outage, with payments of £70 for the first 48 hours and £70 for every additional 12 hours. They also mentioned topping up payments for those without power for extended periods, ensuring compensation beyond the standard cap. ([thenorthernecho.co.uk](https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/19779101.northern-powergrid-explains-storm-arwen-compensation-plan/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/feb/13/northern-powergrid-accidentally-compensation-cheques-trillions-of-pounds-storm-arwen> - In February 2022, Northern Powergrid apologised after sending compensation cheques for trillions of pounds to 74 customers affected by Storm Arwen. The company attributed the error to a clerical mistake where energy meter numbers were used instead of the compensation amounts. Some customers received cheques for over £2.3 trillion, leading to confusion and the need for corrections. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/feb/13/northern-powergrid-accidentally-compensation-cheques-trillions-of-pounds-storm-arwen?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/demand-northern-powergrid-compensation-after-23249709> - Residents and businesses in Sheffield's S6 area experienced multiple power cuts, some lasting several days. Affected individuals, including local shop owners, reported significant disruptions to their daily operations. The community called for compensation from Northern Powergrid, expressing dissatisfaction with the company's response time and communication regarding the outages. ([examinerlive.co.uk](https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/demand-northern-powergrid-compensation-after-23249709?utm_source=openai))