



# The Sizewell C Project

## 9.10.37 Statement of Common Ground - Create Consulting on behalf of Mr and Ms Grant

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Applicable Regulation: Regulation 5(2)(q)  
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Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009





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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Status of the SOCG

1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') has been prepared in respect of the application for a development consent order ('DCO') to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') under the Planning Act 2008 ('the Application') for the proposed Sizewell C Project.

1.1.2 This SoCG has been prepared by NNB Generation Company (SZC) Limited ('SZC Co.') as the Applicant and Create Consulting Engineers (hereafter referred to as 'CCE') acting on behalf of Mr and Mrs Grant and agreed on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

1.1.3 This SoCG has evolved through a programme of engagement and series of versions as detailed in Chapter 2.

### 1.2 Purpose of this document

1.2.1 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the position of the parties on a range of noise and vibration issues arising from the application for development consent for the construction and operation of the Sizewell C nuclear power station and together with the proposed associated development (hereafter referred to as 'the Sizewell C Project').

1.2.2 This SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the 'Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent' published in March 2015 by the Department of Communities and Local Government (hereafter referred to as 'DCLG guidance').

1.2.3 Paragraph 58 of the DCLG Guidance states:

*"A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence"*

1.2.4 The aim of this SoCG is therefore to inform the Examining Authority and provide a clear position of the state and extent of discussions and



agreement between SZC Co. and CCE on matters relating to the Sizewell C Project.

- 1.2.5 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the DCO application documents. All documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website.

### 1.3 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.3.1 SZC Co. has submitted an application for development consent to build and operate a new nuclear power station, Sizewell C, along with the associated development required to enable construction and operation.

- 1.3.2 CCE is responsible for providing technical support to Mr and Mrs Grant. This SoCG is seeking to address noise and vibration matters only, other matters not related to noise and vibration remain disagreed and are not reported here.

- 1.3.3 Collectively SZC Co. and the CCE are referred to as ‘the parties’.

- 1.3.4 Matters of interest to CCE, acting on behalf of Mr and Mrs Grant and which are detailed in Chapter 2 of this SoCG are as follows:

- Sizewell link road

### 1.4 Structure of this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.4.1 Chapter 2 provides a schedule which details the matters of agreement and disagreement between the parties.

- 1.4.2 Appendix A provides a summary of engagement undertaken to establish this SoCG.

## 2 POSITION OF THE PARTIES

- 2.1.1 Table 2.1 provides details on the areas of agreement and disagreement between the parties on the topic of noise and vibration.

- 2.1.2 Only noise and vibration matters are reported here. Other areas of dispute are not. The eligibility of the landowner to make a claim for compensation is not prejudiced by any agreement or otherwise set out in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Position of the Parties - SZC Co. and Create Consulting (on behalf of Mr and Mrs Grant) on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Ref	Matter	SZC Co. Position	Create Consulting Position	Further Action	Agreed / Not Agreed / In Progress
NV1	Baseline noise monitoring	<p>SZC Co. consider that the baseline monitoring, which is supplemented in the submitted assessment with modelled baseline levels, covered locations and periods that are sufficient to appropriately quantify the baseline climate.</p> <p>In the context of Fordley Hall, the baseline levels define LOAEL for construction noise, and the modelled baseline road traffic noise levels inform the assessment of road traffic noise impacts.</p> <p>Mitigation is applied to the construction works through the <b>Code of Construction Practice</b> (Doc Ref 10.2) irrespective of whether the LOAEL is exceeded or not.</p>	<p>The noise monitoring conducted by CCE <i>at the resident's dwelling</i> were at significantly lower sound levels than those from the SZC Co. baseline report.</p> <p>When referring to the methodology defined in the DMRB LA111, this is the level at which the LOAEL should be set at and therefore not agreed.</p> <p>Assessing using the sound levels measured by CCE will have a knock-on effect on the degree of mitigation required.</p>	No further actions at this time.	Not agreed.



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<p>NV2</p>	<p>A further assessment of construction noise and vibration will be undertaken with input from the contractor to inform both the <b>Noise Mitigation Scheme</b> (Annex W of the Deed of Obligation (Doc Ref 10.4) and the Sizewell link road Noise Monitoring and Management Plan that will form part of the <b>Code of Construction Practice</b> (Doc Ref 10.2).</p>	<p>SZC Co. consider that the adopted approach, whereby the expected construction outcomes are updated based on the actual proposed working methods and equipment is the most robust way of specifying appropriate controls. The <b>Code of Construction Practice</b> (Doc Ref 10.2) requires the use of Best Practicable Means (as defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974) at all times.</p> <p>The Noise Monitoring and Management Plan requires SZC Co. to agree specific mitigation measures with East Suffolk Council where the works are predicted to exceed specified levels that, for noise, are below the level at which the works are considered to cause a significant adverse effect in an EIA context.</p> <p>Where the specific mitigation is not agreed, the works cannot proceed.</p> <p>This approach does not detract from the robustness and reliability of the submitted assessments, which SZC Co.</p>	<p>Although it is welcomed that an updated noise and vibration assessment will be conducted.</p> <p>CCE are concerned that the full impact of noise and vibration on the residents will not be properly assessed and mitigated against and should have been completed as part of the DCO Inquiry process.</p> <p>The property is grade 2 listed, and as such normal mitigation will not be applicable in this instance.</p>	<p>No further actions at this time.</p>	<p>Not agreed.</p>
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		<p>consider represent reasonable worst-case outcomes and therefore an appropriate basis for the Examining Authority to determine the application.</p> <p>The approach has been agreed with East Suffolk Council, who has committed to work with SZC Co. to apply appropriate controls throughout the works.</p>			
NV3	Construction noise thresholds	<p>The construction noise thresholds that SZC Co. say equate to a significant adverse effect in an EIA context are defined by the 'ABC' method in Annex E.3.2 of BS5228-1: 2009+A1: 2014.</p> <p>The Noise Monitoring and Management Plan requires SZC Co. to agree specific mitigation measures with East Suffolk Council where the works are predicted to exceed specified levels that, for noise, are below the level at which the works are considered to cause a</p>	<p>CCE understand that the noise triggers will be set at 60dB <math>L_{Aeq,12h}</math> for the day time, 50 dB <math>L_{Aeq,4h}</math> for the evening, Saturday afternoon and Sundays and 40 dB <math>L_{Aeq,8h}</math> for the night time period. It has been understood that the trigger level is the point at which the requirement for specific mitigation is required and not the noise level where the works must stop.</p> <p>Bank holiday working should be avoided or at least worked to</p>	<p>SZC Co. will amend thresholds in the draft NPR NMMP to capture bank holidays.</p>	Agreed

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		<p>significant adverse effect in an EIA context.</p> <p>Where the specific mitigation is not agreed, the works cannot proceed.</p> <p>This approach is agreed with East Suffolk Council.</p>	<p>Sunday levels. No mention within the document.</p>		
NV4	Proposed SOAEL levels	<p>The adopted levels for SOAEL for construction noise are taken directly from Annex E.4 of BS5228-1: 2009+A1: 2014 and are consistent with numerous major projects across the country.</p> <p>The adopted levels for SOAEL for road traffic noise have been taken directly from DMRB LA111.</p>	<p>It has been proposed that the SOAEL levels have been set at approximately 10 dB above the ABC threshold levels. Table E.1 of BS 5228 states that “a potential significant effect is indicated if the <math>L_{Aeq,T}</math> noise level arising from the site exceeds the threshold level for the category appropriate to the ambient noise level”.</p> <p>The SOAEL levels proposed should be reduced to the levels stated within BS 5228. The SOAEL levels proposed by SZC Co. relate to the eligibility for</p>	<p>No further actions at this time.</p>	<p>Not agreed.</p>

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			noise insulation (provision of secondary glazing) or temporary rehousing. These SOAEL levels are those used “to determine the eligibility for noise insulation and temporary rehousing” according to BS 5228.		
NV5	Noise in external amenity spaces	For construction noise, gardens are included within the definition of noise-sensitive receptors in BS5228-1: 2009+A1: 2014. Gardens are therefore already included when setting criteria, and those criteria are applied at the dwelling, cognisant of the fact that the dwelling may have gardens around it. SZC Co. considers that the assessment considers gardens in exactly the way envisaged in BS5228-1: 2009+A1: 2014.  The <b>Code of Construction Practice</b> (Doc Ref 10.2) provides the mechanism to apply appropriate mitigation for construction works, which will protect	SZC Co. have not considered the negative impact on the dwelling’s usable external amenity spaces as it is not required under BS 5228 or DMRB LA111.  The document by the World Health Organisation “Guidelines for Community Noise” clearly states that to avoid annoyance, external sound levels should ideally be at 50 dB LAeq,16h, with an upper limit of 55 dB LAeq,16h. For a project of this duration, the sound levels proposed will be above those recommended by the WHO for sustained durations.	No further actions at this time.	Not agreed.

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		<p>both external and internal environments alike.</p> <p>For road traffic noise, the approach set in DMRB LA111 is applied, and that method does not require consideration of road traffic noise in gardens. Notwithstanding this, in most instances the predicted noise levels with the new roads in place are expected to be below the 55dB upper guideline value in BS8233: 2014, which is the only British Standard that provides a guideline value for gardens, albeit in the context of new residential development proposed close to existing noise sources, rather than assessing a change in the existing noise climate.</p>	<p>Further specific mitigation attempts should be made, certainly more than simply relying on the BMP and CoCP.</p>		
NV6	<p>Modelling of noise from proposed link road.</p>	<p>Noise modelling software was used to calculate noise levels to assess the impact of road traffic noise from the Sizewell link road, using appropriate traffic data and calculation methods, based on the Calculation of Road Traffic Noise.</p>	<p>Although CCE believe more clarity could be provided on how the model was calibrated, our own measurements are broadly similar to the predicted levels, and we agree that this is a</p>	<p>No further actions at this time.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>

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			suitable way of assessing future noise levels.		
NV7	Short term impact on receptor.	<p>A major adverse impact is predicted during both the daytime and night-time periods during both the typical and peak operating periods in 2028. These are considered to be significant adverse effects, in an EIA context.</p> <p>The mechanism for securing further reductions in road traffic noise as part of the detailed landscape design of the Sizewell link road are delivered through the Associated Development Design Principles (Doc Ref 10.1); all matters relating to landscaping and the acoustic benefit of landscaping, and the use of quiet road surfaces must be approved by either Suffolk County Council or East Suffolk Council under Requirements 22 or 22A, depending on whether the works fall within the highway boundary or outside it.</p>	Based on the assessment method CCE agree that there is a major short-term impact on to the receptor.	Discussions are ongoing on the proposed acoustic screening	In progress

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NV8	Long term impact on receptor.	<p>A moderate adverse impact and a major adverse impact are predicted for the daytime and night-time periods respectively during typical operating period for 2034. These are considered to be significant adverse effects, in an EIA context.</p> <p>The mechanism for securing further reductions in road traffic noise as part of the detailed landscape design of the Sizewell link road are delivered through the Associated Development Design Principles (Doc Ref 10.1); all matters relating to landscaping and the acoustic benefit of landscaping, and the use of quiet road surfaces must be approved by either Suffolk County Council or East Suffolk Council under Requirements 22 or 22A, depending on whether the works fall within the highway boundary or outside it.</p>	<p>Based on CCE assessment and measurements a moderate adverse impact is predicted in the long-term.</p> <p>Mitigation is required to reduce the impact of the SLR.</p>	Discussions are ongoing on the proposed acoustic screening	In progress
NV9	Approval of final NMMP	The approval mechanism agreed with East Suffolk Council does not require approval or oversight from any third parties, which is appropriate as East	CCE understand that the final version of the NMMP will be submitted to ESC for approval.	No further actions at this time	Not agreed

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		Suffolk Council is the statutory authority on matters relating to construction noise and vibration.	CCE would seek to comment on the final version of the NMMP.		
NV10	Application of this NMMP to the SLR	<p>A dedicated <b>Noise Monitoring and Management Plan</b> will be produced for each Associated Development site, to be approved by East Suffolk Council.</p> <p>A draft of a <b>Noise Monitoring and Management Plan</b> for one of the Associated Development sites, the northern park and ride site, has been issued (Appendix A of Part C of the <b>CoCP</b> (Doc Ref 10.2 [<a href="#">REP8-085</a>, electronic page 194] to demonstrate how the principles of the approach will be applied to the Associated Development sites. Further <b>Noise Monitoring and Management Plan</b> will not be issued during the examination as the principles have been agreed with East Suffolk Council, and the further plans require details on working methods that are not available at this time.</p>	<p>Only the receptors for the P&amp;R have been considered within this NMMP.</p> <p>CCE consider a separate NMMP should have been supplied during the DCO process to fully explore the impact and mitigation solutions for our Clients interests.</p>	No further actions at this time	Not agreed

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NV11	Vibration threshold set too high	<p>The vibration threshold set out in the draft <b>Noise Monitoring and Management Plan</b> for the northern park and ride site (Appendix A of Part C of the <b>CoCP</b> (Doc Ref 10.2 [<a href="#">REP8-085</a>, electronic page 194]) is drawn from the level at which a significant adverse effect is considered to occur, in an EIA context.</p> <p>The derivation of this value is set out in paragraphs 5.17 to 5.31 in Volume 1, Appendix 6G, Annex 6G.1 of the ES [<a href="#">APP-171</a>, electronic page 207].</p> <p>The thresholds have been agreed with East Suffolk Council.</p>	<p>The NMMP has the vibration threshold set at 1.0 mm/s PPV. At this level, BS 5228-2 confirms that “it is likely that vibration of this level in residential environments will cause complaint but can be tolerated if prior warning and explanation has been given to residents”. A more suitable threshold for vibration would be between 0.5 and 0.7mm/s PPV with a maximum trigger limit of 1 mm/s PPV.</p> <p>BS 5228 surmises that night time periods are more sensitive to vibration, although does not state lower threshold levels for night time working.</p> <p>Vibration thresholds should be reduced to accommodate the residential receptors.</p>	No further actions at this time	Not agreed
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			Vibratory works should be avoided where possible during night time hours.		
NV12	Proposed mitigation	<p>The principle of a noise barrier along the southern side of the Sizewell link road to provide a reduction in noise for Fordley Hall is not disputed, although the detail remains under discussion.</p> <p>The mechanism for securing any agreed acoustic barrier is through the <b>Associated Development Design Principles</b> (Doc Ref 10.1).</p> <p>All matters relating to landscaping and the acoustic benefit of landscaping, must be approved by either Suffolk County Council or East Suffolk Council under Requirements 22 or 22A, depending on whether the works fall within the highway boundary or outside it.</p>	<p>CCE have provided the Applicant with the basis of a possible solution to provide an acceptable noise mitigation level.</p> <p>The form of barrier and full extent of the works remains under discussion and at present not agreed.</p>	Progressing	In progress

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## APPENDIX A: ENGAGEMENT ON THE SOCG

A.1.1. The preparation of this SoCG has been informed by a programme of discussions between SZC Co. and CCE, acting on behalf of Mr and Mrs Grant. The relevant meetings are summarised in Table 2.2.

**Table 2.2 SOCG meetings held between SZC Co. and CCE acting on behalf of Mr and Mrs Grant**

Date	Attendees	Purpose of Meeting
22 September 2021	Paul Zanna, CCE Jody Blacklock, CCE Mike Brownstone, Resound Acoustics on behalf of SZC Co. Richard Bull, SZC Co.	Discuss extent of technical agreement or disagreement on matters relating to noise
8 October 2021	Paul Zanna, CCE Jody Blacklock, CCE Mike Brownstone, Resound Acoustics on behalf of SZC Co. Richard Bull, SZC Co.	Discuss extent of technical agreement or disagreement on matters relating to noise

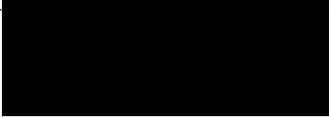


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## SIGNATURES

The above Statement of Common Ground is agreed between SZC Co. and the CCG on the day specified below.

Signed:	
Print Name:	Paul Zanna
Job Title:	Technical Director
Date:	12.10.21
Duly authorised for and on behalf of Create Consulting (on behalf of Mr and Mrs Grant)	
Signed:	
Print Name:	Carly Vince
Job Title:	Chief Planning Officer
Date:	12-10-21
Duly authorised for and on behalf of SZC Co.	

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