



# Waldringfield

## Parish Council

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### Sizewell C Stage 3 – Consultation Response by Waldringfield Parish Council

Waldringfield Parish Council **OBJECTS** to the Sizewell C planning application for the following reasons:

#### **Overview**

The public's views on EDF Energy's proposals to build a new nuclear power station should be part of a debate on national energy policy, which is not covered in this consultation. This consultation is confined to local issues around the construction phase, with some long-term legacy implications, and Waldringfield Parish Council (WPC) has therefore confined its comments to these issues.

Sizewell is the only nuclear power plant in the UK located in an environmentally protected site, i.e. Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, but insufficient regard has been taken of the AONB's special qualities. The proposals must recognise that the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB is a national and not merely a local Planning Designation.

The project is enormous, far bigger than the existing Sizewell B plant – it is far too big for the setting and land available.

In addition to the 9 to 12 years of the construction phase, there will be 20 years of decommissioning. This is barely mentioned in the documentation, but will cause massive disruption to local communities and the environment.

#### **Environmental Impacts**

Full regard should be taken of the "AONB Special Qualities" document (developed by EDF in consultation and agreement with the AONB Partnership, SCDC and SCC). Construction and operation of the plant therefore need to meet a higher level of environmental protection standards than for other nuclear power plants, which are not in protected areas. This is especially so given the proximity of two SSSIs and the Minsmere RSPB Reserve, which is an SPA and Ramsar site.

As part of Stage 2, the summary consultation document states "*more detailed environmental information will be available at a later stage of consultation*" (p9). However, EDF has still not published its full Environmental Impact Assessment. The existing environmental information is totally inadequate. EDF should publish its full Environmental Impact Assessment before applying for planning consent.

The proposed 'town' for 2,400 workers will have a devastating impact on the nearby protected areas (the Minsmere Levels and the Sizewell Marsh SSSIs, and the Minsmere RSPB Reserve).

EDF's plans will cut the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in half for at least a decade, and threaten to compromise the purposes of the AONB designation itself.

Spoil heaps, up to the height of a 10-storey building, are likely to cause significant dust pollution to the AONB, Minsmere Levels and Sizewell Marsh.

Construction noise will cause serious disturbance to wildlife.

The 'road-led' strategy will mean that construction traffic will cause far more pollution and carbon emissions than the more environmentally friendly marine-led option, which has been rejected.

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Light pollution during the construction phase is likely to cause disorientation to birds, particularly during the winter months.

Intermediate level waste will be kept onsite – there is no long-term nuclear waste facility available. The lifetime of the interim spent fuel store and the intermediate level waste it contains would: “under current assumptions, extend beyond the operational life and decommissioning of the other facilities on-site” (*Stage 3 Pre Application Consultation*, §7.2.23). This extremely hazardous waste will pose an environmental and security threat for decades, possibly centuries, into the future. It is grossly irresponsible to lumber future generations with the problems of looking after EDF’s toxic garbage.

## **The Economy**

Eyesores, noise, dust and lorry traffic will deter visitors to the coast between Southwold and Aldeburgh, impacting tourism (which is worth £250m to the local economy).

## **Accommodation**

There is a need for affordable housing in the area, and this is an opportunity to meet that need. The proposed temporary ‘campus’ next to Eastbridge will not provide for that need.

EDF has consistently refused to consider locating workers in urban areas with suitable social infrastructure and potential for legacy. It has failed to justify why it is not using its approach at Hinkley, where 500 workers are onsite and 1,000 in Bridgwater where the site has been laid out for new housing afterwards.

3-4 storey blocks with car parks and leisure facilities on a greenfield site will have a damaging impact on local residents, particularly those in Eastbridge, Theberton and Minsmere.

## **Transport**

In the Stage 2 consultation, WPC and others argued that transport by rail and sea should be maximised, to reduce congestion on the roads. This has been ignored. Dropping the ‘marine-led’ option is a massive mistake.

The ‘road-led’ strategy will mean up to 1,500 HGVs a day on a Link Road from the A12, close to several villages, potentially operating 24/7. The route is a bad choice, it runs too close to many homes and listed buildings. It will be of little use once the power station is built.

A far better solution than the proposed two villages bypass is the four villages bypass (Marlesford, Little Glemham, Stratford St Andrew and Farnham), as advocated by Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council and the Four Villages Bypass Group.

## **Consultation Process**

The questionnaire has no questions about emergency planning, fuel and waste storage, security or decommissioning, which are all extremely important issues.

There is little evidence that EDF has listened to the concerns of local people, councils or groups, as expressed in the previous consultation. It certainly hasn’t listened to WPC’s concerns.

There is very little mention of cumulative environmental, traffic, social and other impacts, and no assessment of the combined impact of overlapping Energy Projects (such as the East Anglia offshore wind farms).

Yours faithfully,



Rebecca Todd, Parish Clerk