



Respecting the past, shaping the future

Press release from
Suffolk Preservation Society
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Society urges refusal of “alien” wind turbine plan

Approving plans for two 130m high wind turbines would irreversibly damage a section of quintessential Suffolk countryside with “vast, alien intrusions”, environmental campaigners have warned.

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) says the proposal, earmarked for land next to Potash Lane at Wyverstone, near Stowmarket, would dominate its surroundings and have a significant and adverse impact on the quality of life of people living nearby.

The society has now urged planners at Mid Suffolk District Council to “make the only logical decision” and refuse the application which, if built, would be visible from as far as 5km away.

“The sheer size and scale of these wind turbines is totally disproportionate to anything else in this area of otherwise unspoilt, quintessential Suffolk countryside,” said Richard Ward, society director.

“They would dominate the landscape, appearing as vast, alien intrusions in an otherwise gently undulating and picturesque area. The lasting impact that they would have is simply unacceptable.

“Government planning policy states that developments within the countryside should protect its intrinsic beauty – but this proposal does the exact opposite. It is not well designed, inclusive or sensitive to the character and distinctiveness of the area. It does not protect or enhance the countryside, but would irreversibly damage it instead. The only logical decision would be to refuse this application as quickly as possible.”

In its objection to the council, the society also hit out at the applicant’s claims that the landscape around Wyverstone is already “cluttered” with pylons, which would mean the turbines could be “quickly absorbed” into their surroundings.

“We take very serious issue with this statement, as it gives the totally wrong impression of the quality of the existing landscape in this unique area,” said Mr Ward.

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“It is nonsensical to claim that 130m high turbines, with blades rotating in a circle with a diameter of 104m, would be quickly absorbed into the countryside. The truth is quite the opposite – these turbines would dominate everything around them.

“And on top of their affect on the countryside, they would also have a significant and adverse impact on people living nearby.

“The local community has objected to this proposal clearly and consistently, and their opinions warrant every support from our democratic planning system. We would appeal to Mid Suffolk to make sure their views are taken into account when it makes its final decision.

“Otherwise, what was the point in consulting them in the first place?”

Ends

Note to editors: SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county's buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk's future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county's communities.

For more information please contact:

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