



# Updated Statement of Community Consultation

November 2016

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# Updated Statement of Community Consultation

Prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 and regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009.

## About this Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC)

This SOCC sets out how EDF Energy proposes to consult local communities about its plans for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell in Suffolk (Sizewell C).

In 2012, prior to the first stage of public consultation on initial proposals and options for a new power station, EDF Energy published a SOCC which detailed its approach to consultation - referred to as the original 'SOCC'.

Following the feedback received at Stage 1 Consultation EDF Energy has decided to include one or more additional stages of formal consultation.

This document – referred to as the 'Updated SOCC' – has been prepared to reflect the updated approach. Therefore, all consultation undertaken between September 2012 and November 2016 has been undertaken in accordance with the original SOCC; and all consultation undertaken from October 2016 up to submission of an application for development consent will be undertaken in accordance with this Updated SOCC.

EDF Energy took into account the views of Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) before finalising the Updated SOCC and making it available for inspection by the public.

## Government Policy

The Government has decided that new nuclear power stations should play a significant role in the future generation of electricity for the UK. The National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6), which was designated by the Government in July 2011, describes the need for new nuclear power stations and identifies Sizewell as one of the sites potentially suitable for the development of a new nuclear power station.





# Sizewell C Proposals

EDF Energy plans to build a new nuclear power station on land to the north of the existing Sizewell A and B power stations. The proposed permanent development on the main development site would include: two UK EPR™ units (a type of Pressurised Water Reactor) and associated buildings; turbine halls and electrical buildings; cooling water pumphouses and associated buildings; an operational service centre; fuel and waste storage facilities; a National Grid 400kV substation and associated works including the re-siting of an existing transmission tower at Sizewell B; a simulator/training centre building; cooling water infrastructure; a beach landing facility; flood defence and coastal protection measures; highways works including a new access road to join the B1122; car parking; and a landscape restoration scheme.

Building a new power station at Sizewell would potentially affect the lives of those living in communities close to the main development site and associated development sites through, for example: increased traffic; visual impact; loss of public access to parts of the site(s); and other potential environmental impacts.

Other temporary development would also be necessary to support the construction of the power station, including:

- Construction areas to the north-west of the power station site, including contractors' laydown, fabrication and storage facilities;
- earthwork management areas;
- temporary buildings and structures, including offices, plant, construction roads and parking areas;
- marine transport works;
- an accommodation campus;
- use of land north of King George's Avenue for construction laydown and a caravan park;
- either an extension of the existing Saxmundham to Leiston railway line into the construction site or a rail terminal and freight laydown area north of King George's Avenue, Leiston;
- two park and ride facilities, one to the north-west of the main development site at Darsham and one to the south-west of the main development site at Wickham Market; and
- permanent development off-site would include highway improvements along the A12 and the B1122.

The potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the construction and operation of the power station and associated development could include potential impacts on matters such as landscape and visual amenity; archaeology and cultural heritage; rights of way; noise and vibration; coastal processes; water and air quality; drainage; flood risk; ecology and geology. The new power station would however bring significant benefits and provide low carbon electricity for approximately six million homes, which in turn would help to achieve the Government's climate change targets. As a multi-billion pound investment, Sizewell C would also create significant employment and economic opportunities for local people and businesses during its construction and operation.

## The Planning Process

EDF Energy will apply to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 for development consent to construct and operate the power station and associated development. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS), acting as the examining authority on behalf of the Secretary of State, will examine the application and seek the public's views on it. PINS will then submit its recommendation on the application to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision. The Secretary of State will make their decision in accordance with national policy, taking account of the local impact of the proposals.

Before PINS accepts an application on behalf of the Secretary of State, it must be satisfied that adequate pre-application consultation has been conducted.

Local authorities also have an important role in the process. In addition to considering this Updated SOCC, SCDC and SCC may comment upon the quality of EDF Energy's consultation and in their capacity as statutory consultees, make their own representations on the application once submitted. They will also produce a local impact report and work with EDF Energy to produce a document recording matters that are agreed and not agreed between the parties.

## The Consultation Process

EDF Energy's pre-application consultation on the proposals for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and associated development will take place in three main stages, which may be supplemented by further stages of limited, focused consultation if considered necessary.

The first stage of consultation considered the 'Initial Proposals and Options' for Sizewell C and was carried out between 21 November 2012 and 6 February 2013. The responses received in relation to the Stage 1 Consultation have informed the evolution of the proposals and the scope of our technical assessments.

The focus of the Stage 2 Consultation is to present an update on the evolution of EDF Energy's proposals, as well as identifying where there are options for some development components. The information presented will include preliminary environmental information, as well as details of the rationale for the proposed approach. The purpose of the Stage 2 Consultation is to invite feedback to inform the ongoing evolution of the proposals and strategies.

Following EDF Energy's consideration of the responses received to the Stage 2 Consultation and its ongoing technical assessments, one or more subsequent stages of consultation will be undertaken. The focus of any such subsequent stages of consultation will be to provide further information on the development proposals as well as environmental information. Any feedback received will be used to inform the final proposals and supporting assessments that will form part of EDF Energy's application for development consent, which will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

EDF Energy will publicise each stage of consultation and this document explains how we will do this.

## Preliminary Environmental Information

The Sizewell C proposals constitute a development requiring assessment of likely significant effects on the environment.

EDF Energy will therefore carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and will submit a full Environmental Statement (ES) and non-technical summary as part of its application for development consent. The ES will be informed by the consultation process.

Stage 1 Consultation included preliminary environmental information in relation to the initial options presented.

Stage 2 Consultation will include preliminary environmental information in relation to the proposals and any options consulted upon. This will include an overview of how the proposals have evolved having regard to environmental considerations, as well as identification of potential significant environmental impacts and an overview of how these impacts could be mitigated (e.g. proposals for land restoration, landscaping and other mitigation or compensatory measures, where appropriate).

Preliminary environmental information will also be presented in support of further consultation stages beyond the Stage 2 Consultation, depending on the level of information available at that time.

## Related Consultations

EDF Energy will monitor all other major consultation exercises being undertaken in the local area at the same time as EDF Energy is carrying out its pre-application consultation for the Sizewell C Project. EDF Energy will attempt to co-ordinate its pre-application consultation with other relevant consultations to avoid public confusion and consultation fatigue.

## Consultation Timetable

EDF Energy will confirm the dates for each stage of consultation and publicise these dates at least ten working days in advance of the start of the relevant consultation period. EDF Energy will do this in a number of ways which will include publicising the consultation in local media and publishing advertisements in local newspapers; writing to the county, district, town and parish councils and other stakeholders; and circulating a Sizewell C newsletter (described below in the 'Consultation Activity' section). Details of the consultation activities involved will be included in this publicity including dates and venues of public exhibitions.

Responses to the consultation should be submitted to EDF Energy by the end of each stage of consultation using the contact information shown in the 'Contact Information' section on the final page of this document. EDF Energy may be requested to make consultation responses available to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Stage 1 Consultation ran for eleven weeks (21 November 2012 to 6 February 2013). Further stages of consultation will run for at least eight weeks, but could be extended should the period of consultation fall over a major public holiday (i.e. Easter or Christmas).

EDF Energy is committed to carrying out in-depth consultation and to consider all the feedback received and it will take the time necessary to do this between each stage of consultation.

After each stage of formal consultation, EDF Energy will summarise the main issues raised during the consultation and present this in its Sizewell C newsletter (described below in the 'Consultation Activity' section). This has already been completed in relation to Stage 1 Consultation.

EDF Energy will continue to engage with consultees in between the stages of consultation up to and beyond the submission of the application for development consent.

EDF Energy will report on the consultation responses received during the pre-application phase in a Consultation Report, which will form part of the application for development consent.

## Scope of the Consultation

As part of the formal consultation process, EDF Energy will be seeking views on the proposals as set out in the published consultation documentation. The principles of whether or not there is a need for a new nuclear power station and whether Sizewell C is a potentially suitable site have already been determined by Parliament and are therefore outside the scope of EDF Energy's consultation.

While the views of those living, working or otherwise using the local areas closest to the proposed Sizewell C site and any associated development sites expressed through this consultation will be influential in developing proposals, EDF Energy will also have regard to the views of local authorities, other statutory consultees and members of the public. In addition, EDF Energy will take into account the results of its on-going assessments and will consider what is practical and achievable in terms of delivering a new nuclear power station when developing its proposals for the Sizewell C Project.





## Consultation Activity

- Consultation Materials:
  - For the Stage 1 Consultation, EDF Energy produced the following documents: Consultation Document; Consultation Summary Document; Environmental Report; Transport Strategy and supporting information.
  - For the Stage 2 Consultation EDF Energy will produce a Consultation Summary Document and Consultation Document.
  - In support of further stages of formal consultation beyond Stage 2 Consultation, EDF Energy intends to produce documents appropriate to the consultation being carried out, such as an Environmental Report detailing environmental information and the initial findings of the impact assessment; and a Consultation Summary Document.
  - Hard copies of these documents will be available to view at the Sizewell C Information Office (address and opening hours on final page), at public exhibitions, and in selected libraries and council offices in Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Ipswich during the formal consultation process for each stage. Copies of the documents for consultees to take away with them will be available upon request and may be subject to reasonable copying charges. The documents will also be available at all of these locations on DVD and to download from the Project website:  
[www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk). If requested, we will commission translation of the Consultation Summary Document into any minority languages used locally (such as Polish, Lithuanian and Portuguese).
- Newsletters: EDF Energy will publicise the consultation programme, including information on how people can respond and reports on key project milestones, in the Sizewell C Project newsletter. The newsletter will be distributed to all homes and businesses within each parish that falls within the Inner Area Plan, as well as parishes that include any proposed associated development sites outside of this area.
- Local Media: EDF Energy will publicise the consultation and associated activities in the local media ahead of the formal public consultation stages and will update local broadcast and print media channels on its consultation activity.
- Public Exhibitions: EDF Energy will hold exhibitions and events in support of formal stages of consultation. An early event will be held with the Sizewell Residents' Association for each stage of consultation.
- Presentations: town and parish councils can request meetings and presentations during the public consultation programme, which EDF Energy will seek to accommodate where possible. This is in addition to the support being offered to the town and parish councils from Planning Aid England to empower them in their involvement in the consultation process.
- 'Drop-in' Sessions: some villages or towns which are not locations for exhibitions, or those communities which require more opportunities to engage with the EDF Energy Team, may find 'drop-in' sessions useful. EDF Energy will seek to accommodate any requests where possible. These sessions would operate like surgeries, where local people can have discussions with members of the team.
- Engagement with 'Hard-to-Reach' Groups: EDF Energy has consulted a number of organisations which represent 'hard-to-reach' stakeholders (i.e. demographic groups that do not usually engage in consultation activity, as well as people with disabilities who may have problems accessing the consultation information). Following the feedback received, home visits, bespoke presentations and advertorials in specific publications are among some of the actions which will be considered by EDF Energy in order to provide opportunities for such groups to engage in the consultation process.
- Project Website: all consultation material will be available to download from the Project website [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk). Consultees will be able to submit their feedback in hard copy by post or via an online form. Information about all exhibitions will also be available online.
- Social Media: Sizewell C has a Twitter account and followers will be updated on the latest events and news during the public consultation: [@edfesizewellc](https://twitter.com/edfesizewellc).
- Sizewell C Community Forum: EDF Energy has set up a Sizewell C Community Forum which meets on a roughly biannual basis. It considers issues that might affect the local community as a result of EDF Energy's planning proposals, principally those arising from the development of a new power station on land to the north of Sizewell B and any associated development. Consideration of the principle of building new nuclear power stations is not within the scope of the forum. The membership is made up of representatives from the local community and local stakeholder organisations.

## Exhibition Locations

Exhibitions will be held around the main development site and in parishes where additional development is being proposed. In parishes not directly affected by associated development and centres with large populations such as Ipswich, shorter exhibitions or community meetings may be held.

Workplace exhibitions will be held for staff at the Sizewell A and B power stations and for staff at SCDC and SCC. Additional public exhibitions and events may be organised if necessary.

The exhibition material will remain available for the public to view at the Sizewell C Information Office after the formal consultation stages have finished, as well as being available to download from the Project website.



## Public Exhibitions

During the Stage 2 Consultation staffed exhibitions (see map above) using presentation boards and literature to explain the proposals will be held in the parishes of:

Leiston-cum-Sizewell	Saxmundham
Theberton & Eastbridge	Melton
Hacheston	Woodbridge
Yoxford	Blythburgh
Stratford St Andrew with Farnham	Aldeburgh
Darsham	Southwold
Middleton	Snape
Westleton	Halesworth
Marlesford	Rendlesham
Wickham Market	Lowestoft
Campsea Ashe	Ipswich

## Other Activities

Other activities and informal consultation may be carried out for specific elements of the proposals in between stages of formal consultation. Additional activities that may be carried out, if considered necessary and appropriate, include:

- Workshops: EDF Energy will accommodate reasonable requests to organise such workshops on relevant and appropriate aspects of the development.
- Focus Groups: EDF Energy will commission focus groups or hold other events where considered necessary or appropriate by EDF Energy, to engage specific interests or 'hard-to-reach' groups.

# Next Steps

**Further details on the timing of each formal stage of public consultation will follow, as explained in the Consultation Timetable section.**

Following the end of each stage of public consultation, EDF Energy will consider all responses before submitting its application to the Secretary of State for development consent to construct and operate the power station and associated development.

A detailed Consultation Report, explaining what consultation has taken place and how responses to the consultation have influenced the final proposals, will accompany the application for development consent.

## Contact Information

For further information, please contact EDF Energy in one of the following ways:

- **View the Project website [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk)**
- **Call us on FREEPHONE 0800 197 6102\***
- **Email us at [info@sizewellc.co.uk](mailto:info@sizewellc.co.uk)**
- **Write to FREEPOST SZC CONSULTATION  
(no stamp or further address required)**
- **Follow us on Twitter at [@edfesizewellc](https://twitter.com/edfesizewellc)**
- **Visit the Sizewell C Information Office at 48-50 High Street,  
Leiston, IP16 4EW**

The Sizewell C Information Office is open to the public Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 17:00 (excluding public holidays). During the formal stages of consultation the office will also be open to the public on Saturdays from 09:00 to 12:00.

\*Calls to 0800 numbers are free from UK landlines. Call costs from mobile and international numbers may vary.

