The countryside charity
Norfolk

CPRE Norfolk Position Statement
Pylons

We think that the gold standard for onshore renewable energy done well means community energy - renewable energy projects proposed, designed, and owned by local people. An increase in the amount of energy produced and used locally would help address the capacity limitations experienced by the National Grid and ultimately could reduce significantly the need to transmit large quantities of energy over great distances via pylon routes.

We know that the climate emergency threatens to damage many of our most loved landscapes and ecosystems. Places that are precious to us all, including the Broads, the north Norfolk coast and the wildlife-packed Brecks, could all be changed irreparably as our climate shifts.

We need to act fast to cut our greenhouse gas emissions, and to do that we need more low-carbon renewable energy. We want to see these new renewable energy projects done well, in a way that minimises impacts on landscapes. It is also important that schemes designed to harvest wind and solar energy are only permitted if they are supported by the rural communities most directly affected..

Pylons

The rapid increase of wind farms, particularly offshore, requires the transfer of energy into the National Grid (NG). This is achieved through the use of pylons and the development of sub-stations. In many cases these can be linked into the existing grid at the nearest convenient point, but, because of the surge of power, many of the existing pylons will have to be updated, or even replaced by much larger structures.

NG has found considerable opposition from the public to new lines of pylons, especially where they would cross National Parks or AONBs, along with strong local demands to put power lines underground.

What CPRE Norfolk is campaigning for:

- An urgent review of how energy is moved through East Anglia by the National Grid, with the introduction of offshore grid connections and underground cabling, to take electricity generated by offshore wind farms to London and its environs via the North Sea to the Thames estuary

- Revision of NG guidelines: new evidence on costs and techniques of routing cables underground should be built into revised NG policy. There is no need for the visually intrusive and outdated technology of overground pylon routes, such as that proposed by the Norwich to Tilbury project, when undergrounding and/or offshore cabling can and should be used.

- Undergrounding of cables and sensitive siting of sub-stations in Norfolk, where such transmission routes are necessary: CPRE Norfolk will continue to monitor any new pylon and

sub-station proposals through the planning consultation process, and will call for undergrounding of cables coupled with implementation of appropriate routes across least sensitive landscapes, including the use of offshore cabling where appropriate.

See also our Offshore energy and associated onshore works - Position statement

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This position statement is extracted from
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