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## Media Release

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For Immediate use

Society brands National Grid's pylon consultation as 'window dressing' and urges 'Don't blight our countryside in return for your shareholder dividends!'

The SPS, leading environmental charity in Suffolk, urges Suffolk residents and other environmental groups to send a clear and resounding message of "No" to National Grid. Today National Grid dropped a bomb shell on the some of Suffolk's most treasured landscapes following months of delay in delivering the final announcement. The Society believes their decision that seeks to stamp pylons across the cherished face of Constable Country is an affront to communities and their beloved landscapes when technology has long been available to successfully underground cables and avoid the threat of electromagnetic fields that many believe harmful to human health.

SPS Director Simon Cairns said "This is frankly bonkers, pylons are the dinosaur of the electricity transmission world and should be consigned to history. No one needs to suffer these metal monsters when technology has provided solutions to lift the blight. We believe the small additional cost to consumers of complete undergrounding represents an investment in the future prosperity of the UK. A beautiful Britain is crucial to fostering inward investment and tourism as a key economic driver"

A committed group of anti-pylon campaigners from Suffolk and Essex have vowed to continue fighting for a balanced approach to electricity networks that evaluates the actual total cost of each project, including that traditionally borne by the community, in making decisions. The choice of route is seen as a distraction from the serious debate on the use of the right technology for the Twenty First century. SPS chairman, Douglas Chivers said "This is all about a monopoly industry seeking to maximise profits by using cheap, obsolete technology. The public have a reasonable

expectation that their environment will be protected from avoidable harm in a modern democracy. This sort of approach belongs in the old centrally planned economies. If our Government truly believes in Localism and that the 'take what your given approach' is unacceptable then now is the chance for them to walk-the-walk not just talk-the-talk! The people of Suffolk are frankly not willing to play host to more pylons – so think again NG”

END.

- ? SPS, the Suffolk Preservation Society, is an environmental charity which promotes sustainable and sympathetic solutions to future development in Suffolk. We advocate positive solutions for the long-term future of our towns, villages and countryside. Founded in 1929, we have a branch in every part of the county. [www.suffolksociety.org](http://www.suffolksociety.org)
- ? The Suffolk and Essex coalition of amenity groups (with working group members) includes: Bury not Blight (Peter Eaton, Chris Leney, John Foster); Colne-Stour Countryside Association (Charles Aldous); CPRE Essex and Suffolk branches (Tom Holme and Simon Cairns); Dedham Vale Society (Adam Sedgwick) and Stour Valley Underground (David Holland).