

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [SizewellC](#)  
**Subject:** Sizewell C  
**Date:** 12 October 2021 16:33:49

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Dear Sir/Madam,

with the deadline almost up for the the public to have their say on Sizewell C, I feel compelled to write a last email imploring you to make the right decision: reject the application for the reactors. There are so many reasons, good, sound, factual reasons not to go ahead with building these two nuclear reactors in the heart of a fragile and rare environment, that to go ahead would be madness. I'm sure you have had these reasons pointed out to you many times before, but I am happy to list them again.

As you ought to be aware by now, the area surrounding the planned reactors is both an SSSI and an AONB. The nature reserves at Minsmere and Sizewell Marshes are amongst the rarest and arguably the most important in the UK. At a time when we fully understand the impacts of humanity on our ecosystems, it is inexplicable that we would put these reserves at risk. Every relevant wildlife conservation organisation is opposed to the construction of the reactors. The disturbance, pollution (particulate, noise and light) is highly probable to have a severe impact on the rare species that inhabit these reserves and the long timescale of the construction (at least twelve years, if all goes well, and we have good evidence to believe it won't. I'm looking at you, Hinkley and Flamanville) will have a devastating impact.

As I'm sure you are aware, the coastline in this area of Suffolk is highly prone to erosion and with rising sea levels, this can only get worse. Any flood defences built for Sizewell C will impact the surrounding areas greatly. Flooding already occurs frequently and the freshwater reedbeds at Minsmere, vital for species such as the bittern, marsh harrier and bearded reedling, will be at serious risk of being inundated with sea water. There are also species that are unique to Minsmere, so their loss would mean extinction in the UK.

Building Sizewell C would not only mean the loss of part of Sizewell Marshes (an SSSI), but would bisect the AONB for over a decade. If there's one thing that is absolutely necessary for meaningful nature conservation, it's "joined up thinking", and the wildlife conservation organisations in Suffolk have been outstanding in that regard. To undo their work would be incredibly destructive and would cut off areas from each other, making some of these areas unsuitable for habitation by certain species. Again, when these habitats are so rare in the first place, building on them and dividing them up so that transit between them is either difficult or impossible is unacceptable.

To many of us, the threats to the local ecosystems are reasons enough to reject Sizewell C out of hand. After all, if we can't protect these in an meaningful way, nowhere is safe and we might as well give up and go home. To underestimate the importance of these habitats, not just to the resident flora and fauna, but to the nation as a whole would be a grave mistake. Indeed, I believe it would reduce our standing in the international community.

Staying on the subject of ecology and green issues, Nuclear isn't green by any stretch of the imagination. Concrete is not a low-carbon material. EDF's own estimates are that the build won't "break even" until 2040, which will not help Government target of 78% reduction of CO2 emissions by 2035. And given that EDF consistently run late and over budget, the real number is likely to be much worse. And do these numbers take into account the extra traffic (estimated 12,000 vehicles per day, including 700-900 HGVs) and the storage/processing/disposal of nuclear waste? And what of the water supply problems? EDF doesn't really seem to know how to get around that, apart from a desalination plant, these being inefficient, toxic and harmful to marine life.

The EPR reactor has a terrible record. None have been built on time or on budget (those in France and Finland are over a decade late) and the single operating EPR in China has experienced major issues, leading to its closure. Is this something we want running in the heart of a fragile environment?

Nuclear is slow and inordinately expensive. Investment in renewables, energy storage and efficiency would provide much faster results with much less impact. Who exactly is going to pay for Sizewell C? EDF certainly can't and getting taxpayers to front the cost at a time when a pandemic has to be paid for is unrealistic and, I can guarantee, will prove highly unpopular.

But, of course, there's more. If the area lost to the two reactors wasn't enough, the workers' campuses will also impact the local areas greatly. 6,000 extra workers, in an idyllic, sparsely-populated area, most of which will be brought in from Hinkley C. With the associated disruption from traffic and, as has been highlighted by local councils and police, crime. Then there's the additional roads and railway line which will need to be built. It's hard to envision how this won't have a devastating impact on local tourism, and this is an area I can add to with my own personal experiences. I don't live in Suffolk, but am a frequent visitor not only because of the many nature reserves, but due to the peace, tranquility and natural beauty of the area. It's impossible to place tangible values here, but I can honestly say that nowhere else on Earth I have visited has had the same profound effect on me. My many visits to this special corner of Suffolk provide a vital and welcome respite from the noise and chaos of modern life. I have no idea if you have ever visited Minsmere's Island Mere on a summer's evening, looking across the reedbeds, watching the sun disappear behind the trees, and not a single man-made noise. Or looking up at the night sky, being able to see the Milky Way with the naked eye, because of the dark skies policy. I believe that if you had, you would do anything to protect such a special place.

I implore you, reject Sizewell C and protect this jewel of Suffolk.

Kind regards,  
Mark Mills.