

MINSMERE LEVELS STAKEHOLDERS GROUP
THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE ACTION GROUP on SIZEWELL C and
THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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25 August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

East Suffolk District Council Ref DC/23/2660/DRR
Applicant: NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd – Niki Pieri
Proposal: **Discharge of Requirement 12 (Main Development Site (MDS) Coastal Processes Monitoring and Mitigation (Terrestrial) Plan (CPMMP) of Sizewell C Development Consent Order**

And

East Suffolk District Council Ref DC/23/2673/CON
Applicant: NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd – Niki Pieri
Proposal: **Discharge of Condition 14 of the Deemed Marine Licence – Coastal Processes Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (CPMMP)**

Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council (the PC), Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group (MLSG) and Theberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell C (TEAGS) request that the above planning applications be refused and not reconsidered until such time as there is an approved final design for the Hard and Soft Coastal Defence under Development Consent Order Requirement 19.

These applications are putting “the cart before the horse”.

All along the Suffolk coast we have significant issues with erosion, both constant and episodic. This has been observed in front of the proposed Sizewell C site even since the DCO Examination concluded.

It is accepted that any structures which significantly extend beyond the natural sweep of the coastline gives rise to both upstream and downstream impacts of erosion and/or accretion and where the structure is mobile, it will begin eroding immediately following exposure to the natural longshore drift process.

The last plan submitted to the Planning Inspectorate’s Examination of the Sizewell C Development Consent Order shows that the Hard Coastal Defence (HCDF) at its most southeastern point will be situated significantly east (seaward) of the existing natural embayment profile between Minsmere Sluice, north of the site, and Thorpeness to the south of the proposed Sizewell C site.

We believe that permitting application is irrational given it cannot be assessed against a final design and specific coastal location with respect to the natural embayment that is present in Sizewell Bay. Furthermore;

- **The potential for significant effects beyond their immediate boundary**, in respect of the adjacent coastline and sand dune defences for RSPB, Sizewell A and B defences and Sizewell village. Further impacts both north and south cannot be ruled out.

- It is irrational to propose the CPMMP when a final approved design for the structure has not yet been submitted.
- The designs and plans shown in the CPMMP document have no clear geographical positioning plans.
- The CPMMP plans show the Soft Coastal Defence (SCDF) extending at least 60 metres from the toe of the HCDF and well beyond the existing natural sweep of Sizewell Bay.
- Based on plans submitted to the PINS DCO Examination the most southeasterly extent of the Hard Coastal Defence is situated on the Sizewell B Salient, a structure that the applicant states will “relax” (erode) back to the natural sweep of Sizewell Bay within a couple of years of Sizewell B ceasing operation. Assuming this happens the HCDF toe is at significant risk of being exposed and increasingly threatening the overall integrity of the structure.
- Whilst the CPMMP plan does not superimpose the HCDF/SCDF structure on the existing profile of the coastline, those in the DCO submissions do. However, in the past two years that profile has significantly eroded and changed adding further concern that the proposals in the CPMMP without an approved HCDF/SCDF design are theoretical and have no practical foundation. Until the HCDF/SCDF structure is finally designed to ensure minimum impact on the coast, the structure, as submitted to the DCO in combination with the plans in the CPMMP, will only add to coastal impacts across the greater Sizewell Bay area and are potentially unsustainable.

As a group of concerned organisations, we are concerned that by submitting this request for Discharge of Requirements, the applicant is applying with a plan that has no reference to an actual coastal defence structure which is a critical to both the SZC project but also to the neighbouring designated sites and communities along this fragile coast.

Kind regards

Paul Collins

On behalf of Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council (Councillor),
Theberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell C (Chair) and
Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group (Co-Secretary)