

5 mins is no time to talk of all the things I am aggrieved about with regard to EDFs approach to their plans for a new nuclear power plant, nor list all the individual examples, so I've decided to simply speak as a local home owner in Middleton on the B1125.

In sharing a personal story - realise I'm just 1 voice but actually its a remarkably similar story for a huge portion of residents living in this area. My husband and I chose to move here for our retirement because it is a wild & beautiful, protected area of the country. We are passionate horticulturists and nature lovers - we felt this area was perfect for our interests (right next to Minsmere) and the surrounding areas being AONB, SSI and SPA (which we understood meant protected status)

So - we poured ALL of our life savings into buying and renovating a home and garden here. Literally - ALL our life savings! We are renovating a Grade II Listed cottage - of which there are many in this part of Suffolk - and I think that this is interesting because we have to abide by a litany of rules & regulations in order to protect both the property and the land surrounding it. This is not dissimilar to the principle of the 'protected status' of AONB.

However, evidence suggests that the likes of EDF can completely ignore this rule book if it suits - imagine if we used same approach on our listed property?! We have the threat of hefty fines and even a prison sentence hanging over us if we don't conform to the protections granted to a listed property. So its odd that the same doesn't apply to companies abusing the protection of AONB/SSIs etc. EDF frequently refer to 'mitigation' in their paperwork but you can't mitigate the loss of our unique local wetlands, heathlands and ancient woodlands - the climate crisis has shown us that these things are irreplaceable - It doesn't need a scientist to state the obvious that some of these natural areas, their flora and fauna, can't be desecrated and then returned to how they previously were with the sweep of a magic wand.

We love our new-found home area so much - we've not just invested financially but emotionally and physically too. We've personally re-established and maintain a public access footpath that runs down the side of our property - and we've planted more native British hedgerow there to support the wildlife that depends on it. Our village, like many around here, has no street lamps at all - and as a consequence the wildlife flourishes in these natural conditions and you can see the night sky in all its glory. This is just one of many things that EDF's proposals will destroy.

At the moment we are surrounded by small country roads - they are windy, picturesque and beautiful and they connect our villages and communities. They're not suitable nor safe for huge amounts of traffic (ATTACHED PHOTO - NOT SHOWN AT ORAL PRESENTATION - SHOWS HOW CLOSE OUR OWN PROPERTY IS TO THE B1125 - A LISTED BUILDING WITH NO FOUNDATIONS NOT DESIGNED TO COPE WITH HEAVY TRAFFIC RIGHT NEXT TO IT). However by filling the A12 & SLR with the hundreds of HGVs required for construction traffic it is beyond obvious that all other traffic will go to some lengths to avoid that as much as they possibly can.

Our beautiful little lanes will become rat-runs. EDF's Stage 3 proposals suddenly placed a new junction right at the end of our road (B1125) to join their SLR - sending a clear message of encouragement to make use of this as an alternative route. Onto the very road that runs right alongside our own property - that's the reality, but when we queried this with EDF staff at a presentation meeting we were told there wouldn't be any rush-hour Sizewell traffic down our road because its all being directed straight from the A12 onto the SLR! well, if they believed that to be true why are they putting in the junction?! It doesn't feel good to be treated like idiots!!

It would be so easy for EDF to demonstrate that they actually care about how they are doing

things. Instead it feels like a gaslighting exercise whenever anything is brought up to EDF. The cavalier attitude and behaviour we've experienced to date doesn't give any confidence whatsoever in any of their positive claims! Sometimes I get the impression EDF assume that as many of us here are 'older generation' that we won't be around to the end of this project - but they might want to consider that it's this older generation that actually has a lot of experience and wisdom - and just because we might not be here in 30 or so years time doesn't mean we don't care about what might be left after us - I think we are very aware of that and it's something I believe we all have a duty to think about more seriously.

We all know that what's said on paper and what happens in reality can be two very different things - those of us who live locally know and understand the intricacies of rural life around here and a massive new nuclear power plant being proposed in the way EDF are going about it is completely destroying the local environment and a way of life for its small village communities. The management of this project simply doesn't seem to fit with the world view of needing to reduce the damage we are leaving for future generations to deal with.

