

My name is Ian Patterson, and I moved to Yoxford last August, so I cannot claim to be a long-time resident of the area. Before that I lived in Cambridge, where I taught English Literature at the University until my retirement in 2018. Among my reasons for moving to this part of Suffolk were the birdlife, especially the RSPB Minsmere Reserve, the sea, and the natural beauty of the area. All of these, as I quickly became aware, are threatened by the proposed construction of Sizewell C. Others more qualified than I will have testified to the inappropriateness of the proposal, in terms of its location and in terms of its engineering, but as a resident I can see how its construction would cause a massive degree of harm to an extensive part of East Suffolk. This in turn will have a destructive effect on the area's economy, hitting tourism—a major part of the economy—especially hard, intensifying traffic on unsuitable roads to an almost unimaginable degree, and permanently destroying or damaging natural wildlife habitat, including SSSIs.

In all that I have heard and read so far, one impression recurs overwhelmingly often: EDF have been sly and dishonest in their actions and their presentation of the case for Sizewell C; they have been selective in the criticism they've heard, slow to provide detail, reluctant to engage with opposition, and apparently unaware of the nature of the harm they propose to do to the environment and blithe in their approach to mitigation, inadequate though it is. The arrogance of their approach is something I have found frankly breathtaking. In a sense though it isn't surprising: they have a difficult job on their hands, persuading everybody that this is a beneficial development rather than a monumental white elephant. But a brief investigation of their claims shows how insubstantial they are, a PR parasol to keep the light away from the reality.

If it were truly the case that Sizewell C could provide longterm green energy at no cost to the environment, and that there is no better location for it, and that there is no alternative source of energy, then I might be prepared to put up with the destruction and disruption, though it not what I hoped for in my retirement. But it is not the case. There are now shown to be better longterm alternatives; the site is unsuitable in almost every conceivable way apart from its adjacency to the Sizewell B; and the likely effect on Minsmere Nature Reserve, as well as on many less high-profile habitats and on the area more generally, would be catastrophic. Even Canute wouldn't have planned to build it here.

As long ago as 2012, the journalist James Meek commented in a long essay about the future of the UK electricity supply in the *London Review of Books* that EDF needed very largescale investment from the British government to build power stations in the UK. The consequence was that 'effectively the French government is buying the right to tax British electricity customers through their electricity bills; to use British money and British sites to finance a world showcase for unproven French nuclear technology. And because the hidden taxes in electricity bills take no account of people's ability to pay, the poorer you are, the bigger contribution you make to the programme.' It is not surprising that they are more concerned with their survival as company than with the wellbeing of East Suffolk. We, on the other hand, ought to be in a position to know better and do better, which is why I am opposed to the proposal to build Sizewell C.