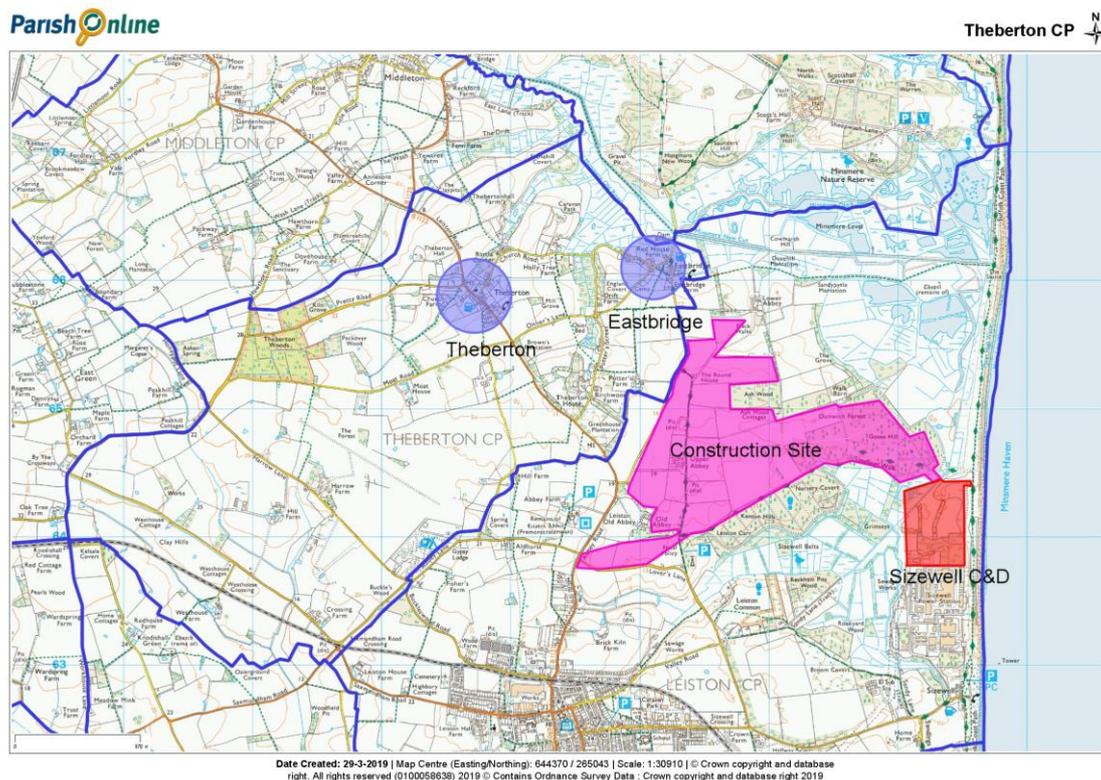


EDF ENERGY - SIZEWELL C – INTRA-EXAMINATION CONSULTATION RESPONSE FROM THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL (TEPC) AND STOP SIZEWELL C

Introduction



Theberton

Theberton is a small village of approximately 170 people and 90 houses mostly straddling the B1122. It is about 4 miles north of the proposed Sizewell C (SZC) large twin reactor site. The proposed entrance to the main site will be approximately 1 mile from the village entrance sign. Within the village of Theberton there is St Peters Church, a Grade I listed thatched roof church with an unusual round tower, a Grade II listed public house, a village hall, two working farms, a cattery, a small business selling wild bird and other animal feeds, a small caravan park and other places to stay for visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside. The successful village hall offers many activities and classes to the community and surrounding areas.

Eastbridge

Eastbridge is a tranquil hamlet of around 70 people and 40 houses nestled in a rural landscape with no street signs or speed limits. It borders the Minsmere River which cuts through an area of important wetland known as the Minsmere Levels forming part of the Minsmere - Walberswick Heaths and Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is also the location of RSPB Minsmere Reserve. Within Eastbridge there is a public house, the Eels Foot Inn, a working farm, a certified and a basic campsite, for visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside. Many local people and visitors enjoy the circular walk from Eastbridge to the Minsmere sluice to reach the Suffolk Heritage Coast and the sea returning through RSPB Minsmere or via National Trust's Dunwich Coastguards Cottages.

Both villages are chiefly agricultural, and people live there historically or by choice for the tranquility, dark skies, and the proximity to the Suffolk Heritage Coast. The two villages are linked by single track lanes with walks in the countryside characterised by open skies, arable and livestock farms, pheasants, partridge, owls, marsh harriers, buzzards, bittern, deer, bats and other wildlife. Residents and visitors enjoy the close proximity to RSPB's flagship nature reserve at Minsmere with the Leiston Long Shop Museum, National Trust Dunwich Heath, Aldeburgh, Walberswick and Southwold within easy reach.

1. Summary

- 1.1 **This Intra-Examination Consultation (IEC) response should be seen as a second extension to the four pre-application consultation responses, previous IEC, Relevant and Written Representations from both TEPC and Stop Sizewell C. Where previous responses reference, reject or support proposals/options presented by EDF and additional options are presented in this consultation, our support or otherwise for the newly presented options do not negate prior support for previous options or change our view that in many cases, insufficient assessment and justifications have been provided by EDF for the progression of their preferred options or proposals.**
- 1.2 Whilst TEPC and Stop Sizewell C understand that changes will be made during the examination of the Sizewell C DCO proposal (SZC), we are disappointed that the proposal to change the bridge at Pretty Road has required so much persuasion by TEPC and other parishes to at least mitigate some of the severance that the Sizewell Link Road (SLR) proposal imposes on those parishes through which the SLR passes.
- 1.3 We will not comment on the changes to the two-village bypass within this consultation as we feel that this will be best dealt with by the parishes local to this part of the SZC proposal and Suffolk County Council.
- 1.4 As far as the main site changes are concerned, we are supportive but will defer to the assessments and comments by the statutory authorities and appropriate NGO organisations such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust and RSPB.

2. Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

- 2.1 There are several rationalisations of PRoW along the SLR which seek to shorten previous diversions and improve access to crossings and in general we support these changes.
- 2.2 We are concerned, however, that where roads are stopped up and converted to footpaths (highways for non-motorised users - NMUS) that should the highway surfaces be left just as is and no physical access restrictions against motorised vehicles, such as fences or gates installed where public services access will be required, that these sections of old metalled roadways could become a target for fly tipping. Examples include the stopped up B1122 going south from the Moat Road/Onners Lane crossroads and Moat Road from the same junction.
- 2.3 We are aware that these points have been raised by others for sections of stopped up roads because of the SLR and other highway improvement proposals in the SZC development and would echo their concern.

3. Pretty Road Bridge

- 3.1 TEPC and Stop Sizewell C are pleased that EDF have recognized that the original plans for the SLR that closed five North/ South or East/West roads towards Saxmundham causes significant severance and hardship to the residents and villages that are to the north and east of the SLR and have proposed this change to the previous foot and bridleway crossing at Pretty Road.

- 3.2 We are aware that there remain some detailed design concerns expressed by residents whose access onto Pretty Road will be impacted by the bridge design. Subject to those concerns being addressed fully prior to submission of these proposals to the Planning Inspectorate, TEPC and Stop Sizewell C are fully supportive of this change.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council and Stop Sizewell C are not anti-nuclear. However, as currently proposed, we both remain opposed to the development. This consultation, whilst welcomed for its recognition of harm and severance to the communities that the SLR brings does nothing to change that opposition in principle to the SZC proposal.
- 4.2 We were heartened to hear the planning inspectorate state that they will have to speak to the Secretary of State about the sustainability concerns regarding the SLR and trust that EDF will seriously consider their proposals as they stand based on that statement.
- 4.3 We continue to support Suffolk County Council in their representations stating that the “benefits do not outweigh the disbenefits” of the SZC development and Natural England who stated that “in its current form the development should not be approved” and we note with disappointment East Suffolk Council’s neutral stance but also their continuing concerns regarding the current proposals surrounding coastal protection and erosion.
- 4.4 We support the responses of RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group.