Sizewell C
Written Representation

My name is William Eddis, retired engineer & manager, and I live about 5 miles from Sizewell, in Snape. I spent my childhood in Aldeburgh and watched Sizewell A being built.

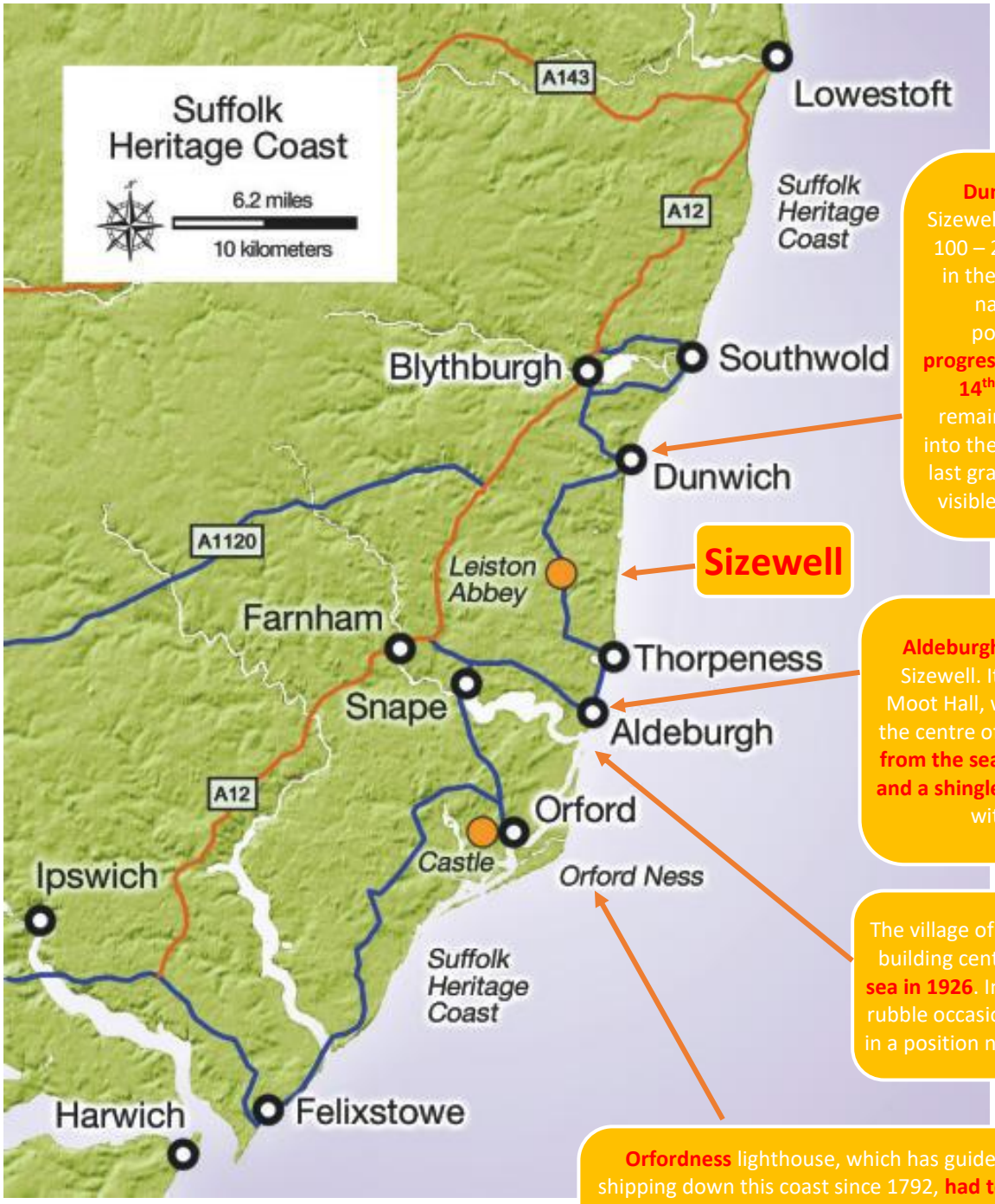
The following is my written representation based on my presentation to the Open Floor Hearing.

In my Relevant Representation I raised 4 issues:
1. For the reactor design proposed here, the 3 projects currently under construction in Finland, France and at Hinkley Point are all way over budget and increasingly late. Based on this experience, we can have little or no confidence in the cost & timescale promises that have been made.
2. The Suffolk coast is notoriously unstable with the only thing known for certain from the experience of past centuries being persistent, if intermittent, coastal erosion. We should not be placing nuclear reactors on such a fragile coastline in times of sea level rise and increasing numbers and severity of winter storms. I will expand on this below.
3. Renewable technologies are developing very fast, with major improvements likely in the conversion efficiency of photo-voltaic cells, while significant advances in storage technologies, both batteries and hydrogen, can confidently be expected, all in the next few years.
4. The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB and associated nature reserves, SSSI, etc comprise a unique, fragile and invaluable ecosystem, very vulnerable to external influences. This proposed project would have a devastating effect on the area.

In this representation, I will concentrate on the second point, the coastline, from its history of vulnerability to the risk a nuclear power project on this scale presents to the immediate surroundings and potentially to a much wider area if it goes ahead.

On the next page is an annotated map showing a history of erosion on this part of the Suffolk coast.

An introduction to hundreds of years of erosion and inundation along the Suffolk Coastline



Dunwich, 3 – 4 miles north of Sizewell, now a settlement of around 100 – 200 permanent residents, but in the 13th century a major port of national significance with a population of 3,000 people, **progressively lost to the sea from the 14th century** onwards. The last remaining old church, one of 8, fell into the sea about 100 years ago. One last grave is still left on the cliff edge, visible from the Suffolk Coast Path.

Aldeburgh, 4 – 5 miles to the south of Sizewell. Its most famous building, the Moot Hall, was built in the 16th century in the centre of the town. It is now **separated from the sea by** public toilets, **the sea wall and a shingle beach which comes and goes** with the winter storms.

The village of **Slaughden**, once a major ship building centre, **the last house lost to the sea in 1926**. In my lifetime I remember brick rubble occasionally appearing on the beach, in a position now 50 metres or so out to sea.

Orfordness lighthouse, which has guided shipping down this coast since 1792, **had to be demolished last year to prevent it being lost to the sea**. It was initially built a safe distance from the sea, following the loss to the sea over the years of several earlier lights.

That is an introduction to hundreds of years of erosion and inundation along this coastline, which continues to this day,

Now I come to my personal testament. I was in Japan at the time of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. I saw the effect the inundation by the tsunami had on the Fukushima nuclear power station and on the surrounding area. Our daughter was living in Tokyo at the time and after a few days she and half a dozen or so friends joined all the families trying to get out of Tokyo amid growing fears that dangerous levels of radiation might reach Tokyo and the whole city and surrounding area of 30 million people might have to be evacuated. We were able to arrange to borrow an empty house for them to camp in until the situation in Tokyo stabilised.

In conclusion, I suggest that there is a significant risk that this site will suffer an inundation by the sea before its active life is over, not to mention the much longer period before the structure can finally be demolished safely. Not by a single tsunami, as happened at Fukushima, but by what can be called a “slow motion tsunami”, a combination of the long established, if intermittent, coastal erosion with the more recent addition of climate change leading inexorably to sea level rise and an increasing frequency and hight of surge tides associated with winter storms. It is easy to say that the site will be protected by sea defences, but much harder to make these future-proof – no one knows how big the risk would be by the end of this century. In Japan, as a result of the effect of the tsunami on Fukushima, at least one nuclear power station has had to have its tsunami wall increased to 15 metres high. In Suffolk, the Environment Agency appears to be reluctant to discuss trying to protect large areas of this coastline from inundation by the sea for more than 50 years ahead, less than the expected operating life of Sizewell C, and houses are being surrendered to the sea every winter along parts of the Suffolk & Norfolk coasts.

The probability of a cataclysmic Fukushima-scale event may be very small, but the consequences would be a national disaster, while even a much smaller incident would be catastrophic to the local and wider area.

To repeat what I said at the beginning, I believe we should not be placing nuclear reactors on such a fragile coastline in times of sea level rise and the increasing number and severity of winter storms, risking a slow-motion tsunami.

Thank you.