



The Sizewell C Project

SZC Co.'s Response to the Secretary of State's
Request for Further Information dated 25 April
2022

Revision: 1.0

April 2022



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

SECRETARY OF STATE INFORMATION REQUEST 25/04/22 REF: EN010012 - SIZEWELL C RESPONSE

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Appendix 2: Draft Development Consent Order reflecting the changes arising from the Secretary of State's Request for Further Information dated 25 April 2022 (clean version)

Appendix 3: Draft Water Monitoring And Management Plan (track changed version)

Appendix 4: Draft Water Monitoring And Management Plan (clean version)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document sets out SZC Co.'s response to the requests for further information by 2 May 2022 set out within the letter from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ('Secretary of State') dated 25 April 2022:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010012/EN010012-010819-BEIS-invitation-to-IPs-25-04-22.pdf>.

- 1.1.2 This response is structured as follows:

- **Section 2** provides a response to the question raised in paragraph 8 of the Secretary of State's letter regarding traffic and transport mitigation.
- **Section 3** provides a response to the question raised in paragraphs 9 to 10 of the Secretary of State's letter regarding references to certified documents.

- 1.1.3 This response is supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix 1: Draft Development Consent Order** reflecting the changes arising from the Secretary of State's Request for Further Information dated 25 April 2022 (track change version).
- **Appendix 2: Draft Development Consent Order** reflecting the changes arising from the Secretary of State's Request for Further Information dated 25 April 2022 (clean version).
- **Appendix 3: Draft Water Monitoring and Management Plan** (tracked change version) (previously submitted at Deadline 10 with document reference 10.12).
- **Appendix 4: Draft Water Monitoring and Management Plan** (clean version) (previously submitted at Deadline 10 with document reference 10.12).

2. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MITIGATION

- 2.1 Question in paragraph 7 - In light of the Applicant's response to paragraph 4.1 of the Secretary of State's letter of 18 March 2022, the Applicant is asked to provide details as to any further mitigation that could be provided in relation to noise and vibration impacts on this part of the B1122 before the SLR is in place, for example, but not limited to, preconstruction surveys, monitoring of affected properties along the B1122, remedial works etc
- 2.1.1 SZC Co. has committed to a number of mitigation measures to protect the amenity of residential properties and road users on the B1122, as set out in paragraphs 3.1.45 to 3.1.51 of **SZC Co.'s Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Further Information dated 18 March 2022** [[Link](#), electronic page 30].
- 2.1.2 In response to the Secretary of State's additional question, SZC Co. has engaged further with Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council, and further steps are now proposed.
- a) Residential surveys
- 2.1.3 Prior to the commencement of the development SZC Co. will send offers to the owners of the B1122 Properties identified in **Annex G of the Deed of Obligation** [[REP10-077](#), electronic page 121] setting out its willingness to conduct structural condition surveys ('the first survey') of the B1122 Properties.
- 2.1.4 These additional surveys will be carried out alongside the existing process required to implement the **Noise Mitigation Scheme (Annex W of the Deed of Obligation** [[REP10-080](#), electronic page 101]) for the B1122 Properties.
- 2.1.5 Within a period of six months of the Sizewell Link Road opening, by which time Sizewell C traffic will no longer be using the B1122, further structural condition surveys ('the second survey') will be offered to those owners who accept the first survey.
- 2.1.6 Where defects are identified in the second survey that were not apparent in the first survey, SZC Co. shall investigate the cause of these defects. Unless the investigation demonstrates that these defects are not reasonably likely to have arisen as a result of the vibration effects of traffic since the first survey, SZC Co. shall offer to enter into an agreement with the owner to fund the necessary remedial works.

- 2.1.7 The mechanism for securing these additional measures will be secured through a Deed of Variation between SZC Co., East Suffolk Council, and Suffolk County Council that will be submitted to the Secretary of State separately before 9 May 2022. It is intended that a new obligation to implement a 'B1122 Vibration Scheme' shall be added to Schedule 12 of the **Deed of Obligation** [REP10-076, electronic page 112]. The details of this B1122 Vibration Scheme (which shall include the commitments set out above) shall be set out in a new Annex AC.
- 2.1.8 SZC Co. notes the Secretary of State's suggestion that monitoring be carried out during the period where the B1122 is in use by SZC Co. traffic. The facility to implement such monitoring is already in place under the **Code of Construction Practice** [Appendix 4 of SZC Co.'s Response to SoS request for information of 31 March 2022, electronic page 46] and the **Noise Monitoring and Management Plan** [REP10-070, electronic page 22]. It is expected that such provision will be included in the **Noise Monitoring and Management Plan** for the Main Development Site, and will be agreed between SZC Co, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council. Whilst that monitoring will be undertaken for general purposes and for noise purposes, it will ensure that there is good quality data about the use of the B1122 by Sizewell C traffic. It will be the process of the first and second surveys at properties (before and after the use of the B1122 by Sizewell C traffic), however, that will be effective in capturing any adverse effect.
- b) Highway condition
- 2.1.9 SZC Co. has already set out a commitment to carry out highway structural condition surveys along the B1122, and to make good any damage to the highway caused by Sizewell C construction traffic. This commitment is secured by the 'Highway Structural Maintenance Contribution' in Schedule 16 of the **Deed of Obligation** [REP10-078, electronic page 26], and was noted in the '**SZC Co.'s Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Further Information dated 18 March 2022**' [Link, electronic page 32].
- 2.1.10 In addition to the 'Highway Structural Maintenance Contribution' noted above and the required highway structural condition assessment to be carried out by deflectograph survey, prior to commencement SZC Co. will agree with Suffolk County Council a specification for the condition of the road surface of the B1122 (including the appropriate soundness of any existing gullies, catchpits or manholes). SZC Co. will also undertake a further visual condition survey along the B1122 prior to commencement. In the event that this visual condition survey identifies that the existing surface condition falls below the agreed specification, SZC Co. shall identify the necessary resurfacing works required and use the process in Article 13 of the **dDCO** to obtain the necessary consent to carry out these works to bring the B1122 surface up to the specification. Provided that the necessary

consents are obtained, SZC Co. shall ensure that any necessary works shall be complete within three months following Commencement. This timing is dictated by the Sizewell C project programme and the potential work involved in any necessary surface maintenance or repairs (although the intention will be to complete the work by Commencement if possible). Further, the Sizewell C traffic levels along the B1122 in this period of the first three months following Commencement will be more limited (and therefore giving rise to more limited impacts) than later in the construction phase, as the construction activity will take time to become fully established. This is shown in Plate 2 - Early Years HDV Profile, **Response to Request for Further Information at Deadline 10** [\[REP10-168\]](#) electronic page 74]. The maximum liability of SZC Co. in carrying out these works would be £120,000 per kilometre of the B1122 requiring works, which has been agreed with Suffolk County Council.

- 2.1.11 The mechanism for securing this commitment would be through a Deed of Variation between SZC Co., East Suffolk Council, and Suffolk County Council. A Deed of Variation which varies Paragraph 7, Schedule 16 of the **Deed of Obligation** [\[REP10-077\]](#), electronic page 26] will be submitted to the Secretary of State before 9 May 2022.

3 REFERENCES TO CERTIFIED DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 Question in paragraphs 8 to 9 - The Secretary of State notes that there appear to be discrepancies between the references in the Examination Library (“EL”) provided to the Secretary of State by the Examining Authority, when reviewed against the list of Certified Documents in Schedule 24 of the draft Development Consent Order (“Schedule 24”):

- Access Road Plan – Reference 2.14 in the draft Order compared with Reference 2.13 in the EL
- Draft Water Monitoring and Management Plan – Reference 10.12 in the draft Order, compared with Ref 9.87 in the EL
- Environmental Statement, Reference 6.1 to 6.18 in the draft Order, compared with a last reference of 6.20 in the EL
- Parameter Plans – Reference 2.5 to 2.12 in the draft Order, compared with 2.5 only in the EL
- Wet Woodland Strategy – Reference 10.31 in the draft Order, compared with 9.8 in the EL. The Secretary of State notes that

the latest version of this document has now been uploaded to the PINS website in the post-examination submissions bundle that can be found at this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wpcontent/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010012/EN010012-010790-Post%20Examination%20Submissions.pdf>

The Applicant should provide an explanation as to why the references in the draft Order do not align with the references in the EL, and to indicate clearly what the correct references in the draft Order should be. The Applicant should ensure that final versions of any documents that are referred to in Schedule 24 have been provided.

3.1.1 In response to the above queries raised by the Secretary of State, SZC Co. notes the following:

- **Access Road Plan:** The correct reference number is 2.13 (rather than 2.14). This was an error in the previous version of the **dDCO**. This has been amended in an updated version of the **dDCO** submitted in support of this response at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.
- **Draft Water Monitoring and Management Plan:** SZC Co. submitted an updated version of this plan at Deadline 10, with document reference 10.12. The batch of documents of which this was part was given a PINS Ticket Number of 5547, acknowledging its submission. However, this document does not appear to have been transferred across to the Planning Inspectorate's website and does not appear in the Examination Library, where only the previous version (ref. 9.87) is listed. For ease of reference, SZC Co is re-submitting the most up-to-date version of this plan (see **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 4**). No amendments are required to the **dDCO**.
- **Environmental Statement:** The document references for the Environmental Statement in Schedule 24 of the **dDCO** should state "6.1 – 6.20" (rather than "6.1 – 6.18"). This was an error in the previous version of the **dDCO** and has been amended in the updated version of the **dDCO** at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.
- **Parameter Plans:** All of the documents with references 2.5 to 2.12 are listed in the Examination Library, not just 2.5. However, document references 2.8, 2.9, 2.10 and 2.12 do not include parameter plans. Therefore, Schedule 24 of the **dDCO** has been amended in the updated

version of the **dDCO** at **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** to refer simply to 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 and 2.11.

- **Wet Woodland Strategy:** The most up-to-date version of this strategy, with document reference 10.31, was uploaded to the Examination Library by the Planning Inspectorate as part of the document entitled [Correspondence received after the close of the Examination at 23:59 on Thursday 14 October 2021](#) [e-page 335]. No amendment is therefore required to the **dDCO** as the document reference remains 10.31.