

Design Approach

Parish Councils have been asked to comment on whether a “design champion”, a “design review panel” or a “design code” would ensure that a sustainable, good quality design can be effectively integrated into the landscape.

The immediate answer is that none of these measures will counteract the impact of two nuclear reactors and all the ancillary construction proposed in the DCO. It is precisely because this infrastructure project is impossible to build in a sustainable, good quality design to integrate into the landscape that it cannot be given approval to proceed. The landscape currently consists of an AONB and SSSI, bordered by the Minsmere RSPB site, by National Trust’s Dunwich Heath, by small villages, farmland, and heritage sites like Leiston Abbey amongst others. How could something as devastating to the environment as Sizewell C possibly be ‘integrated’ into the landscape? This project should be a non-starter and rejected on this point alone. What can a design champion or review panel do about two of the world’s biggest nuclear reactors in such a landscape besides influence the most minor issues in some of the ancillary developments? Throughout the Consultation Period, EDF never addressed this central point but instead proposed over and over largely unchanged plans? One already has ample evidence of EDF’s approach in the destruction of the 100 year old Coronation Wood – completely destroyed in order to try to make room for Sizewell C which doesn’t even have approval! There is no option for the construction of Sizewell C but to largely destroy everything in its path at the building site, to create 30 foot slag heaps on its edges, to create a workers campus that will overwhelm and wipe out the hamlet of Eastbridge and make the walking and cycling in the entire area unpleasant at best and inaccessible at worst.

AONB Adverse Effects

Parish Councils have been asked to comment on whether sufficient weight has been given to the statutory purpose and need for protection of the landscape, character and special qualities of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB both within and outside its boundary, in accordance with NPS EN-1. If not, please identify what additional measures are required?

This is the key question in the process and the answer is an overwhelming “NO” – sufficient weight has not been given. One must assume in reading NPS EN-1 that only in the most extraordinary circumstances should an AONB be disturbed. It is clearly stated that the AONB (not to mention SSSI) must have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should be given substantial weight by the IPC in deciding on applications for development consent in these areas.

As with our answer to the first question above, it is clear that building Sizewell C in Suffolk’s AONB should be prohibited. It is impossible to protect the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB and SSSI if Sizewell C is built within it and on its borders. Everything that Sizewell C will do will overwhelm the natural environment including the land, water and sea. The

night sky, a critical part of the natural environment for wildlife and humans, will be lost to the construction. The wildlife that depends on the AONB and Minsmere, including the Marsh Harrier, will be severely impacted and cannot be addressed through any mitigation except not to build Sizewell C. The slag heaps will be visible and environmentally destructive, the light, noise and air pollution will be felt not only in the AONB, but on all villages and towns that border it.

Moreover, the proposal for Sizewell C fails on other aspects of the policy. As quoted in Walberswick's and other Councils written representations, the development's impact will be detrimental on the local economy by making tourism, the mainstay of our local economy, unsustainable at least for the duration of the construction. This will impact the area with the loss of jobs and businesses. The ability to walk and cycle, to visit the AONB and appreciate the natural and delicate beauty of the coastal area will be extraordinarily impacted by the construction of the workers' campus, the Northern Park and Ride, the bypass road and the huge number of HGVs and other vehicles on the road, even if EDF were able to secure the marine and rail options proposed.

Finally, EDF has not provided any sufficient information on the impact on coastal processes and erosion. These impacts not only fail NPS EN-1, but could potentially be calamitous for communities up and down the Suffolk coast that are already threatened by climate change. This would have impacts far beyond the AONB and adjoining areas.