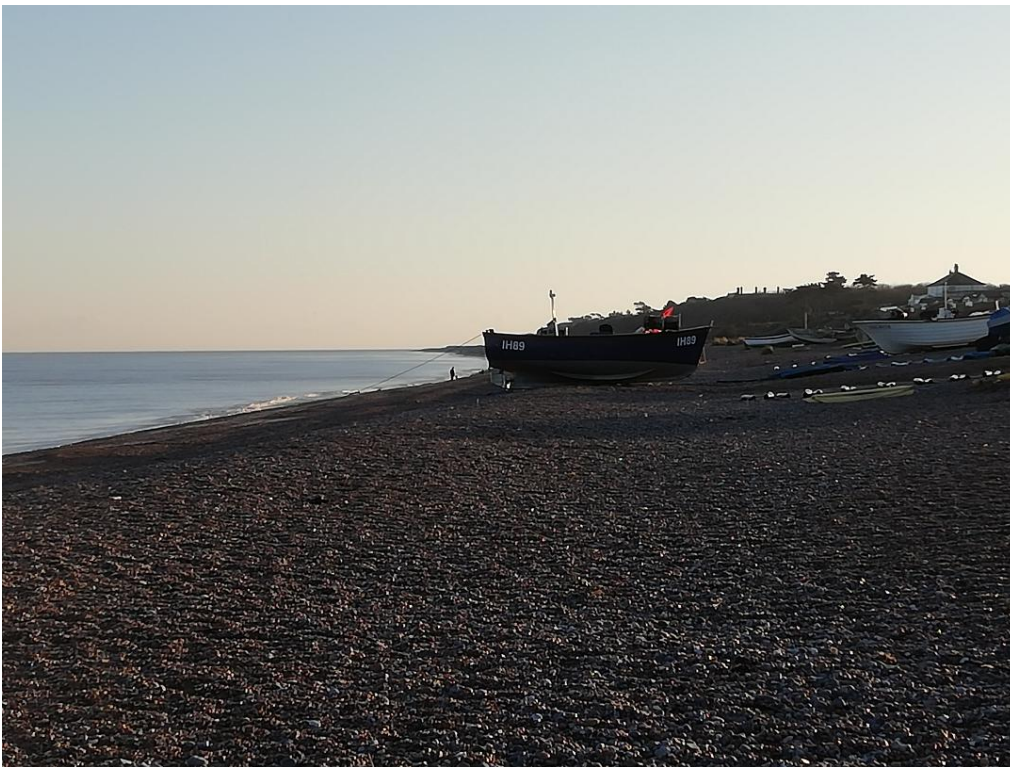


## Written Representation against the Sizewell C planning proposal.

**Anita Stuart Andrews. June 2021.**

I have had a life-long relationship with the Suffolk coast. It is the area of the country that I feel most passionate about. I have lived in both Walberswick and Dunwich and have now moved further inland but own a plot of land in Dunwich which my family uses for camping. It is profoundly upsetting that this proposal, which will have a devastating impact on the Suffolk Coastal area, is being considered.

Due to the stewardship of the RSPB, the National Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, and also because of changing methods of managing the landscape (such as no longer burning heathland) this coastal area has regenerated into an increasingly beautiful, natural landscape. Rough heath areas have become woodlands of birch, oak and Scots pine which naturalise on the sandy soil. We have saltmarshes covered in reed beds where rare birds thrive. Large areas of heather and gorse team with wildlife. There are Forestry commission woodlands which provide habitats for animals and wonderful walking for the visitors. The area is criss-crossed by quiet lanes for cycling, walking and country drives with hedgerows providing even more habitats for birds, small mammals and plants. This is traditionally a fishing and farming region with fishing boats hauled up on the beaches, including at Sizewell.



Sizewell beach.

I have noticed an increase in visitors to the area over recent decades which was very marked during the last lockdown year when people relied on holiday destinations in the UK. The tourism in this area is families spending time on the beach, but also to a great extent, people who want to be in unspoilt countryside and observe wildlife in the AONB. Sizewell beach itself is a popular destination for visiting the seaside, for swimming, walking, running, cycling and fishing. Minsmere and Dunwich Heath to the north are precious habitats for birds (a long list of which are mentioned in the EDF response on page 152) and many other animals which can live and breed in this quiet, protected area. The proximity of the proposed site of the two new nuclear reactors to Minsmere, which will be a huge industrial development, is in my view reason enough to turn down the proposal. The site and the extended area required during the ten years plus construction period with the associated noise and light pollution will, as the RSPB have said, have a catastrophic effect on the rich wildlife of the area. It is also sure to be very detrimental to visitor experience.



Existing Sizewell site.

Any need for the country to build new nuclear reactors should not trump protecting AONB. Other sites should be found, and smaller scale projects considered that do not have such a devastating effect on the natural environment. The government has pledged in its '30 by 2030' initiative to protect an increasing number of AONB and the natural environment.

On the Gov.uk website they say that 'The Prime Minister is committing today (Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020) to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030', and quote Boris Johnson –

***"We must act now – right now. We cannot afford dither and delay because biodiversity loss is happening today and it is happening at a frightening rate. Left unchecked, the consequences will be catastrophic for us all". (The Prime Minister, Sep. 2020).***

I agree with the Prime Minister and urge the planning inspectorate to turn down this proposal and encourage EDF to find other, more suitable sites for new nuclear reactors. Sizewell is obviously going to be identified as a potential site for new nuclear in the Governments National Policy Statement as it is owned by EDF and houses two reactors already, but this does not mean that the site is suitable for further development which would be encroaching into the AONB and SSSI. Sizewell A and Sizewell B (the later should not have been built after the AONB was designated) take up the whole area of the slightly raised ground that was chosen for the original reactor. This plateau is now covered and the site is full. Since the first reactor was commissioned in 1966 public opinion has changed radically towards protecting the natural environment. Permission would never be granted now at Sizewell if this was a first nuclear power station.



Part of the proposed site next to Sizewell B.





Part of the proposed site.

I have always been concerned about the safety factors involved with nuclear power generation. The leak of radioactive water from a 15m crack in a cooling water pipe at Sizewell A on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2007 could, according to the HM Nuclear Installation Inspectorate's report, have had very serious consequences. The alarms did not go off and if it had not been discovered by chance by one of the decommissioning workforce doing his laundry - ***"The pond could have been drained (it takes about 10 hours) before the required plant tour by an operator had taken place. In this worst-case scenario, if the exposed irradiated fuel caught fire it would result in an airborne off-site release."*** (quote from HM Nuclear Inspectorate report). The exposed nuclear fuel rods could have overheated and caught fire sending a plume of radioactive contamination along the coastline. I do not have faith in EDF to take the necessary precautions to ensure safety. In addition, east coast sea levels are due to rise and serious flooding does on occasion occur here making this site very precarious.

Lastly, the project would have an intolerable effect on local residents during the long construction period, both those that live close to the site and those who live along the access routes. Many of these people will be elderly, enjoying their retirement in the tranquil countryside, others have lived their whole lives in the area, run their businesses or farmed the land. No company has the right to destroy lives in this way. The quiet village of Eastbridge, tucked away along narrow lanes on the northern side of the proposed site, is said to be collateral damage! This area of the Suffolk Coast is not like Hinkley Point, it is full of hamlets and cottages with the town of Leiston just one mile from the nuclear plant. Sizewell is a fishing village.

Anita Stuart Andrews.