



The countryside charity
Norfolk

CPRE Norfolk Position Statement **Offshore energy and associated onshore works**

The wind farms off our shores generate electricity that is fed into the national grid. Whilst not everyone finds these wind farms beautiful, the need for new forms of energy to replace the aged power stations, both coal and nuclear that are closing is undeniable.

An issue arises from the need to take the power generated, and bringing it ashore and into the national grid. CPRE Norfolk strongly supports the creation of offshore connection points, such as through an Offshore Ring Main, which would create a better managed and less harmful and disruptive long-term solution than the current system of multiple landing points and onshore cable routes.

Rather than individual companies spending sometimes several years in gaining permission for their projects, a simpler system should be introduced whereby these companies pay for their connections to the National Grid, which is then responsible for the offshore connections and the single cable corridor onshore. This would also remove the need for constantly digging up countryside to lay new cabling, or for multiple overhead transmission wires with their visually harmful pylons, every time a new offshore windfarm is commissioned.

For any onshore work already 'in the system' it is important that cabling is routed underground and a HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) system rather than a HVAC (High Voltage Alternating Current) system is used for transmission. This is because the former has approximately half the land take of the latter, as well as not requiring additional cable-relay stations.

CPRE Norfolk believes that all the concerns of the residents must be heard, discussed and solutions found. The generating companies who have been given consent for the wind farms, and invested millions of pounds accordingly, also have to find a solution. We urge all parties to maintain a dialogue to find long-term solutions which provide the 'greener' energy we need without causing unnecessary harm to communities and places.

We will continue to support residents, and work with the companies involved, in the hope that these solutions can be found.

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