

## Government Investment Confirmed

Last month, the Sizewell C Project reached its biggest milestone, with the announcement that the UK government will be investing in the project. The funding will support the project's continued development so that it can bring in other investors.

The announcement follows approval of the Development Consent Order in July and the introduction of new financing legislation for nuclear projects in March. The funding agreement means the government is a joint shareholder in the project alongside EDF.

Speaking after a visit to the Sizewell C site, the Business Secretary Grant Shapps said the government's stake in Sizewell C was the first step on the ladder to long-term energy independence.

**Mr Shapps said** "Global gas prices are at record highs, caused by Putin's illegal march on Ukraine. We need more clean, affordable power generated within our borders – British energy for British homes. Today's historic deal giving government backing to Sizewell C's development



Grant Shapps meeting apprentices at Sizewell.

is crucial to this, moving us towards greater energy independence and away from the risks that a reliance on volatile global energy markets for our supply comes with."

**Simone Rossi, CEO of EDF Energy, said:** "This is a big vote of confidence in Sizewell C and we are very excited that the government is partnering with us to prepare the project for further investment. Sizewell C will build on the achievements of Hinkley Point C, and replicating its design will provide more certainty over schedule and costs.

"It will deliver another big boost to jobs and skills in the nuclear industry and provide huge new opportunities for communities in Suffolk. New nuclear will protect Britain from volatile global gas markets and help keep bills under control for the country's homes and businesses."

Early next year we will send out a newsletter to all homes and businesses near Sizewell, providing more details on the progress of the project to date and what is coming up next. In the meantime, we wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

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Archaeologists Hannah Bullmore (L) and Hadley Sharman (R) working at the site.



Tru7 Group, one of the local businesses contracted on the Sizewell B Relocated Facilities site.

## Activity on Site

The Sizewell C Project is creating wetland habitat in the area around Lower Abbey Farm to the north of the Sizewell C site. Planning consent to proceed was given by East Suffolk Council in August and work started in September 2022. The development, which involves digging down to groundwater levels alongside several archaeological surveys, will be complete by May 2023.

Up to 100 archaeologists familiar with Suffolk soil are combing the county fields where new wetland habitat is going to be created by the Sizewell C Project.

The team are almost through the dig and have already uncovered a range of rare discoveries, including a possible Roman saltern (for early salt production), prehistoric pottery and the remains of a previously unknown medieval building.

The carefully curated work is taking place ahead of establishing the marsh harrier wetland habitat that is going to transform the green field site to the north of where Sizewell C will be located. The excavation is being undertaken by joint venture partners Cotswold Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology and will be monitored by the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) who will ultimately store the finds in the county archives.

The Sizewell C environment team will create and maintain about 4.52 ha of brand new, high-quality wetland habitat. This will include a mosaic of wet reedbed with 20-30% open water and 1 km of lowland ditches. The wetland will be a single basin fed by groundwater similar to our successful

wetland creation at Aldhurst Farm that was established in 2015. It will support a wide range of wildlife as Aldhurst does, including water voles, otters and marsh harriers.

Essex firm Blackwell Earthmoving Limited, which helped the project create the Wild Aldhurst habitat, will move around 150,000 cubic metres of earth through challenging winter conditions to support the creation of the new habitat.

Other work supporting the habitat creation includes improvements to and temporary diversion of a bridleway so ecologists can begin work on creating the new wetland habitat. About 25 ecologists will work on the environmental project to ensure it is developed to the highest standards where wildlife can thrive, just as achieved at Aldhurst Farm, the first reserve created by the project in 2015 from an onion field.

The environmental work is amongst the first phase of works required in preparation for early civils activity to deliver Suffolk's new power station, which received planning consent this year and government investment in the project in November.

Throughout this period there will be heavy vehicles moving around the site where archaeologists and civil engineers will be working. Most of the workforce is local and committed to treating visitors, residents and the surrounding area with respect.

Work to move some Sizewell B buildings for the Sizewell C project is also making good progress. Groundworks are being carried out now for a new training centre, visitor centre and admin office, with many local contractors such as Tru7 and Barnes Construction gaining contracts at the site.

## Contracts worth over £10 million have been signed with East Anglian businesses.

SIZEWELL C

## Doing the Power of Good for East Suffolk

Our annual conference with Suffolk businesses, third sector organisations, education providers and local representatives took place at OrbisEnergy in Lowestoft last month.

We provided feedback on the progress made on actions suggested by attendees in 2021. We will provide more details in January's newsletter - but the message is clear: if we engage constructively and in partnership, we can leverage Sizewell C to deliver more benefits for East Suffolk and minimise impacts on local communities.



Steve Carroll, Supply Chain Development Lead for Sizewell C, addressing the East Suffolk Conference.