



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Times letters: Wind power threat

Write to letters@thetimes.co.uk

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Sir, The UK's position as a world leader in offshore wind power will be undermined if the government continues its piecemeal, out-dated approach to onshore infrastructure. Landscapes destroyed by such development are not renewable.

The government has no national strategy for the delivery of offshore power into the National Grid. In the short term, brownfield sites must be used for onshore infrastructure. This will avoid needless destruction of ancient woodland, rare heathland habitats and communities that depend on these precious landscapes. In the mid-term, the government should require offshore transmission.

The development consent order submitted by ScottishPower Renewables to build two sub-stations at Friston, near Aldeburgh (followed by an onslaught of other substations) illustrates the threats. Alternative brownfield sites and offshore hubs have been ignored even though a co-ordinated offshore system is more cost-effective and avoids needless destruction. Norfolk is facing similar issues. Energy firms must not be allowed to desecrate East Anglian landscapes in the name of clean energy.

Sir Humphrey Burton; Molly Dineen; Lavinia Greenlaw; Maggi Hambling; Griff Rhys Jones; David Wood, chairman, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB; Paul Chandler; the Countess of Cranbrook; Andrew Fane, chairman, Suffolk Preservation Society; Fiona Gilmore; Edward Greenwell; Michael Mahony; Jonathan Reekie; William Sieghart; Sybella Stanley; Charles Sturridge; Theresa Tollemache; Harry Young, chairman, Suffolk Coast DMO; Paul Zisman

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