

Full Statement by Nicola Pilkington Ref no 20026728 following comments made at Open Floor Hearings.

My name is Nicola Pilkington. I am very pleased to be speaking after Kelsale-cum- Carlton Parish Council as I wish to focus partly on the impact SizewellC will have on the hedgerows and verges in the AONB Hinterland between Theberton Woods, East Green and North Green just within the Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish boundary

This is the area where I was born and grew up and I have intimate knowledge of the high quality of hedgerows and verges that link to the byways, public footpaths, small fields and B roads that form a tapestry which connects to the AONB itself. The thriving hedgerows and verges, here, have been exposed to little change in the last 60 plus years and thus exhibit an enduring level of biodiversity with plants growing in the same places as they did over 60 years ago and little or no human intervention. Verges are vitally important wildlife corridors and are home to nearly half of UK Flora. Hedges are priority hunting grounds for Raptors and Bats. The 'Local Knowledge' I gained from these biodiverse environments started with observations from my Pram and continued into Nature Studies at my first school and the identification of plants, birds, nests, eggs and invertebrates along East Green. I am convinced that these early experiences led me to return to University in later life and study Ethnobiology, the study of people and plants in a department of Anthropology and Conservation. Much biocultural activity occurred in Kelsale starting with collecting plants (primroses and cowslips) from the areas mentioned to decorate the Font in Kelsale Church at Easter, with other plants being collected to decorate the Church and Village Hall to mark annual festivals and celebrations throughout the year. In addition to hedges and verges being a source of decoration and celebration they were also a seasonal source of wild food, drink and gifts that my family utilised starting the year with young nettles, when there were not many leafy greens about, then continuing through the year to elderflowers, edible fungi, blackberries, elderberries, crab apples and Sloe's.

Ethnobiologists would consider the plant collecting activities I have briefly described as part of a useful pool of evidence in landscape conservation. Research methodology suggests that where there have been signs of human activity based on 'Local Knowledge' there is usually greater awareness of biodiversity and of small changes that might indicate ecological decline. Louisa Maffi, editor of "On Biocultural Diversity: Linking Language, Knowledge and Environment" Smithsonian Books June 2001 expresses these theories much more succinctly than I can. But based on what she has written I am sure that if someone were to interview all the residents living along-side the lanes I describe

they would say they are still plant collecting, picking fruits, collecting fungi and picking wild flowers. They would also be aware of areas of abundance and notice annual changes in what is growing and where. I know I am not alone in being deeply concerned about what will happen to this area if SizewellC goes ahead with this area becoming a Rat Run linking the A12 via Kelsale to Theberton. Very little traffic comes down these roads at present and even the smallest increase in vehicles would impact on the plant diversity that still exists in the hedges and verges. Even a small amount of particulate matter will create change and people will no longer want to walk or cycle along these tiny lanes. Given the envisaged length of the SizewellC build the continued use of this route to Theberton will mean that local intergenerational traditions in plant collecting will be likely eroded or even disappear. Thus far human intervention with the landscape has maintained a balance. With SizewellC that balance will be threatened.

It is worth noting that Kelsale is a most environmentally aware village. It has conducted both Hedgerow and Plant Surveys, is one of the few places in Suffolk to have its own Community Energy Company, having purchased solar panels and at present has a NO CUT sign on verges next to the A12. It will be right in the front line and all its endeavours to create biodiversity under threat.

WISSETT: WHERE I LIVE NOW

I also wish to give time to the impact of SizewellC on where I live now in Wissett which is one and a half miles in a north-westerly direction from Halesworth. I have been involved in all the SizewellC Consultations and have yet to be convinced that SizewellC will not do irreparable damage to the AONB that I like to visit for exercise, relaxation and inspiration. These visits have a positive impact on my both my mental and physical health.

Wissett is a small village with a B road that runs through it. This B road narrows to a single lane outside my house. I have been worried about the air pollution that comes from this road and emissions coming from peoples houses for some time. I had the loan of an air pollution monitor of PM10's and PM25's over the Easter period and got readings every time a vehicle passed. I got very high readings coming from peoples houses in the evening in a hundred yards of road directly outside my house. When vehicles got held up behind each other, again high readings occurred. East Suffolk Council should be purchasing pollution monitors that measure PM10's and PM25's before any work starts on SizewellC. Residents of villages like mine need to know

what measurements are averaging at now. East Suffolk Council are reluctant to let us know. The Wissett road is likely to become a Rat Run as the road crosses country and ends up at Homersfield on the A143 that leads westerly to Bury St Edmunds. Wissett is well within the ninety-minute radius for people travelling to the construction site and I am deeply concerned my narrow road will be filled with speeding traffic day and night and filthy air.

I am a member the European Respiratory Society Patient Research Group a [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. For the last 7 years I have been exposed to new research on the impacts of Air Pollution on all aspects of health, not just the lungs and have attended annual European wide conferences. I would say I am probably one of the most well-informed residents in the Village when it comes to the dangers of pollution. The road outside my house is already busy and I fear for the children that live close to me. Nothing in EDF 's plans persuade me to think that they have found solutions to deal with the extra vehicles and I am aware that it will be impossible to get to any appointments on time if travelling towards the coast or down the A12 to Ipswich. I rely heavily on Community Transport systems and so face the added stress of letting others down due to not be able to ascertain travel times. This will create huge amounts of extra stress in the latter years of my life and will add to the misery I will feel about the destruction to a landscape that I have always cherished, loved and returned to throughout my life.

EDF's plans should not be allowed to proceed. There are alternatives.