



Interested Party ID 20025904

The Sizewell C Project EN010012

Deadline 5: Written submission of oral case (ISH7, Part 1)

Agenda item 2. e) PROTECTED SPECIES

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Protected animals scoped out

Our members have deep concerns about the protected animals that have been scoped out of the DCO by Sizewell C Co. The justification given is that by following the CIEEM guidelines, the conclusion drawn is that they are of 'low importance' or 'very low importance'. This means that no further consideration is given to these animals, leaving them at very high risk of 'incidental mortality' when the earthmoving and cutting equipment moves in to clear the land.

It should be pointed out that the CIEEM is merely a professional organisation. While their advice may be followed by choice it carries no legal weight. The Applicant also claims to have followed the EIA-specific assessment methodology, but it is not clear how this has been done.

Within Table 14.9 of [APP-248](#), there is a list that includes the following, all of which have been scoped out:

Badger

Protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Badger setts would be lost with the felling of Goose Hill for the construction site. (As all further information is confidential we cannot check that new setts would be provided for them, nor whether the animals would be moved to safety beforehand.) We know that these setts have been used for generations. It would therefore be deeply disturbing to the badgers to be forced from their homes.

Brown Hare

Protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and listed under s41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act.

While this animal is only seen from time to time on the Sizewell Estate, it nevertheless needs to be considered, especially during the breeding season. The leverets are raised in a 'form' in the grass, rather than a burrow, and are therefore extremely vulnerable.

European hedgehog

Protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. On the IUCN Red List and vulnerable to extinction.

The Sizewell Estate with its woodland edges and hedgerows offers ideal habitat for this animal. However, due to its defensive habit of rolling into a ball, it is at great risk from harm. We want to be assured that all hedgehogs will be safely removed and cared for and how and when this would be carried out.

Eurasian harvest mouse

Priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and listed under s41 of the NERC Act 2006. On the IUCN Red List and classified as 'Near Threatened'. Protected under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 against deliberate cruelty.

This tiny animal uses the reed beds, tall grasses and hedges on the Sizewell Estate, where it weaves its nest. We need to know what measures would be put in place to ensure the protection of this threatened animal.

European polecat

Protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (schedule 6). Priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and listed under s41 of the NERC Act 2006.

Persecuted and driven to near extinction, but now recovering and has been seen at Sizewell. Uses woodland edges and hedgerows for moving around. Loss of so much woodland on the Estate is of serious concern for this and other animals, that rely on this habitat.

Eurasian water shrew

Protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

This semi-aquatic animal favours the riverbanks, ditches and reed beds in and around Sizewell. Clearance of these areas would mean direct loss of habitat. Pollution of the water due to construction activities would harm this vulnerable species. It has a short life of only 19 months meaning that populations are already low in number. We request that further information is provided concerning this animal and how precisely its protection would be ensured.

'Other small mammals'

These include **Common Shrew** and **Pygmy Shrew**, both of which have certain protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

The other small mammals known to inhabit the Sizewell Estate include Wood Mouse, Yellow-necked Mouse, Field Vole and Bank Vole. While these have no specific legal protections, they are nevertheless part of the ecology of the whole area and important as prey items for reptiles and birds of prey.

Hazel dormouse – Missing from the documents

Protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and a Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Framework, listed under s41 of the NERC Act 2006. Red Listed as vulnerable to extinction.

This seriously endangered animal is known to live in Suffolk woodlands. It is therefore remiss of Sizewell C Co not to have surveyed for the species, bearing in mind the planned loss of so much mature woodland from the Estate. We would like to see this remedied. As it is very small, will not leave the trees to venture out and hibernates on the ground in winter, it is at extreme risk from harm and mortality.

Our members wish to see these protected animals reinstated, scoped back in for detailed assessment and given the protections they deserve.