

Mr & Mrs C. Whitbread

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Middleton Moor  
Middleton  
Saxmundham  
Suffolk ██████████ ██████████

## **SZC Consultation**

I submit the letter I have sent before. Nothing I have seen in the consultation documents or that we have heard directly from EDF representatives has shown us that there is any credible mitigation that will protect this area from total destruction from noise pollution, light pollution, air pollution, major traffic issues and negative impact on the daily lives of the people who live here and have always loved and valued the beauty and tranquility of this precious region of Suffolk.

I write on behalf of my husband and myself with many objections to the planning application for Sizewell C by EDF. Having viewed their consultation documentations, our views have not changed or been reassured in any way, in fact we feel even more outraged by EDF's continued lack of detail in their plans and their arrogance as they being to tear up the countryside in this area. As per usual EDF are full of statements littered with words and phrases such as, 'maybe,' 'possibly,' 'we hope,' 'we are considering,' 'reviewing,' 'consulting with,' etc. etc. There is nothing definite, we are expected to comment on a planning document that is not set in stone, with detail and specific plans and will probably be changed whenever EDF feel like not sticking to their promises, especially if they are asked to reduce construction costs. This country is faced with huge financial challenges as a result of the pandemic. How is an outdated power plant going to be financed? Not by the energy consumers of this country.

It seems to us after all these years of planning and consultations by EDF they are still floundering around over issues around the use of road, sea or rail or transportation. Our concern is if EDF decide to increase the use of sea and rail access, they will then decide they do not need to build the relief road (which remains the wrong route). The number of lorries still having to gain access to the construction site will be horrendous for everyone in this area and beyond. Should planning be granted, the relief road (D2) must be constructed BEFORE SZC construction begins. It is a ridiculous situation to consider building this outdated power station before the correct infrastructure is in place. We need some logic here and a binding commitment from EDF to stick to their plans to mitigate the negative aspects of construction, that residents can trust. Financial compensation would have to be huge to all residents living along the B1122, so they can rebuild their lives should they decided to move, if a relief road not be constructed.

A recent meeting organised by TEAGS in which we listened to a resident from Hinkley, confirmed all the most negative of preconceptions that residents here have about the development. It has also been disclosed that Hinkley will cost up to £3 billion more to construct. This has serious implications for SZC.

The SZC project here in this area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ONB), would be catastrophic if planning was granted. EDF have not and are not listening to local residents in Somerset, the impact on the quality of their lives has been horrendous and is unacceptable.

What is the point of having designated this Suffolk coastline an AOB and Heritage Coast if it is going to be destroyed?

After our last response to the stage 3 and stage 4 consultations we were expecting EDF to have listened to the local people and made meaningful changes to their plans for the development of SZC. This they have not done. We both strongly **object** to the proposed plans to build and operate two nuclear power stations at Sizewell, on all aspects of the Pre-Application consultation document. We note that during the Stage 4 consultation process EDF did not visit areas that are most likely to be affected but the building of SZC, i.e. Theberton, Eastbridge and Middleton. Our main objections are outlined through the following bullet points:-

1. **Sizewell C proposals** ~

Sizewell is in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is part of the Heritage Coast. The impact of two additional huge nuclear power stations in this area will leave this coastline and hinterland irreparably damaged and destroyed forever. This area should have full protection from such developments. With EDF and Scottish Power it seems to those of us living in this area, Suffolk is going to become an overly developed industrial zone for power companies and their profit orientated shareholders.

This project is enormous in terms of development, construction and amount of time it will take to build. Sizewell C&D are far too big for for this site. The plot available for construction of the proposed two nuclear power stations is 32 hectares. Sizewell B alone sits in 30 hectares.

Construction will threaten two Sites of Scientific Interest, Minsmere and Sizewell marshes. The countryside around Sizewell, coastline and all roads being used in this area will be negatively affected. SZC will damage the unique qualities that make this part of Suffolk so special, the tranquility and the lack of light pollution will be lost forever. It will be impossible to mitigate the loss of habitats that host the many rare birds, animals and plants found here. More than 5,000 species have been recorded at Minsmere making it one of the most important nature reserves in Europe. Most of the reserve is low lying marsh served by a complex hydrological system. Water levels, contamination levels and salinity need to be carefully monitored and controlled. Many of the birds are averse to human contact and easily frightened off. It is inconceivable that any mitigation measures will leave Minsmere unaffected.

All aspects of the proposed construction including new roads, use of existing roads, construction areas, accommodation sites, park and ride areas, spoil heaps, quarries will affect the fragile eco systems in this area, especially Minsmere and the Sizewell Marshes. Good, top quality agricultural land will also be lost along the proposed B1122 parallel Sizewell Link Road. Pockets of land left will no longer be sustainable for farming and could become prime sites for housing or industrial development. Again, this precious area of ONB will be lost forever.

Water pollution could occur from the quarries as materials are leached into aquifer and Minsmere Levels. The spoil heaps could cause significant dust pollution to all surrounding areas, as is happening now in Somerset.

Renewable energy is developing at an incredible rate, as are the means to develop batteries that can store spare capacity when there is no sunlight or wind to generate power. Every new build in this country, domestic or industrial should by law have solar panels on roof tops.

2. **Main development site** ~ EDF makes much of nuclear energy being carbon free, but fails to provide information, at this final stage of public consultation, on how much

embedded carbon is involved in the construction of the two power stations and what the carbon payback period is.

The buildings that house Sizewell A and B power stations are already a blot on what would have been a beautiful coastal landscape. The proposed new developments will continue to be a blight the horizon from all aspects, particularly from Minsmere and the coastal path.

EDF say 'during construction and operation, there would be physical impacts on the landscape and seascape'. They promise adverse effects would be temporary. The construction period is estimated to take 10 to 12 years. Does anyone seriously believe landscape and seascape would ever fully recover? EDF made promises when Sizewell B was constructed and those who lived through this difficult time remember full well, promises were not kept.

I do not agree with the idea of spent fuel being kept on site at Sizewell. Look at what has happened to the Magnox Storage Ponds at Sellafield and the highly dangerous issues these are causing right now. As a country there is still no long term nuclear waste facility. We do not want such dangerous facilities being developed here in Suffolk. Accidents have happened, nuclear contamination would last for thousands of years.

Predicted sea level rises suggest this area of the UK will be under water within 50 years, possibly less. Is the power station at Sizewell to become an island with workers having to access the power station by boat? Or will there be another nuclear power station destroyed as happened at Fukushima Japan? The resultant loss-of-coolant accidents led to three nuclear meltdowns and three hydrogen explosions due to sea water coming over the flood defences. Download the Government document titled '**Future of the Sea: Current and Future Impact of Sea Level Rise on the UK.**' Read it, the prospect for this region is not good. The chances of SZC being flooded before its life expectancy is reached, are very real.

Our part of Suffolk enjoys low levels of light pollution. On clear nights we are able to see the Milky Way. Dark skies are important to many who live here. We have heard how much the light from the development site at Hinkley has had an adverse affect on the night skies there.

- 3. People and economy** ~ The construction of the EDF proposed development will seriously damage the local tourist industry. It is estimated the tourism industry could lose up to £40 a year. The industry would take years to recover from a development of this scale and timeline. The site will: create massive congestion; detract from the attractiveness of the landscape; damage the ecology that inspires and excites much of our tourism; take cleaners and caterers from the existing workforce; and suck up virtually all the tourist accommodation in the area. This will lead to issues with parking and congestion on all roads, especially those roads that will inevitably become rat runs. The construction of SZC will have a severe social impact on local communities. With approximately 5,000 workers concentrated in relatively small area, communities are concerned that, despite the counter-measures proposed by EDF, there may be problems with rowdiness and drunkenness as happened during the construction of Sizewell B. We know from experience that there was increased levels of drug and alcohol dependency, a rise in levels of crime, mental health problems and social exclusion all of which is still apparent today and requires a high level of support which, due to cuts in public spending, is not currently adequate. Leiston does not have a permanently manned police station. Only two police officers cover an area encompassing Wickham Market, Framlingham, Saxmundham, Leiston, Aldeburgh and all villages in between. EDF says that their workforce will be "policed" but only when

on their managed sites. The likely outbreak of anti-social behaviour in and around Leiston will be difficult to control and is likely to have a similarly detrimental impact as before on current and future generations.

Again, we might accept that these risks were acceptable if the case for the nation needing Sizewell C were stronger. But it is not and we believe that this raises the threshold for accepting unnecessary risks to our important local tourism industry.

4. **Accommodation** ~ The proposed development of a campus to house the workforce will have a negative impact on amenities locally and the countryside. Whilst the location of the campus is deemed to be positioned so it reduces the amount of traffic on the roads, traffic will still increase at peak times as workers travel to and from the campus to return to their homes etc. The local area is not large enough to cope with such a huge increase in population due to the large workforce for EDF and Scottish Power. None of the local amenities we have here are designed to cope with such huge numbers. Leiston, Eastbridge, Middleton, Yoxford, Saxmundham and the villages will find tourists and locals will be driven elsewhere to find the type of amenities they enjoy using in this area now. The construction of the power station at Hinkley point has shown that the local rental and holiday accommodation has been used by workers, causing problems for the local population being unable to afford the increase in rents, holiday homes being used like B&B accommodation and there have been problems with car parking. Again this has all had a negative impact on the local population, tourism and diminished quality of life for all.
5. **Transport** ~ It is recognised the B1122 is not fit for the purpose of having several thousand lorries, cars and buses linked to SZC and Scottish Power travelling along it daily during the construction period of 10 to 12 years. The road has many lanes and driveways from homes requiring regular access.



*Proximity of cottage from B1122.*

Some homes are only a few metres from the road. This road is used by cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians, tourists, farmers and vehicles linked to local industries. It could not cope with additional heavy traffic use safely and without a huge amount being added to journey to journey times. Trying to gain access onto the road will be extremely hazardous for those living alongside. Emergency vehicles will find their route slowed. Any accident, problem or weather related issue will render this road impassible. We often have fallen trees and as with last winter heavy drifting snow making the road very hazardous.

The 'Road-Led' scheme will mean 1,500 HGVs using the link road plus buses and LGV's. The Scottish Power development will add even more traffic. We are now being told EDF will have to bring in tankers to supply the site with water until a desalination plant is completed. This will increase traffic numbers again.

The option of a 'Rail-Led' scheme would still require traffic coming onto the B1122, with a possible 900 HGVs and buses and LGVs using the road, making this option not viable. This scheme also would cause chaos for residents with the volume of vehicles

still having use the B1122 with increase noise, pollution, and vibration. There are many older properties all the route of this road that in some cases lie within a metre of the road's edge. This does not include traffic for Scottish Power which will increase predicted traffic numbers considerably.

Should the construction of SZC inconceivably go ahead, a purpose built road is required that will take traffic away from properties. The proposed new road running parallel to the B1122 causes far more problems and issues than it will resolve. The route for this road carves its way through prime agricultural land. Some farms will no longer be sustainable. Pockets of land will not be large enough to farm, leaving this land prime for future development. This road will also close many of the lanes and footpaths (Fordley Road, Pretty Road) that run from Middleton and Theberton towards Saxmundham. These roads are the main route for residents travelling to and from Saxmundham. These lanes are used by cyclists, horse riders, walkers and by residents taking children to school. Closing these roads will divide communities and force traffic to go onto the A12 which is busy enough as it is without the addition of construction traffic. But if the roads are left open, they have the potential to become rat runs, again this will adversely affect local people and farmers trying to gain access to their fields. Whatever decision is reached, it will have a negative effect for someone. We need constructive, creative solutions to resolve so many complex issues.

The only option that is going to be beneficial for the majority of the population living in this area is the D2 route. Speak to the local people, they know this area and what will be viable. This route is ideally placed for traffic not only going to Sizewell but for traffic linked to the Scottish Power construction project. D2 only also affects 3 properties which are 250 m away from the road. This road should be built before any construction starts at Sizewell, if permission is given.

The major road networks (A12, B1122, A1120) in this area will be unable to cope with the volume of traffic that SZC and Scottish Power will bring to the area.

The consultation process provided by EDF and their documentation has been woolly and lacking in concise detail through all aspects of the consultation processes. As a member of the public this is my last opportunity to comment on the plans for this development. Too many major decisions have not been clearly outlined in EDF's consultation documents. Maps used by EDF are out of date, computer generated videos are over simplistic. Speaking to EDF's representatives at the many exhibitions we visited they did not give clear, concise answers. Speaking to EDF representatives at our local Parish Council meeting, we found their attitude and body language arrogant. The documentation produced by EDF is at times contradictory and is overly long, containing information that is not helpful whilst avoiding facts and figures that would have been helpful.

There is not one aspect of this proposed development that we can support. This country should not be allowing the development of two nuclear power stations on a such a confined site that will destroy the beauty of this part of the UK for ever and blight the lives of thousands of people for the next 10 to 12 years. Renewable power is progressing and developing at an incredible rate. Why does the government not insist all new buildings have solar panels? Battery storage is not far from becoming affordable, reliable and viable. Why is wave power not being explored more than it is? If nuclear power is so vital, then why not have smaller nuclear power hubs across the UK in areas that are not of ONB or on heritage coasts next door to marshes and bird reserves, in an area that will never recover from such a huge development?

On behalf of our children, our grandchildren, family and friends, parishioners and this area of Suffolk that we love and wish to protect, we will continue to oppose this development to the very end.

Yours faithfully

Colin and Lynda Whitbread (Mr & Mrs)