

From: [REDACTED]
To: [SizewellC](#)
Subject: Written submission to the issue specific hearings. Deadline 23/07/21
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This submission is from William Kendall Unique Reference SIZE-AFP246.

I am William Kendall. I am an entrepreneur and business creator, local farmer and tourism provider who has benefitted from the sort of diversification funding described by Mr Munson from the LEP.

I have been or am an advisor to many SMEs and much larger organisations locally and nationally. I am a recent High Sheriff of the county of Suffolk and a Deputy Lieutenant with a particular interest in Enterprise and Economic Development.

Like Mr Burfield I am disappointed that a much greater effort has not been made to hear the voices of local business. This is not a criticism of the Inspectors. As Mr Burfield has suggested, with his lifetime's experience of this local economy, those economies built almost entirely on SMEs tend not to be well represented in the wider world of policy. The Chamber of Commerce in Suffolk is a fine organisation and I try to help it as one of its Ambassadors but, as Mr Burfield has attested, it speaks for a tiny fraction of Suffolk businesses and many of its members have not been consulted over its stance over the proposed building of Sizewell C. In this particular case, given that EDF are funding the Chamber of Commerce, it could be strongly argued that this organisation is representing the Applicant rather than Suffolk business. Mr Cusack of Middleton Parish Council listed the active businesses in his parish and I would be surprised if any are members of a local umbrella employer's organisation like the Chamber. In my own, direct, experience and from nearly all conversations I have had with other local business operators, I hear none suggesting they anticipate net benefits from Sizewell C. They raise only concern, worries about the uncertainty and, often, a real fear for their future. Hereward Philpott QC advised the Inspectors that, based on his long experience of dealing with planning enquiries, the absence of business operators at the hearings is evidence of their support. Mr Burfield, after four decades of working with SMEs in the field, suggests that their absence is because the person who would have to attend such hearings is otherwise engaged in their day to day running. Whilst I do not have Mr Burfield's long experience, I do share his opinion. I hope the Inspectors will, in the is case, form their judgement based on the relevant experience of those expressing their opinions.

I have set out below statements from two very prominent, local, independent business leaders. Dr Andy Wood the CEO of Adnams plc and James Hopkins, Executive Chair and Founder of Hopkins Homes – the biggest housebuilder in the East of England. Even though both would have liked to have been here, neither was able to attend the hearing for the reason suggested above. Even though they both run businesses much bigger than the average in the area they do not have the resources to be represented at such a hearing. Both felt strongly that the Examining Authority should hear from other major employers in the area, and the prospect of losing staff or contractors to the project is a major concern, and their view is that the Applicant does not take the impact seriously enough, nor sufficiently recognises the cost, and likely difficulty, of attempting to recruit replacement workers and of training such replacements.

William Kendall DL, DUniv, MA, MBA.

1. Andy Wood

My name is Dr Andy Wood OBE, DL and I am the Chief Executive of Adnams Brewery, an independent business of almost 150 years' standing headquartered in Southwold. In addition to our brewery and distillery, we own over 46 properties - pubs, inns and hotels - and operate 12 shops in the local area. Prior to covid our business had a turnover of £75 million a year and we support over 500 suppliers. As well as hosting visitors and locals alike, we are a tourist attraction in our own right; for example in 2019 we had 44,000 visits to our historic brewery alone.

Adnams has a reputation for strong engagement in the community and in promoting responsible business practices. We operate a charity funded from its profits which targets projects which would otherwise struggle to find support.

As a long-time member of the Chamber of Commerce, who has raised Sizewell C with them, I remain surprised by their stance on the project; I understand it is intended to be neutral, but the Chamber's leadership regularly does press on behalf of Sizewell C. This is unfortunate, given that membership does not reach more than 5% of Suffolk businesses, despite the resources provided by EDF.

As the DMO and others have said, **around 70% of the earnings** of the local tourism economy comes from food and drink, attractions, services and retail, with the remainder from accommodation. The most recent DMO research suggests Sizewell C could deter a net 19% of visitors, a drop in numbers likely to have a significant effect on our business just as it starts to recover from covid. Some properties like The Eel's Foot in Eastbridge, whose offering is geared towards walkers and birdwatchers at nearby Minsmere, will be severely affected. The Applicant may argue that the influx of workers would provide a new source of revenue, but pubs that become drinking venues for away-from-home construction workers' may deter locals and tourists. Furthermore, local disruption may lead residents to adjust or curtail their social activities, especially during the "early years" or at peak construction time.

We have over 500 valued employees. If the Applicant were to tempt away staff with short term wage benefits which do not recognise the previous cost of recruitment, long-term community engagement and lengthy training of many of the same individuals, this would seriously impact our business.

Adnams firmly believes in long term commitment from business and therefore struggles to see that any benefits from Sizewell C's eventual presence can be outweighed by the enormous, shorter term negatives on an area itself with low population and limited infrastructure. There is also a case to consider the unintended consequences that could occur as a result and as sustainability focussed business we would urge that every consideration be made to understand the impact on our incredible environment.

2. James Hopkins

My name is James Hopkins and I am the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Hopkins Group. My business is headquartered in Melton and we are the

largest property developer in East Anglia, building on average 1,000 new homes a year, of which around 250 are in East Suffolk. We have 8 sites currently active or in development. We employ around 300 people, and use contractors heavily to support the delivery of our building programme. I have deep and legitimate concerns about the effects of Sizewell C on my business, in particular the prospect of:

- Losing permanent or temporary staff or contractors to the Sizewell C workforce and the difficulty in replacing them. I am both surprised and disturbed to learn that the Applicant (EDF) does not consider the loss of staff by existing employers to the project to qualify as “displacement” if those individuals remain in the same work sector, yet their Economic Statement calculates that something in the order of 725 workers would come from local businesses. The availability of good contractors is already limited, and even losing a small percentage of these would cause significant disruption to our building programme is a legitimate concern.
- Greater difficulty in sourcing building materials. We are already finding it very challenging and increasingly expensive to source the materials we need, and we are concerned this could be exacerbated by competition with the project should it go ahead. I am further concerned that the extra traffic Sizewell C would generate could cause disruption to delivery schedules.
- Declining interest in moving into the local area because of disruption caused by the construction period. This concern is harder to quantify, but given the results even of EDF’s research into likely visitor behaviour, with a net 16% reduction in visitors (update this with new stats from DMO research if available), there seems to me to be a legitimate basis to consider that people considering relocating to east Suffolk for quality of life reasons may think twice about buying a home in the area during the construction period. We have current or future sites in Leiston, Aldringham and Saxmundham to which this might especially apply.