

August 2021



# Sizewell C Community Newsletter

Sizewell C project update

Tackling climate change and protecting the local environment

Consultation on construction water supply



# Introduction

**Sizewell C is the proposed new nuclear power station in Suffolk which could supply around six million UK homes with low carbon electricity for at least 60 years.**

In May last year we submitted an application for a Development Consent Order to build the new power station. The build period will last for around a decade, so we have a responsibility to limit the impacts of construction as much as possible, whilst making the most of the huge opportunities the project offers Suffolk.

A project of this scale will bring huge social and economic benefits to East Suffolk and other UK regions. The project will create thousands of jobs, including 1,500 apprenticeships. 70% of the construction value will go to UK suppliers with around 2,500 companies across the country set to benefit.

There is a fundamental environmental urgency as well: the biggest challenge facing wildlife and humanity is climate change caused by carbon emissions. During some periods this summer, more than 50% of our electricity has come from polluting fossil fuels. Nuclear power alongside renewables is essential if we want a clean and reliable energy system.

I know that people are concerned about the impact of construction on the local environment. This newsletter summarises some of the measures we will take to protect

local wildlife during construction. In the long run we will actually enhance nature by increasing biodiversity on the estate surrounding the power station.

We can only touch on some of this activity in a newsletter so I would encourage you to read our Environmental Statement and plans online.

We have continued to meet with parish councils and local representatives following submission of the application. This has resulted in our proposing some changes to the plans. This is a normal and important part of the process – we must strive to make the project the best it can be for local people. The latest of these proposed changes have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and the documents can be viewed here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/>

We are also proposing a change to our construction Water Supply Strategy and would welcome your views on that.

I hope you find these newsletters informative. We anticipate a planning decision on the application in the first half of next year and we will continue to keep you updated. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the team in Leiston on freephone number 0800 197 6102.

Best wishes,

Julia Pyke,  
Director of Sizewell  
Financing and Economic Regulation.



# Carbon offset within five months

**Sizewell C will offset carbon emissions from construction within five months of operation.**

Sizewell C would generate enough electricity to power six million homes and in comparison to a gas turbine station, would save nine million tonnes of carbon emissions a year. There will be an impact from construction though, so in 2020 we commissioned a detailed analysis of the carbon emissions associated with the project.

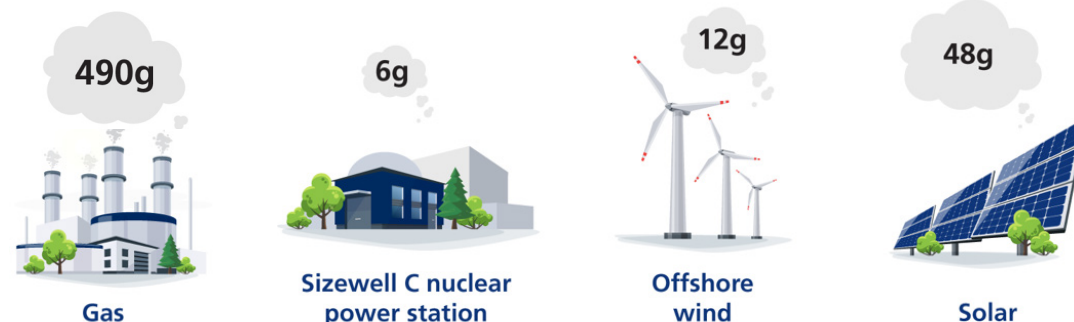
The process used is based on the International Environmental Product Declaration standard and measured environmental

impacts across the full lifecycle of the station, from the start of construction to the end of decommissioning. It measures these impacts per kilowatt hour of electricity generated by Sizewell C. A key benefit of this methodology is its robustness. The assessment was independently verified by a third-party, providing additional confidence in its results.

The analysis summarised that the carbon emissions associated with Sizewell C would be approximately 6g CO2 per kilowatt hour of electricity generated. This means Sizewell C will offset the emissions associated with its construction, estimated to take between 10-12 years, within five months of operation.

Carbon produced by different energy sources per kilowatt hour of electricity generated.

Gas, offshore and solar are IPCC estimates



# Construction water supply consultation

**3 to 27 August 2021**

**We continue to listen to feedback from local communities and stakeholders.**

This ongoing engagement, along with further design work in collaboration with Northumbrian Water Limited, has resulted in a proposed change to our construction Water Supply Strategy. We are seeking feedback on this proposed change,

which is summarised here and explained in more detail in a full Consultation Document available at [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk).

Described as Proposed Change 19, the numbering reflects the format of the Consultation Document and follows on from previous changes. These include 15 changes to the application that were accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 21 April 2021 and three further changes submitted on 23 July 2021.

# Water Supply Strategy

**Proposed change 19**

Clean water from a dependable source would be required from the earliest stages of construction of Sizewell C. While our planning application includes proposals to access water from a permanent water main, ongoing work has identified a need for more flexibility in construction water supply.

The construction and operation of Sizewell C, including this proposed change to our construction Water Supply Strategy, will not impact the local supply of drinking water.

We are proposing a change to our planning application to include a temporary desalination plant on the main construction site, away from both Sizewell Marshes SSSI and Sizewell beach. Desalination is the process of removing salt and other minerals from sea water to create drinking-quality, or potable, water.

The proposed temporary desalination plant would provide a reliable, continuous source of water while the permanent water transfer main is completed. We expect this to be around four years after the start of construction, although the plant may be retained for longer – potentially throughout

construction – in the unlikely event of a delay to the permanent main. The desalination plant would be removed at the earliest opportunity and once sufficient supply from the main has been established.

Operating continuously, the temporary plant could produce up to 4,000m³ of potable water a day. Water production will be in response to construction demand and generally substantially less than this. Up to nine 40-foot shipping containers would house the cleaning technology, while back-up equipment and tanks including storage of two days' supply of clean water, are also proposed.

A small pipe to bring sea water onshore would be buried under the beach and coastal path and extend out to sea. It would also include screens to prevent intake of fish and minimise intake of debris. Salty water remaining after the desalination process would be returned to the sea through an outfall pipe, which would also be buried onshore.

During the 4-6 months it would take to build the temporary desalination plant, clean water would be delivered to the site by water tanker trucks. This would not increase the overall number of HGVs predicted for the project during the early years of construction.

# Where to find the proposals and how to respond

- View the Consultation Document and fill in the response form online: [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk)
- View the Consultation Document by appointment at the Sizewell C information office\*\* or Leiston Town Council
- Request an electronic copy on a USB stick or a hard copy of the Consultation Document and response form by emailing [info@sizewellc.co.uk](mailto:info@sizewellc.co.uk) or calling 0800 197 6102\*

**Responses can be made online, by email or in writing to FREEPOST SZC CONSULTATION.**

**Responses need to be received by midnight Friday 27 August 2021.**





Marsh Harrier at Aldhurst Farm

# Sizewell C and the local environment

## Nuclear energy is vital to tackling climate change.

Due to its low requirement for land in comparison to other technologies, it also provides room for nature. This gives us the opportunity to further enhance biodiversity on our growing estate.

Once Sizewell C is built, the nuclear licensed area will amount to 69ha – that's less than 0.2% of the total area of the 156 square miles of the Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB). Nuclear produces 1,000 times more energy per acre than solar and 3,000 times more energy per acre than onshore wind.

The power station will be located next to Sizewell B. Sizewell C will not be built at the expense of the local environment and neither will any construction activity take place on RSPB Minsmere – in fact, the temporary construction site does not encroach into Minsmere by a single millimetre.

The Sizewell C station platform will require 6.52ha of the Sizewell Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest. To compensate we will use ten times that amount of land (65ha) elsewhere to create replacement habitat. In 2015,

we established Aldhurst Farm – a 67ha habitat creation area which includes a 6ha new wetland of open water, ditches and reedbeds, and provides nesting and foraging habitat for birds, bats, water vole and otters. The area of these wetlands exceeds the wetlands habitat which are used within the SSSI. Marsh harriers and otters are already making Aldhurst Farm their home.

Today, the Sizewell estate is more than 600ha in size. With the inclusion of new land to mitigate the impact of construction on wildlife, our ownership after construction will increase substantially to around 800ha (almost the size of 1,000 football pitches). To make sure that our whole estate continues to enhance the area's rich landscape, we will establish an independent Environment Trust to support rewilding and promote further biodiversity. The Trust's work will go beyond the ecological mitigation and landscape measures set out in our application for planning permission.

The measures we propose aim to protect Suffolk wildlife during construction and enhance the local ecological landscape afterwards. In the long run, the plans detailed in our application will lead to a net gain in biodiversity.

☎ **FREEPHONE 0800 197 6102\***

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📱 **@sizewellc**



**FREEPOST SZC CONSULTATION**



**Sizewell C Information Office,  
48-50 High Street, Leiston IP16 4EW\*\***

To see our Community Pledges visit: [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk)



A large print version of this newsletter can be made available on request. The Consultation Document can be viewed at [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk). Hard copies of the Consultation Documents can be viewed by appointment\*\* at Sizewell C information office and at Leiston Town Council. A USB stick or a hard copy of the Consultation Document and response form are available on request.

\*9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Calls from 0800 numbers are free from UK landlines. Call costs from mobile and international numbers may vary.

\*\*By appointment between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.