

Responding to a request made 22nd September 2016 regarding interruptions to the electricity supply for East Hoathly, UK Power Networks has replied:

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Thank you for contacting UK Power Networks with regards to the number of power cuts you have been experiencing. Having checked our records I have the following information for you as our call taking system goes back two years.

Year from 1st April 2016 to present

There have been 10 power cuts, 7 of these have been due to the operation of an automatic switch on our overhead network. These devices form part of our network protection equipment which are designed to operate rapidly and automatically cut off the power enabling supplies to be restored immediately if a transient fault is detected. Wind-borne debris, trees or birds coming into contact with the lines can cause this to happen. They can also operate due to the effects of lightning storms. Once the fault has cleared, the power is automatically reconnected and this operation usually lasts a few seconds.

The other 3 power cuts were due to faults on the network, 2 were high voltage faults and 1 was due to trees on the overhead line.

Year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

There have been 8 power cuts 4 of these were due to automatic high voltage switching as above. Of the other power cuts one was due to a Low voltage overhead line coming down, one was due to trees on the overhead line and the other two were due to high voltage overhead line faults.

You also mention slowing down of power this is sometimes referred to when customers are experiencing low voltage problems having checked our records I can find no evidence of this.

We do understand the inconvenience brief power losses due to automatic switching causes, but we believe that these devices offer better customer service as there is no need for an engineer to attend site to restore power. Without them, should a fault occur, it would inevitably result in a much longer power cut.

To try to avoid power cuts, we have a rolling programme of tree trimming to maintain an adequate clearance from the overhead lines. We also undertake regular patrols to identify and remove any potential problems on the network.

I hope that you will find this information useful however if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me again.

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The record of recent electricity supply interruptions recorded by villagers on the East Hoathly facebook is:

