

Submission to 2021 May Sizewell Planning Enquiry

My name is David Watson. I own and run Mill Hill Farm Caravan and Camping Park in Darsham in partnership with my sister Anne Tooze.

We are situated 4 ½ miles as the crow flies from the Sizewell site and 1 mile directly from the proposed Park and Ride at Darsham Station and the A12 trunk road.

Our campsite won the Archant Norfolk and Suffolk Tourism award in 2019 for best camping and caravanning experience in East Anglia. The judges singled out our unique selling point as the peace and tranquillity of the site.

This calm atmosphere would be destroyed by the proposed Sizewell development .

Our visitors enjoy quiet pursuits. Bird watching on our site, at the adjacent Suffolk Wildlife Trust Reserve, on the coast and heaths especially at the Minsmere Nature Reserve. They come to walk or cycle the many paths through heath, marsh and farmland, and walk on the beach and swim in the sea.

They come to fish and sail and enjoy the local pubs and restaurants.

They come here to get away from the noise, fumes, light pollution and traffic chaos which this project will bring.

Research by Suffolk Coast Destination Management organisation put the value of tourism in East Suffolk at £695,187,000 in 2019 and supported 14,660 jobs, 15.1% of the workforce.

EDF's own analysis predicts Sizewell C would lead to the decline in visitor numbers from 29% and 39% would visit less often. This would inevitably lead to job losses in the hospitality industry.

We are a small part of a diverse local tourist industry which has been growing steadily over recent years. The thing that we all share is our reliance on the quality of our local environment to provide the relaxing experience our customers expect.

Most of our visitors arrive by road. The local road network is not suitable for a project involving the volume and weight of traffic envisaged by EDF, even taking into account the recent proposal to use more rail and sea deliveries.

Many improvements to the A12 and B1122 are necessary plus additional park and rides including Darsham Station. This work will lead to considerable traffic chaos especially as station construction is planned to start concurrently with road improvements. A new road to the station is proposed which will divide farms and communities and which will take up yet more farmland and wildlife habitat.

These infrastructure schemes affect the whole of East Suffolk and beyond, not just the Sizewell area.

EDF has had a big campaign in the local press on the employment that Sizewell C would bring. However in my own experience it is increasingly difficult to find available staff and skilled tradesmen from the local area.

EDF know this which is why the majority of labour will be from outside the area and workers moving from the Hinckley Point Site.

These will require accommodation in the hostel in Eastbridge and a new caravan site at Leiston.

As with the construction of Sizewell B, some key workers will be attracted to the construction site making the job situation worse for existing businesses, rather than offering the boom some expect.

According to the Office of National Statistics unemployment in Suffolk for the year April 2018 to March 2019 averaged 12,800.

Following the announcement in the last budget, a report in the East Anglian Daily Times stated that the new

designation of Felixstowe as a Freeport would lead to 13,500 new well paid jobs for the area.

To Conclude :

The development of Sizewell C would decimate the tourist industry.

Destroy large areas of farmland and sensitive flora and fauna of the coast and heaths.

Cause traffic chaos and pollution.

No amount of money to tourist businesses , farmers and landowners can compensate for the unwanted disruption to their lives.

No amount of mitigation can replace the sensitive habitat which will be lost forever.

This not a price worth paying for a project which would produce electricity twice as expensive as wind power and whose only legacy will be a nuclear waste store.

I hope you will turn this application down .