

I'm William Kendall. I live about 4 miles from the site of the proposed, new reactors. I farm organically on land much closer. A section of the intended Sizewell Link Road would border our farm and disturb one of the wildest parts of the coastal hinterland where nightingales nest and Marsh Harriers regular quarter the landscape. My family also runs a holiday lettings business here.

Our farm has recently received public funding for its pioneering work to show how smaller, landholdings can still be viable. They play a vital role in the rural economy but are vulnerable. We employ around 8 full time workers and rely for success on strong visitor numbers in the area who are drawn in by its remoteness and beauty.

I am an entrepreneur and work in Suffolk and beyond and have developed some well-known brands. Until recently I was a director of Adnams which is one of Suffolk's most-loved hospitality businesses. I am a trustee of local charities including the Suffolk Community Foundation. I am President of The Suffolk Wildlife Trust. I was recently the High Sheriff of Suffolk and I'm a Deputy Lieutenant of this county and with a particular interest in enterprise and its positive impact on wider society. I am speaking for myself today but just wanted to illustrate how I hear what others think too. You will have heard from many people who spend their lives in the county and some who don't but I really can say that I am lucky enough to spend time with numerous local people and from all walks of life and I get to hear their opinions on many things. Like me, many are not opposed to nuclear energy in principle but just horrified by the inappropriateness of EDF's plans.

I am a life-long environmentalist who still, just, believes that there is role for nuclear energy in the U.K. . I used to think I supported a new reactor at Sizewell but that was before I discovered the facts. When I visited an EDF-run roadshow out of curiosity, just over 2 years ago, I found several neighbours and friends visibly upset by the drastically revised plans. I began my own research and now see an overwhelming case against building what is proposed. The enormity of the scheme is perhaps the biggest issue. The site just isn't big enough and the damage the construction would cause cannot be justified.

My support for nuclear energy was always conditional. A while ago, I took my young daughter to Chernobyl to see the upsurge in wildlife following the exodus of humans. When you are there you can't help but contemplate the inherent dangers of this technology. Of course we expect much higher standards of safety in the U.K. but I don't believe that any nuclear station was ever built without the experts saying it was safe. It doesn't sound very safe building a nuclear reactor and storing its toxic waste on a coast which other experts say will be in the sea during its planned lifetime. Especially when there are alternatives.

EDF frequently says it is in a hurry to start building. It will not have time to train up the workforce it needs, so it will try to secure whoever it can, from other, local businesses. We already face an acute skills shortage here. Almost daily now, local businesses and their spokespeople complain about there being a lack of workers to fill the job vacancies. I know of several important projects which are now paused simply because suitable contractors can't be found. We haven't even started Sizewell C and we are supposedly only just recovering from the economic impact of a pandemic yet this is already a big problem which the proposed construction would greatly exacerbate. If a case can be made, based on jobs, for building another very expensive nuclear power station then there are much better sites available and where those new jobs might be valued locally rather than damaging.

Independent research has already demonstrated how Sizewell C would leave our local tourism industry millions of pounds worse off. The same though will be true for our other economic sectors. Entrepreneurs who are now, increasingly, setting up along our coast will be deterred. We know anecdotally that this is already happening as incomers opt for 'safer' places like Norfolk.

Most of the labour needed will come from further afield. Those of us who lived here when, the much smaller, Sizewell B was being built, experienced the traffic and social problems it brought. The developers did their best to mitigate them but largely failed. As High Sheriff, some years ago, I asked an articulate woman, in her 40s, with children in care, what had caused her to become a drug addict in her early teens. She replied, with the single word, 'Sizewell'. Drug abuse has multiple causes but the most vulnerable deserve to be protected from extreme social disruption in their localities. Big projects are less harmful in places with big cities nearby to provide labour and with big roads and rail to limit disruption to the existing way of life.

A local MP has described EDF's approach as disdainful. I don't think we have been adequately consulted but neither do I think that EDF are disdainful. As High Sheriff I was given full access to Sizewell B and shown hospitality by the operator. I think their approach instead just shows how impossible it is to build Sizewell C without destroying nearly everything we value most. So EDF's best hope was that enough of us didn't study the plans. While there may still be a case for building a new reactor somewhere, I now know we must do everything we can to stop it happening here.

During my research, I have been able to talk to ministers and all types of politicians. I have discussed policy with civil-servants and some are still very pro-nuclear. None though thinks

that Sizewell makes a very good site. Some very senior government advisors have, privately , told me that it cannot be allowed to go ahead and have encouraged me to make the case against it. Sizewell only made it onto the list because of a decision in the 1940s when circumstances were altogether different. If you turned down this application, few tears would be shed here or in Whitehall. This area has a great future and many strengths but it's the wrong place for more big nuclear installations.