

Quarter 1 2022



# Community Newsletter

Sizewell B marks 27 years of generation

Secretary of State visits Sizewell C

Planning decision on Sizewell C expected in coming months





# SIZEWELL B

began operation on 14 February 1995



**1.2 GW**  
Generating Capacity



## Julia Pyke - Sizewell C Director

Thank you for taking the time to read this community newsletter about Sizewell C, the proposed new power station on the Suffolk coast.

The project continues to make good progress which we were very happy to demonstrate to government when Kwasi Kwarteng, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, visited the site in January.

We have recently marked 27 years of Sizewell B's operation. Thousands of local people worked on its construction and thousands more have been employed in what is the UK's most modern power station. For nearly three decades it has saved millions of tonnes of carbon which would have been emitted by a power station burning fossil fuels to deliver the same amount of electricity.

Nuclear has been part of the Suffolk coast since the 1960s. Sizewell A operated for 40 years. Decommissioning of Sizewell A continues but the different design of Sizewell B means that when it comes to the end of its operating life, decommissioning of the station will be a quicker process.

The Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in 1970 - four years after Sizewell A was built. Sizewell B was built in the AONB and both power stations take up only 6% of the overall land in our ownership.

We have been responsible stewards of over 600 hectares, creating a publicly accessible and rich biodiverse landscape. Not only have the power stations safely generated low carbon electricity, they have also provided space for nature. In this newsletter, you can read more about the work we are doing on the site and the surveys we are conducting near other areas associated with the project.

Congratulations to the Sizewell B apprentices who recently completed their training and were offered jobs at the station. Like all Sizewell apprentices, they are from the local area.

Over the years, several young apprentices from local towns and villages like Leiston have started and built their careers at Sizewell B, becoming senior engineers and business leaders. We want to build on the successes of Sizewell B with the development of Sizewell C and do the power of good for East Suffolk. We fully understand there are concerns about the length and nature of construction activity should the project achieve the approvals necessary to go ahead. We will manage these issues responsibly but it is important they are not based on myths – some of which we address in this newsletter.

We are determined that East Suffolk will benefit as much as possible. Please see our pledges to local communities on our website [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk) and do not hesitate to contact us in Leiston. We are here to listen and help.

Best wishes,

Julia Pyke,  
Director of Finance and Economic Regulation, Sizewell C.



**3%** of the UK's Entire Electricity Needs



Over **750** staff on site



**14** Apprentices, **2** Industrial placements, **5** Technical Trainees

Estimated

**£40 million** into the Local Economy Annually



lifetime output:

**223** TWh



Enough to power every home in Suffolk for 178 years



81 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided, the equivalent of...



38 million cars off the roads for a year\*

## Helping Britain Achieve Net Zero

\*This comparison is from generating the same amount of electricity from a gas powered station.

## Storing Spent Fuel at Sizewell

All the spent fuel at Sizewell A is now off site and being processed at Sellafield.

The spent fuel from Sizewell B's reactor is stored in a fuel storage pond. Spent fuel is transferred from here to a Dry Fuel Store on site where it will be safely housed for the lifetime of the station or until a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is available. The Dry Fuel Store facility is a mature technology, in use in a number of countries around the world.

Every canister in the Sizewell B Dry Fuel Store has:

- Made 4 billion kWh of low carbon electricity. That's a year's supply for nearly 1.3 million homes.
- Saved 1.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, the equivalent of keeping 660,000 cars off the road for a year.\*

The Sizewell B Dry Fuel Store.





# Around the Sizewell Estate

Earlier this year Sizewell C started the next phase of planting woodland and heathland at the Aldhurst Farm habitat creation scheme in Leiston.

A total of 5,375m<sup>2</sup> of woodland will be planted in an area located along the north-west boundary. Species will include common oak, silver birch, field maple, wild cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, common holly, common gorse and broom. Just under 2,400 plants will be planted in total.

There will be 12 heathland scrub clumps of various sizes and shapes in the Eastern field, covering 4,667m<sup>2</sup>. Common gorse and broom will account for 80% of the species, with hawthorn, blackthorn and field maple also included.

Dr Stephen Mannings, Aldhurst Farm Project Manager, Sizewell C, said: "We started this habitat creation five years ago. 67 hectares of former arable land are being transformed into a fantastic mosaic of wetland, grassland, heathland and scrub that was once widespread across East Suffolk. Otters and marsh harriers have returned and this planting will help attract other wildlife to the site as well as being enjoyed by local people."

We own 600 hectares of land on the coast, with the nuclear stations making up only 6% of it. Over the course of the last decade we have planted over 55,000 trees and shrubs on the estate.

Wildlife has thrived for decades around the existing Sizewell B station and before that at Sizewell A. We will build on a great track record and continue to protect this precious area of the Suffolk coastline. We have extended our land ownership over recent years in order to create new habitat for wildlife that will be disrupted by the building of Sizewell C.

The measures we are taking to look after nature include:

- Designating 250 hectares of land for wildlife
- Increasing biodiversity around the power station by 19%
- Setting up an Environment Trust to manage the Sizewell estate and promote rewilding

We are not building on any land owned by RSPB Minsmere. Where a small part of our boundary meets RSPB land, we are creating a new area of wetland to allow wildlife to thrive. We will limit construction when necessary to reduce noise and we will use directional and low-level lighting. We are confident our plans will not have an impact on this important nature reserve.

Once Sizewell C is constructed, the nuclear licensed site will amount to 69 hectares - that's less than 0.2% of the total area of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Nuclear produces a lot of electricity from a very small land footprint leaving more room for nature.

The biggest threat to biodiversity is climate change. By lowering carbon emissions, nuclear energy will help to protect the natural environment.



Over the course of the last decade we have planted over 55,000 trees and shrubs on the estate.

Aldhurst Farm wetland habitat creation.

# Sizewell C: generating low carbon electricity and making space for nature.



300 MWh per acre per year      300,000 MWh per acre per year      100 MWh per acre per year

# Local Surveys

We have continued to undertake detailed survey work around the main Sizewell C site and the sites where potential associated developments like bypasses would be built.

Recently trial trenches have been dug on private land in Middleton, near the site of the proposed Sizewell Link Road, to search for archaeological finds. The works will establish whether any further measures, such as excavation, will be needed at the site before work on the bypass can begin. This follows on from archaeological surveys completed in Farnham earlier in the year.

The project has also been conducting questionnaires with the users of public rights of way at Sizewell and in surrounding parishes. The surveys, which will be undertaken periodically throughout the coming years, will aim to monitor how the recreational use of these sites changes during the construction period and will inform how we can make improvements. As part of this research, automatic counters are being installed so we can clearly understand the numbers of people walking in these locations. These cameras fully comply with data protection rules and do not capture any personal information whatsoever.

Looking ahead, we have submitted a planning application to East Suffolk Council seeking permission to conduct a number of geotechnical trials on the Main Development Site in spring.

We already know from the construction of Sizewell B and years of ground surveys that we can build Sizewell C and the site is a suitable one for the proposed station.

These trials will help determine the approach that will be taken to early preparatory work, which will in turn help inform the schedule and construction methods we will use on site in the early years if planning permission is granted.



Archaeological surveys near Friday Street, Farnham.



# Sizewell C: Doing the Power of Good for East Suffolk



A conference was held in November which brought together more than 200 local leaders from business, education, charity and community organisations to discuss the role that Sizewell C might play in East Suffolk's economy, society and environment.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the conference with the University of Suffolk, which will deliver support from the project for the development of the Ipswich Waterfront Innovation Centre. This will include a Supply Chain and Logistics Academy and help develop the university curriculum to include higher/degree apprenticeship opportunities at Sizewell C.

The conference recognised the importance of industry and environmental bodies working together. Sizewell C will generate enough electricity for six million homes with a lower land take than any other low carbon technology. Speakers highlighted the urgent need to use additional space under Sizewell C's ownership for a multi-sector alliance to connect rewilded landscapes across East Suffolk, with the aim to gradually return 20% of East Anglia to nature and promote high standards in agriculture, food and energy production.

Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson and Sarah Williamson from Sizewell C sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Helen Langton, Vice Chancellor of the University of Suffolk.



# Sizewell C: Myth Versus Fact

We have a responsibility to build Sizewell C with consideration toward local residents, to operate nuclear power stations safely, to be a good neighbour in our communities and to be a good steward of the local environment. We support a future electricity generating system dominated by renewables but with the right amount of low carbon baseload, including nuclear. All low carbon technologies will be necessary to tackle the climate crisis. It is also important we proceed on the basis of facts and address myths about the nuclear industry and Sizewell C. The table below answers some of the arguments being put forward:

Myth	Fact
<b>Nuclear is not a low carbon source of power</b>	Reports have shown that nuclear has lower carbon emissions over its lifecycle than any other power source, even wind or solar. It will take only a few months of Sizewell C being in operation to offset the emissions produced during construction.*
<b>Nuclear power plants are unreliable</b>	Nuclear power is the most reliable source of low carbon energy. Nuclear plants are running at full power far more often than either fossil fuel or renewable alternatives, and are able to operate over longer periods without refuelling.
<b>Sizewell C will come too late to contribute to net zero targets</b>	Sizewell C is expected to be generating power by the mid-2030s. This would see huge amounts of dependable low carbon electricity play a major role in decarbonising the power mix for the following sixty years. It will avoid the emissions from fossil fuels that could otherwise be generated by meeting the growing demand for electricity in transport and domestic heating. Electricity demand is expected to double by 2050, requiring a fourfold increase in low carbon electricity.
<b>Sizewell C will be built on a crumbling coastline</b>	Sizewell is on a secure section of the coast that has seen no significant erosion over the 60 years that Sizewell A has been there. Safety is our overriding priority. We would not propose to build a nuclear power station in a dangerous setting and even if we tried, the regulator would not allow it.
<b>Consumers will pay too high a price for Sizewell C</b>	We already pay for energy infrastructure in our electricity bills, particularly due to the need to decarbonise in order to tackle climate change. Government modelling shows that deploying nuclear power results in cheaper bills for consumers compared with relying solely on renewables. The government's proposed new funding model for Sizewell C will cost households no more than £2 a year during the course of this parliament.
<b>Sizewell C will bring chaos to local roads</b>	60% of construction materials will be transported by rail and sea. A range of infrastructure improvements will be invested in to minimise Sizewell C's impact on local roads. HGVs will have to use approved routes and will be carefully managed and monitored. The majority of local workers will use park and ride buses to the site on approved routes rather than driving in private cars down local roads.
<b>The design of Sizewell C (the EPR) is flawed – the one in China has failed.</b>	The EPR is a pressurised water reactor – the same as Sizewell B. It is one of the few new nuclear power station designs to have been approved by the UK's nuclear regulator. Fuel performance issues like the one in Taishan Reactor Unit 1 are not unusual in nuclear operations and the situation does not pose any risk to people or the environment. Reactor Unit 2 continues to generate electricity and Olkiluoto 3 in Finland is scheduled to be commissioned this year following successful recent testing. The Finnish regulator would not have given the go ahead if they had doubts about the EPR design.

\*For an example please see *Life cycle carbon and environmental impact analysis of electricity from Sizewell C nuclear power plant development* published on 26 October 2021 here: [www.edfenergy.com/sites/default/files/szc\\_epd\\_style\\_doc\\_final\\_v02-00\\_29.10.21.pdf](http://www.edfenergy.com/sites/default/files/szc_epd_style_doc_final_v02-00_29.10.21.pdf)



# Financing Sizewell C

The government has tabled legislation for the financing of new nuclear power stations. The financial model currently being considered by Parliament is a Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model, which is a way of financing large construction projects at lower cost and to provide better value for money for consumers when the infrastructure is built and operational. This type of financing model is already used for other large projects, but Sizewell C could be the first time it is introduced for financing nuclear power stations.

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, visited the Sizewell C site in January to announce £100m was being provided to support the project's continued development.

Energy bills will be cheaper with the operation of Sizewell C in the generating mix. The project itself will add no more than £2 a year to consumers' energy bills in the current parliament.



# Commitments and Next Steps

Sizewell C has set out a £250m package of commitments aimed at ensuring the effects of construction on the local area are minimised and the benefits of the project are maximised for local communities.

The commitments are called the 'Deed of Obligation'. They have been agreed with Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council and were consulted on and drafted through the examination of the Sizewell C planning application.

Among many important areas, including health and wellbeing, the Deed of Obligation details the establishment of a £23m Community Fund and up to £22m to support employment and skills in the region. It also outlines how the project will work with local organisations, including parish councils, to deliver traffic and transport enhancements in local villages that improve safety for residents.

Separately, Sizewell C has committed £78m to the establishment of a new independent environmental body that will seek to enhance the area's rich landscape.

The announcement of the agreement came at the end of the six-month examination process of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build Sizewell C. Planning Inspectors have submitted their report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and he is expected to announce the decision on whether to approve the application by late May.

If successful, the project would then need to reach a Final Investment Decision before construction work would begin.

## Contact Us

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