

Community Impacts

Summary of Joint Written Representation Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council

Summary of Concerns and Objections

Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council are not, in principle, opposed to nuclear power. However, based on the evidence presented, we are deeply concerned that the development of the twin reactor project exceeds the practical capacity of the proposed Sizewell C platform, which is dictating unacceptable changes in site protection, layout and access. This threatens the long-term safety and environmental integrity of the site and its surroundings and the legacy that will be left for nearby communities and businesses once work has been completed.

Sizewell C's construction will also place an intolerable burden on this and neighbouring small rural parishes, on the thriving tourist industry in this special area, and especially on the uniquely sensitive and designated environments in which this project is proposed.

Based on the evidence provided in the DCO, the Inspector's questions, the pre-application discussions and our own expertise and observations, Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council conclude that a twin reactor project at Sizewell cannot be realised in a manner which is safe and without significant impacts over the timescales envisaged between construction and final decommissioning.

We are unconvinced that the proposed development could prevent significant negative impacts on neighbouring coastal communities and adjacent designated habitats. The claim that biodiversity will be enhanced and that the project will demonstrate biodiversity net gain through distant, potentially inferior and yet to be established compensatory habitat creation fails to meet planning requirements and will do irreparable long-term damage in a time of an existing biodiversity crisis. The proposed development, from the start of construction and during operation would also result in irreparable damage to the East Suffolk visitor economy, which is to a large degree supported by the valuable natural habitats and rural landscapes our area has to offer.

Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council also believe that the proposals are not consistent with what we consider to be important and materially significant policies in East Suffolk Council Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, in particular policies SCLP3.4 (Proposals for Major Energy Infrastructure Projects), SCLP3.5 (Infrastructure Provision), SCLP7.1 (Transport), and Policies MP3 and GP4 of the 2020 Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council believe that the cumulative adverse impacts of the proposed development on the community considerably outweigh the claimed benefits and conclude that the proposed development should be rejected.

No attempt has been made to provide an individual community Impact Assessment for Theberton & Eastbridge, despite statements at Stage 3 that this would be done. (See <https://edf.thirdlight.com/pf.tlx/FVFMMA3FMgCGVZ>, page 69, para 4.4.58).

Summary of objections

Community Impacts

The proposed development would have a significant and cumulative impact on local communities, in particular Eastbridge and Theberton and the several settlements along the B1122. We believe that a development of this scale, including the proposed Sizewell Link Road (SLR), would be totally inappropriate in this very sensitive rural and landscape setting which would be severely damaged during and after the construction of the plant, leaving a net adverse legacy for local communities and the important visitor economy badly damaged. Construction activities taking place over 10-12 years (or more) would be particularly damaging in the medium term as described below given also the failure of the proposals to properly mitigate their impacts particularly in the first two years of the project, known as the “early years”:

- *Accommodation Campus and Strategy*
The development would have very harmful and direct impacts on local communities during its construction and operation because of noise, light, pollution, traffic and social pressures. No additional planning for accommodation has been made since the maximum workforce rose from 5,400 to 7,900 relying entirely on scant available low cost rental accommodation and increases in the houses of multiple occupancy in the area, impacting a vibrant tourism sector and the social housing sector.
- *Borrow Pits and Spoil Management (Heaps)*
This development would be inconsistent with adopted planning policies in the Local Plan and Minerals and Waste Plan and they are unacceptable due to its proximity to Eastbridge and several individual residential properties. Both proposals would have a significant adverse impact on local communities, inconsistent with policies MP3 and GP4 of the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan. The proposals do not adequately assess or satisfactorily mitigate (and address where applicable) any potentially significant adverse impacts.
- *Transport*
The amount of road based transport would have severe adverse impacts on local communities and result in long term damage to the East Suffolk visitor economy. The proposed delayed completion of the SLR until year 3 of the

development will mean that the A12 through Yoxford and the B1122 will carry substantially increased traffic during the first three years of site development, including additional 200 HGV movements per day associated with the SLR's construction over and above the 600 HGVs associated with the early years construction at the Sizewell facility. Furthermore, the majority of the other proposed transport mitigations will not be implemented in the early years' timeframe, leaving consequential and unfair adverse impacts on communities and road safety. The situation will lead to increased and unmitigated community severance, noise and air pollution. It will increase road danger on a road that is clearly acknowledged by the proposed design of the SLR as unfit for the purpose of carrying heavy traffic. Construction of the SLR at the same time will create, in aggregate, a 'surround sound' of unacceptable noise and disturbance from all sides, affecting residents' enjoyment of living in their communities, their health, safety and mental wellbeing. The magnitude of these cumulative impacts has not been inadequately measured: the ES fails to consider the most sensitive times of day.

The proposed route of the SLR itself is unacceptable. Alternative routes exist, in particular potential routes starting from south of Saxmundham. Alternatives have been dismissed as options by the applicant with no adequate reasons, insufficient evidence and contrary to the views of Suffolk County Council as Highways Authority.

- *Landscape*

The proposed development site is not suitable because it will not mitigate the visual impact on the nationally significant Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB or the Suffolk Heritage Coast from the sea as envisaged by the Government in National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6). The AONB will also be split in two with significant ecological impacts for at least a century.

The proposed development and SLR do not meet the goals of the UK Government's 25 year Environment Plan for 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' nor can it meet required increases in biodiversity for decades to come given the destruction of existing habitats on the development and operational site. It would also have an adverse impact on the quality and integrity of the many nationally and internationally important nature conservation areas.

- *Built Heritage*

The proposed development would have significant and adverse impacts on the historic environment of East Suffolk and the setting of many significant built heritage assets, including the settings of St Peter's Church Theberton, and Leiston Abbey.

- *Environment*
Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council strongly object to the Sizewell C DCO for numerous environmental reasons relating to pollution (air quality, light, noise, dust and particulates), flood risk, water supply, terrestrial ecology, marine ecology, Water Framework Directive and the mis-alignment of submission of Environmental Permits applications, the Nuclear Site License application and the DCO application.
- *Social Impacts*
Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council believe that the proposed development would leave a legacy of adverse social impacts on communities. Communities would be impacted by the influx of construction workers and there are likely to be effects on health on the receiving communities and on the incoming workforce; effects on accommodation; effects in relation to temporary on-site accommodation; effects on local businesses including tourism and the local supply chain and displacement effects on the labour market.
- *Cumulative Impact*
The cumulative impact of the energy infrastructure projects currently planned for this part of the Suffolk coast is highly significant as it would adversely impact the lives of Suffolk residents, visitors, the tourism and hospitality industry and the built and natural heritage for many years to come. Cumulative impacts include Sizewell C, the operation of Sizewell B, the decommissioning of Sizewell A, the Scottish Power Renewables proposals for onshore wind farm infrastructure at Friston and other planned projects (Greater Gabbard, and Galloper wind farm expansions, Nautilus, Eurolink and two Sizewell to Kent interconnectors). The disbenefits to Suffolk life from Sizewell C and these other projects will be overwhelming and result in significant industrialisation of a rural area and landscape and biodiversity assets of national significance.
- *Draft Development Consent Order*
Stop Sizewell C and Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council very much appreciate the insight demonstrated by ExA's questions so far and require the proposed provisions of the Draft DCO, prepared by the applicant, to be carefully scrutinised. This is because of the many and complex impacts on local communities most affected by the form of the proposed development and must not be used by the applicant as a way of expanding use of the Rochdale Envelope or avoiding scrutiny of critical infrastructure within the examination period.