

Response to EDF DCO consultation on the Construction of Sizewell C. ONE OF THREE

## THE EFFECTS OF SIZEWELL C ON LEISTON DISTRICT RIGHTS OF WAY AND ITS RESIDENTS.

The inevitable damage, obstruction, blocking, removal and inappropriate diversion of footpaths, bridleways, rights of way, and permissive paths in and around Leiston-cum-Sizewell parish during and after the Sizewell C build.

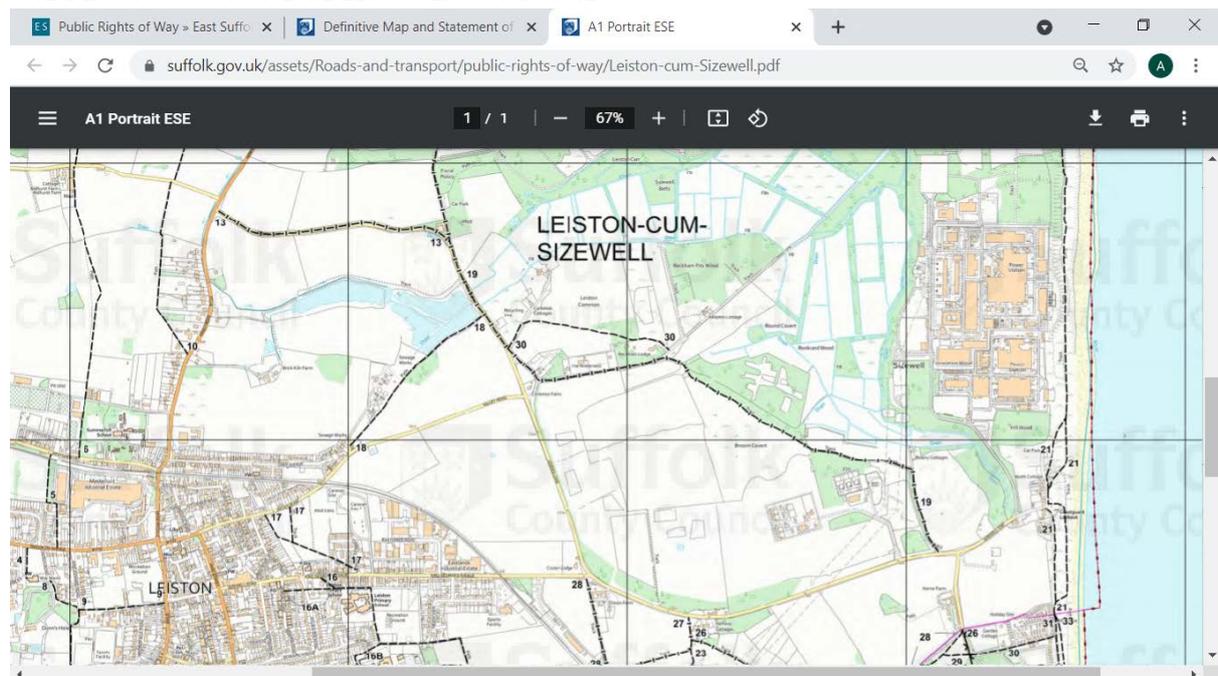
A good countryside walk can do wonders for mental health and wellbeing. It reduces stress anxiety and fatigue. Physically active people have a significantly reduced risk of depression. The active elderly have a reduction of cognitive decline and dementia. With increased road building, car use and industrialisation footpaths are often the only way exercise can be taken safely in a tranquil setting. The disabled, those with learning difficulties or diminished responsibility can be accompanied safely without the fear of traffic accident.

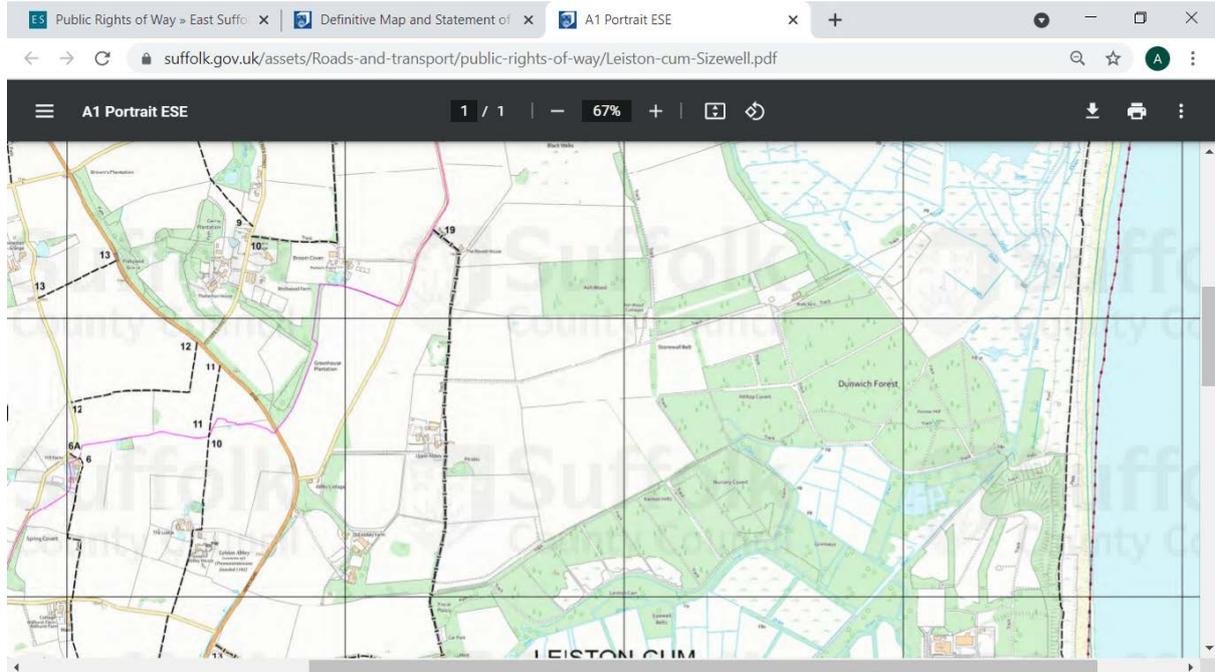
Many footpaths in and around Sizewell are interlinked as shown on the maps below. Removing and blocking up important path arteries such as path 19 removes access to permissive ways once owned by the forestry commission as part of Dunwich Forest and granted in times way before EDF came on the scene. Goose Hill, Kenton Hill and footpath 21 to the beach inexorably diverted, in some cases blocked, in some cases access lost for ever.

Horse riders and ramblers throughout the Leiston area and beyond use these amenities to such an extent the car park at the laboratory end in summer months can often be found full. Such destruction would be a massive loss to the community.

Many ancient hedges along FP19 are of the mixed type i.e of diverse species. Planted seedlings gathered from the adjacent woodlands as opposed to modern single species hedges of Hawthorn.

## THE DESTRUCTION OF BRIDLEWAY 19. MAP ONE.





The new link/access road from Yoxford and also possibly the rail extension will effectively block and stop up BR19 by traversing it. BR19 serves grade 2 listed Upper Abbey Farm and Ashwood Cottages and is known as an ancient part of the Black Walks. This possibly connected many hundreds of years earlier Leiston Abbey with Dunwich, a once thriving port, via F.P. Eastbridge to the beach sluice or alternatively diverting half way along to the main ancient Dunwich Highway F.P. BR19 is an ancient historic footpath as signified by the number of established and historic hedgerows and trees a habitat for bats, insects, larger mammals and birds. EDF has recently damaged several parts of this footpath/bridleway with heavy machinery.

#### CANALISATION OF FOOTPATH 20.

Footpath 20 extends from Eastbridge Farm, 200 meters south of the Eels Foot to the Minsmere beach sluice, alongside a large ditch- water course defining one of the boundaries of the Minsmere bird reserve. One of the great walks of the Suffolk coast. Natural hedgerows grew either side of the ditch but unfortunately these have now been grubbed out, the ditch cleared and EDF have started extensive excavations a few meters south. Birds viewed along the watercourse include nesting willow warbler and blackcap, reed bunting and even kingfisher sighted.

Loss of such diverse natural habitat is indicative of what would be the norm along a number of footpaths and water courses if SZC were to go ahead. Bare vegetation, canals more than streams, dirt roads more than paths

## SIZEWELL GAP OPEN SWARD WALK AND SUFFOLK COASTAL PATH

## TREE OF THREE.

Sizewell Gap is one of the most popular locations, if not the most popular, for exercise, dog walking and general meandering for local residents and visitors. Easy parking for both able and disabled, a fine walk along the open sward in front of SZB which is part of the Suffolk Coastal Path National Trail. A left turn at the end of the build takes you into Nursery Covert and the Sanderlings Walks. Sticking to the beach, a fabulous walk to Minsmere Sluice. Great for viewing bird life on the levels and very occasionally a rarity in the spinyflex grasses and the salix.

Construction of SZC threatens this wonderful beach and vital local amenity. With parking withdrawn and construction of a 10 meter high wall on the open sward in front of SZB many meters long requiring footings of unimaginable depth. An immense jetty and conveyor belt extending over the sward. Water intakes and out takes the size of a London bus needing burial under the beach and hence out to the sea. The Suffolk coastal path pushed virtually into the sea or during the construction stopped up. Bathers, sun worshipers, picknickers and family groups barred for safety reasons. Noise and environmental disturbance along a coastal footpath considered a jewel of the Heritage Coast possibly to be no more if the flood retaining wall is near the high tide line.

Sizewell C is planned to be built in the worst of all places. Far too destructive of paths, AONB,SSSI and the Heritage Coast as a whole.

NOTE. THE CROSS REFERENCING OF FOOTPATHS TO THAT OF EDF- DCO MAPS SUPPLIED HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. THE REPEATED REFUSAL BY EDF TO USE ORDANANCE SURVEY MAPS OR USE EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL HISTORIC FOOTPATH NUMBERS APPEARS A DELIBERATE OBFUSCATION.