

12 October 2021

sizewell@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

Proposed Nuclear Power plant at Sizewell, Suffolk

The Suffolk Preservation Society acknowledges that nuclear power generation forms part of the Government's strategy for the transition to net zero and that Sizewell has been identified in National Policy as host to an additional nuclear facility.

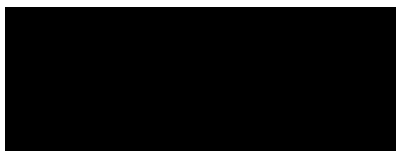
However, Sizewell C has the potential to have major adverse impacts on a wild and beautiful landscape that is host to numerous nationally and internationally important wildlife habitats. The site is within a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and forms part of the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Much of the associated development impacts on scenic landscapes and high-quality historic environments. The project area enjoys a rich historic legacy dating back over 1000 years, characterised by small, deeply rural historic villages within rich biodiverse landscapes, all of which provide the foundation for its success as a tourist destination as well as a key attraction for those who call it home.

The technical and logistical difficulties of accessing and developing this site have been clearly demonstrated through the Examination process. Many of the significant and wide-ranging concerns raised by communities and environmentalists about the level of environmental and social harm that would result from this scheme if it is granted a DCO cannot be satisfactorily mitigated in this fragile location, distinguished by its beauty and tranquility. There are major outstanding concerns relating to the cumulative impacts on the designated landscape and protected habitats, in particular those associated with the desalination plant. We, with many others, remain concerned by the insufficient assessment of the impacts of noise, disturbance, air pollution, increased infrastructure and increased HGV movements on protected landscapes, exceptional habitats and local communities.

The fundamental incompatibility of the scheme with the constraints of site are evidenced by the outstanding objections by Suffolk County Council to major elements of the project including the impacts of the Sizewell Link Road; the second outage car park at Goose Hill; the proposed 4 pylons and overhead cables at the power plant site, all within the AONB; together with the design of the SSSI crossing. Furthermore, the magnitude of the compensation that is being offered by the applicant, including over £10 million into a Natural Environment Improvement Fund, starkly demonstrates that much of the harm resulting from the scheme is incapable of mitigation, particularly those impacts upon the wellbeing of communities and their environmental quality.

Notwithstanding the challenges of a climate and energy crisis that we are currently facing, Sizewell C is not the solution. A swifter, cheaper alternative that does not result in such a high level of environmental devastation must be found. Put simply, the cost is too high; environmentally, socially and economically. We urge that Sizewell C must be resisted for these rational reasons.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Cairns IHBC MRTPI
Director