

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the first Sizewell C Project Update of 2022. You are being sent this because at some point you have expressed an interest in being updated on the plans for a new nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast.

We continue to be grateful to those of you who are engaging with us on ensuring that the project, if it progresses to construction, delivers the maximum benefits for East Suffolk, and we hope we can continue to have meaningful discussions and meetings with many of you now that many COVID restrictions have been removed.

Planting

On the Sizewell Estate...

On 24 January, we began the planting of a further 5,375m² of woodland and 4,667m² of heathland scrub clumps in the eastern field of the Aldhurst Farm Habitat Creation site: around 4,500 plants in total. Over the last five years we have transformed 67 hectares of former arable land at Aldhurst Farm 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 residents.

Archeology

Survey and Planning Update

A busy programme of survey activity is continuing. Archaeological trial trenching has since January been underway in Middleton, at sites near the proposed Sizewell Link Road, following the completion last year of digs at the planned Two Villages Bypass at Farnham. Three weeks of topographical surveys are currently being undertaken on the B1125, and will then move onto the B1122 and the A12 for a further couple of months. We are also continuing to roll out automatic people counters at various recreational sites in East Suffolk. These will ensure that, if Sizewell C progresses to construction, we will be able to monitor its impacts on local wildlife and respond with mitigations if necessary.

We are also seeking planning consent from East Suffolk Council for geotechnical trials on the main development site. These are the latest phase of ground investigation activities for the project, and are intended to inform the approach being taken to the early earthworks. The trials would aim to understand how best to install the ground anchors that would provide support to the cut-off wall, which would be built around the main platform to prevent groundwater from flowing into the deep excavations. Deep soil mixing trials will also be conducted as part of work to ensure that all areas of ground on the main site are strong enough for the foundation of earthworks.

Apprentices

Skills

We were focusing on apprenticeships last week to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week and this year's topical theme of #BuildTheFuture. We issued a special edition of our Young Sizewell C newsletter to explain to our subscribers how apprenticeships work, why they might want to consider this route, and the types of roles that will be available. We also hosted a session with Speakers for Schools and Apprenticeships Suffolk to tell local students about our Young Sizewell C programme, the skills that our project will need, and how they can get ready for a rewarding career with us. We are aiming to deliver 1,500 apprenticeships at Sizewell C across sectors from construction to hospitality.

Sizewell-C-Kwasi-Kwarteng-Visit Project finance

Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng visited the Sizewell C site on 27 January to announce that the government would provide £100mn to support the continued development of the project. This is a show of confidence from the Government and will be used by us to help attract investors and bring the project to maturity. In comments during his visit, the Secretary of State emphasised the importance of developing new nuclear as part of the Government's plan to insulate the UK from the high global gas prices, which are now pushing up consumers' energy bills. The government was clear that this option agreement aims to ready Sizewell C for further private investment, subject to value for money and relevant planning approvals.

Meanwhile, legislation that will introduce a new funding model for large-scale new nuclear plants, the Regulated Asset Base, is continuing to progress through Parliament, and will next be considered by the Lords on 22 February. MPs in the Commons overwhelmingly supported the legislation in January, by 458 votes to 53. Subject to planning consent and ongoing negotiations with the government, the RAB could potentially be applied to Sizewell C.

What's next?

Before the end of this month the Planning Inspectorate will send its report and recommendation on the application for a development consent order to build Sizewell C to the Secretary of State. Over the years many views and expressions of support and opposition have been aired and fed back to the project through various stages of public consultation.

When a decision is announced it will be on the basis of the proposals submitted. Over the passage of time some elements of the plans may have been forgotten or require clarification for local communities and their representatives. Therefore, over the coming weeks as we await the Secretary of State's decision, due on 25 May, we are particularly keen to speak to local parish councils about the proposals as they stand and how the construction of Sizewell C might be experienced in your local area. We would also like to brief you about the project's Deed of Obligation, which outlines our approach to realising the benefits of the project and mitigating the impacts of construction, along with the proposals in place for community involvement in project governance.

Over 40,000 local residents will also soon receive through their letter boxes our latest community newsletter.

And finally...

A special mention for Sizewell B, which on Monday marked 27 years of generating low carbon power. The station was connected to the grid on 14 February 1995 and has produced enough electricity since then to power every home in Suffolk for 178 years! No less importantly, it has provided generations of jobs and community benefits for East Suffolk – a legacy of which to be proud and on which, if consented, Sizewell C has big ambitions to build.

As ever, if you have any questions or issues you'd like to raise or would like to have a meeting or presentation, feel free to contact the Project Team in Leiston, by email (info@sizewellc.co.uk) or freephone (0800 197 6102).

Kind regards,

Sizewell Project Team

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