

AONB Partnership response to submission of Development Consent Order in relation to the proposed Sizewell C Development

The Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership note that EDF Energy have submitted a Development Consent Order for a new nuclear power station, Sizewell C, in the nationally designated landscape.

The AONB Partnership has engaged in the four rounds of consultation EDF Energy have run in relation to this proposed development. The Government's National Policy Statements recognise that such a scheme would have significant and unavoidable negative impact on the purposes of the AONB.

During the consultation period the AONB Partnership has repeatedly stated that EDF Energy has not paid due regard to the purpose of the AONB or properly assessed the impact on the national landscape and the environment.

Cllr David Wood, Chairman of the AONB Partnership, says:

The AONB Partnership would expect to see detailed information in the development proposals on how EDF Energy has sought to avoid, minimise and mitigate the impacts of the development on one of England's most cherished landscapes.

The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB is an important driver of economic wellbeing in the east of England.

Cllr David Wood continues:

Many of the tourism businesses in the AONB, which supports over 4,500 jobs and is worth £210M a year, are reliant on the natural beauty and special qualities of the area, its outstanding landscapes, its tranquillity and the wildlife. The AONB Partnership recently supported the Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation's research into the potential impacts of the 'Energy coast' on the local tourism industry. The findings of this work suggested a decrease of between £24M and £40M due to the development associated with the energy coast if it is not appropriately mitigated.

Simon Amstutz, manager at the AONB, says:

We will look carefully and challenge where necessary, at what is contained in the Development Consent Order and how EDF Energy have assessed the impacts on the AONB. The AONB Partnership has previously expressed its concern about the impact of the proposed new development on the AONB. This concern includes the impacts of the new buildings, proposed new pylons and roads on natural beauty. The impacts on footpaths in the AONB during construction, particularly the coast path and the impacts on tranquillity and the dark skies associated with the AONB.

The AONB Partnership is made up of 25 organisations drawn from the public, private and charitable sectors to champion the AONB.

For further information contact Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager, 07971 909 649.