

IP 20025669

October 2021

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership post issue specific hearing 15 written submission

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership

This consultation response is made on behalf of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership. The Partnership is made up of around 25 organisations which are committed to the purposes of the AONB designation, to conserve and enhance natural beauty. **For the avoidance of any doubt, some individual members of the Partnership are public bodies or statutory undertakers which have duties to conserve and enhance natural beauty and it is anticipated these members will provide separate representations reflecting their complete interests and responsibilities. Other Partnership members are likely to make their own representations reflecting their purposes.**

Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager, represented the AONB Partnership at the hearing.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the AONB Partnership does not have a public view on the benefits or otherwise of nuclear power. AONB Partnership comments only relate to any impacts on the nationally designated Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB.

Agenda item 3f is reproduced below:

3. The Environmental Assessment and the environmental implications of the proposed temporary desalination plant including matters relevant to the Habitats Regulations Assessment:

(f) Landscape and visual implications, including the impact of equipment associated with the temporary desalination plant, with particular regard to any additional landscape impacts on the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) associated with the construction and siting of a containerised desalination module.

The AONB Partnership would wish to make the following comment:

- The construction of a desalination plant does not contribute to the statutory purpose of the AONB.

- The AONB Partnership considers that a desalination plant does not contribute to environmental sustainability, particularly with the use of diesel generators, whose emissions could impact the defined AONB characteristic of natural heritage features. The AONB has further concern in relation to the creation of 'salt cake', a by-product of the desalination processes.
- The AONB Partnership recognise that any proposals for a Sizewell Transfer Main, to supply water to the site will not form part of the Development Consent Order but consider that such a development may be crucial to the delivery of the Sizewell C project. The AONB Partnership is concerned that a Sizewell Transfer Main would require the installation of a new pipeline and other infrastructure in the AONB and may cause negative impacts on the natural beauty of the nationally designated landscape.

Simon Amstutz

AONB Manager, On behalf of Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership